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January 2010

# Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Energy Efficiency  
*Tip of the Month*

To trim high heating costs, open draperies and shades on south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to enter your home. Close them at night to reduce the chill of cold windows.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## Happy New Year



CHEC offices will be closed New Years day, Jan. 1st.

## Congratulations

Cheryl Phillips of Kinta is our online survey winner!

Be sure to visit [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) and take our short survey for a chance to win a \$10 bill credit.

## CHEC Offers Rebate Program

To encourage members to save energy, Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative has joined a rebate program entitled "Take Control and Save." In partnership with Associated Electric Cooperative, Cookson Hills is offering rebates when you purchase and install new ENERGY STAR labeled appliances.

To qualify for these rebates you must be a member of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative. Some of the requirements include a copy of the original dated sales receipt and a completed rebate form submitted within 90 days of purchase that includes the product name and model number. A complete list of the eligibility criteria and rebate requirements are available online at [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) and at your local Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative office.

Remember, your product must be ENERGY STAR rated and carry the ENERGY STAR label to qualify for your CHEC rebate. Rebates will be in the form of a credit to your electric account after verification.

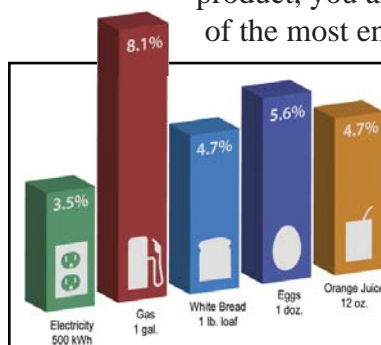
When you buy an ENERGY STAR rated product, you are buying one of the most energy efficient



### The rebate program includes:

Clothes Washer.....	\$100
Dishwasher.....	\$50
Room Air Conditioner.....	\$50
Water Heater.....	\$50
Dual Fuel Heat Pump.....	\$150 per ton

products on the market. Contact us for updates to the rebate program. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Rhodes at 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.



## Electricity Remains a Good Value

Electricity continues to be a bargain, especially when compared to other consumer goods. As demand for energy rises and fuel prices increase, your electric cooperative is committed to providing safe electricity at the lowest possible cost.

Average annual price increase over the past decade.

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, NRECA

*Hot Watts* is published monthly by **Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.** *Hot Watts* informs members in parts of seven Eastern Oklahoma counties about Cookson Hills' programs and issues. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative continually strives to provide quality electrical service at a reasonable cost for its members.

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Cookson Hills welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to Cookson Hills editing. Any submissions must be received before the 12th of the month prior to the publication date.

**If You Find Your Account Number Hidden in This Issue of *Hot Watts* You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill**

# CHEC Security Lights



Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative offers dusk till dawn security lights. Security lights are recommended to have on your property this time of year when the evening night comes so early.

Security lights also provide extra security to your home. The idea is that a lit home will discourage a burglar because they can no longer operate under the cover of darkness. When it comes to protecting your home

and your family, security lighting does a great job and is a simple yet effective prevention measure against intrusions or other criminal activities on or to your property, or in some cases simply to increase the feeling of safety.

For more details about security lights, please call **918-967-4614** or visit our web site **[www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com)**.



**600,000 voices**

**and counting.**

More than 600,000 electric co-op members from across the nation wrote to their U.S. Senators in 2009. Each postcard called for Congress to pursue fair, affordable, and achievable climate change goals.

Has your voice been heard?

Speak up at [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop)



Cookson Hills Electric employees participated in the Sallisaw Christmas Parade. From left to right: Denise, Peyton, Matthew, Morgan, Makayle, the Hubbs family (Angela, Eli, Cole, Alayna), and the Ogle family (Samuel and Logan, etc.).

The Stigler and Sallisaw parades. Employees participated in both. Although there was no

# Want efficient, safe laundry? Leave no lint behind

Household chores like laundry seem fairly safe. Hidden problems like lint buildup in a dryer could lead to higher energy bills due to inefficiency, and ultimately hazardous conditions in your home.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative urges members to clean the lint filter after each load and occasionally remove the filter and wash it in soapy hot water with a nylon brush to remove residue. This simple chore not only improves air flow and energy efficiency, but also reduces the chance of a dryer fire.

Statistics on dryer fires show no difference between the natural gas and 16900 electric dryers, according to John Drengenberg, Consumer Affairs Manager for Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Inc., a Chicago, Ill.-based not-for-profit firm that tests and sets minimum standards for electric-consuming items.

Without adequate air circulation, heat flow becomes hindered, clothes take longer to dry, and it costs more to operate the appliance. Like ovens and stoves,



dryers apply extreme heat on potentially flammable materials.

You would not leave something cooking unattended for long periods of time, or at least you should not, for safety reasons. Dryers often run up to an hour or more, forgotten in a basement, garage, or utility space.

This out-of-sight, out-of-mind practice makes it essential that a dryer be maintained on a simple and regular basis.

## COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

# Cookson in the Community



Employees and their families rode on a bucket truck during the parade. (Jeremy, Jesse, Lux, Madi, Sydney, the Baker family) (Jesse, the Ruark family) (Marty, Samantha, Callie, Madison, the Huff family) (Jason, Amy, Mason, the Blalock family) (Scottie, the Holcomb family) (Kevin and Gabriel, the Harvell family) (the McCawley family) Photo by: Monte Huff



Cookson Hills Electric employees before the Stigler Christmas Parade. Left to right: Christian Shelton (nephew of April Simpson) Elizabeth Orme (daughter of Brett and Juli Orme), Kaytie Cash (daughter of Kristie Cash), April Simpson, Dru Bird, Cooper Coble (son of Brittani Coble), Brittani Coble, Kristie Cash, and Brett Orme. Photo by: Donna Rhodes

Our annual Christmas parades had two new entries in 2009. CHEC employees and their families participated in the Christmas parades. They volunteered their time and talent to help decorate a Cookson Hills bucket truck at Sallisaw and a company truck at Stigler. No trophy brought home from this year's parades, there was very positive feedback from the community and members.



## Check for CFL burnout

Most people know that a pop and flash before a standard light bulb goes dark means it has burnt out. However, you might not be familiar with the slightly more dramatic burnout of a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL). CFL's operate differently from incandescent bulbs, using about 75 percent less energy. They also burn out differently. As a CFL approaches the end of its life, expect the light to dim. When it does burn out, you will likely hear a more dramatic pop than with a traditional bulb, and you could smell a distinct odor. The bulb may even produce smoke, while the base of the bulb might turn black. None of these things should cause concern. In fact, popping and smoke means the bulb's end-of-life mechanism worked correctly.

To ensure you are using CFL's safely, take two precautions. Before you buy, check the packaging for the mark of an independent safety testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories. That label means the bulbs have been tested repeatedly for safety hazards. After the bulb has burned out, do not toss it in the trash. Instead, take old bulbs to your local department store or other retailers that accept the bulbs for recycling.

## Giving Back through Operation Round Up



By allowing Cookson Hills to "round up" their electric bills to the nearest dollar, participating Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative members are able to help their local communities for just pennies a month.

In December the Cookson Hills Electric Foundation Inc. board, which makes Operation Round Up funding decisions, awarded \$26,253.27. Today, more than \$505,918.49 has been awarded to provide much needed assistance to individuals and nonprofit organizations experiencing hardships.

The next meeting is March 2, 2010 and the deadline is February 17, 2010 to apply for Operation Round Up. For more information about Operation Round Up, visit: [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) or call (918) 967-4614.

## Calling to Report an Outage

Before calling to report an outage, call your neighbor to see if their power is also out. This can help you determine if the outage is a household problem or not.

During a major outage our telephone lines can become overloaded. Please be patient and have your account information ready, to speak with a CHEC representative. You can also have your telephone number or meter number to report an outage.

### OUTAGE HOTLINE

**1-800-328-2368**

Stigler Office: 918-967-4614  
Sallisaw Office: 918-775-2211

off any major appliances that might have been on when the outage occurred, including your heating system. Make sure to leave one light on so that you will know when your power is restored. Then, after your power is restored turn on large appliances one at a time.

\* Inspect the area outside your home near the meter. If the meter or any of the piping and wires on the side of your

meter pole look damaged or are missing, call CHEC immediately to report damage.

\* Have plenty of flashlights, portable radios, and fresh batteries on hand.

\* Have plenty of bottled water available.

\* Only burn candles when adults are present and keep them away from flammable materials.

\* Keep a freshly charged fire extinguisher nearby.

\* Never use an outdoor lantern inside your home.

\* Do not go to sleep before blowing out candles.

\* Never touch or even go near a fallen utility line.

\* Never operate heaters or fuel-fired cooking stoves without proper ventilation.

You should always assume that any fallen line is carrying electricity. If a fallen line has come into contact with an object, do not touch that object. Call CHEC immediately to report any downed lines.



Most people do not have their account number memorized and it can be hard to find in the dark, so please make sure that CHEC has your current home phone number on record before an outage hits. Here is a list of do's and don'ts to know during an outage.

- \* Check all circuit breakers or fuses to make sure that the outage is not a household problem.
- \* Turn