

Inside

Interconnecting
Wind and Solar
to the Grid.....2

Unclaimed
Capital Credits.....3

Co-op Connections
Card Q&A.....4

Call Before You Dig...4

June 2012

Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Want to beat the heat? Run appliances like dishwashers and dryers late in the evening to keep the heat from affecting your comfort.

Use cold water to wash clothes, and remember to unplug electric chargers, and any appliances when you are not using them.

Source: Touchstone
Energy Cooperatives

Congratulations

Carolyn Skinner
is our online survey
winner!



Four Local Students Awarded Scholarships

The employees and Board of Trustees of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative support the educational goals of area youth by offering scholarships to college bound graduates planning to attend a state accredited school or technical school offering associate or bachelor degrees. The scholarships are solely funded by employee fundraisers and donations.

Cookson Hills is pleased to announce the four recipients of the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship. Congratulations to Breanna Potter of Central High School, daughter of Krista Potter; Kathryn Gist of Sallisaw High School, daughter of Dana and Wayne Gist; Kelsey Plank of Central

High School, daughter of Moria Wallace; and Ethan Scott of Quinton High School, son of Rita and the late Thomas Schultz.

To be considered for this scholarship students submitted applications and two letters of recommendation. The program is open to any graduating senior whose parents or guardians are members of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative.

The scholarship program was established in 1998 in memory of long time employee and General Manager of Cookson Hills, Herman Driscoll. Mr. Driscoll believed that education is of foremost importance to success.

For details on the scholarship program, visit www.cooksonhills.com, or call 918-967-4614 and toll-free at 800-328-2368.



Breanna Potter

Central High School

Activities: FCCLA, Indian Club, Focus, Potter has held leadership positions with the Christian Club and School Choir. Potter also works at her school part-time as a teacher's aide.



Kathryn Gist

Sallisaw High School

Activities: Marching Band, Concert Band, Colorguard Captain 2012, National Honor Society member, Class Secretary 2012, Drama Club, Sallisaw Church of Christ Youth Group, and Pizza Hut employee.



Kelsey Plank

Central High School

Activities: FCCLA President, Yearbook Editor, Student Government, Indian Club, Spanish Club, Recycling Club. Organized several blood drives and school lock-on on campus, works summertime at firework stand.



Ethan Scott

Quinton High School

Activities: Quinton High School Speech Team, Volunteer at Brooken Fire Department. Works as dish-washer at PJ's Diner.

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 the *Hot Watts* you will receive a \$25 credit on your next electric bill.

Interconnecting Wind and Solar Power to the Grid

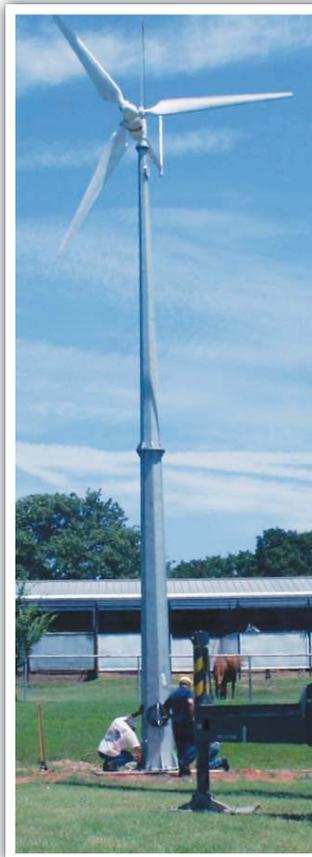
■ Being Safe While Producing Your Own Electricity

Before electric cooperatives began stringing power lines through rural America, many farm families made do with their own sources of electric generation. Noisy, often unreliable technologies like steam engines, windmills, battery sets, and ram pumps were the only options available to make electricity a part of daily life.

Today cutting edge green technologies are advertised on television, online, in weekly sales flyers from local stores and from our government. Members are becoming more familiar with

tion facility including wind, solar, or any other electric generating technology to our distribution system. The distributed generation facilities must meet several safety and reliability standards included but not limited to IEEE 1547 and UL 1741.

As long as the member's equipment meets all applicable standards and safety requirements CHEC will approve the application for interconnection unless there are any other extenuating circumstances. The member's system must shut down anytime there is loss of power on



The purpose behind the strict standards and application process is primarily for safety to the members and employees, as well as the system.

green energy and producing their own electricity. Small-scale generators can be spotted in rural America settings: an emergency diesel generator outside a garage; a solar panel on your neighbor's roof; perhaps even a small wind turbine at a neighbor's farm down the road. These mini power plants, called distributed generation or on-site power, are located on the member's property, and owned by these members not the cooperative.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) members need to be aware that they must have an approved application from the cooperative to inter-connect any type of distributed genera-

tion facility. This is to prevent the distributed generation system from re-energizing facilities and causing a dangerous situation. The member must also install a disconnect switch between their system and CHEC, so it can be easily disconnected at anytime. CHEC reserves the right to disconnect the member's system at anytime if it is deemed there is a safety situation, power quality issues, or reliability issues. It is CHEC's desire that members who are interested in interconnecting an alternative energy system with the distribution system be allowed to in a

safe and proper manner.

If you are interested in learning more about connecting wind, solar or any other distributed system to our electric system, options are available. CHEC is ready to help you through the process. For information, please contact Brett Orme, Director of Engineering at 918-967-4614 or 800-328-2368.



Do you have a capital credit check to claim?

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) is operated on a non-profit basis for the benefit of its members. This means any margins left over after Cookson Hills pays all its expenses, including taxes, are allocated to the members, and are eventually retired as capital credit checks. Please look at the following list. If you find your name or the name of a friend or relative, please notify CHEC at 918-967-4614 or 800-328-2368.

JESSIE R PARTIN
INEZ E POWELL
HAROLD POWERS
PAUL B POWERS
BILL W PRICE
DENNIS H PRICE
GREGG PRICE
HAROLD PRICE
NATHAN L PRICE
WOODROW PRICE JR
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TERRENCE M ROGERS
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FLOYD J ROSS
JOHN W ROSS
SHARON ROSS
W C ROSS
CHARLES E ROWLAND
REBEKAH RUCKMAN
LOVELLA RUSH
JOAQUIN RUSSELL
MARK J RUSSELL
ROBERT A RUSSELL
DORA L RUTZ
CARL W SALLEE
DARRELL W SANDERS
DREW SANDERS
STEVE B SANDERSON
PAUL E SAUL
GENE SAWYER
CHARLES SCHULTZ
HARVEY SCOGGINS
MARIE SCOGGINS
NICK SCOGGINS
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VIRGINIA STJOHN
LOUANN STOKES
BURL V STONUM
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WILLIE J STREET JR
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CINDY STUBBLEFIELD
DANNY SULLIVAN
J E SUMPTER
SUN PIPE LINE CO
JACKIE C SUTTERFIELD
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JOANNE SWAFFORD

THOMAS J SWENSEN
T A T CLUB
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VICKIE L WOODRUFF
DANNY W WRIGHT
DORIS WRIGHT
VERNON WRIGHT JR
VIOLA WRIGHT
BOBBY LEE YANDELL
CATHY M YATES
CONNIE M YOUKNA
ROBERT YOUNG
DOMBY L ZINN

Photos Courtesy of NRECA

Don't

SWEAT

Summer Electric
BILLS

As temperatures rise, there's plenty of things you can do to save energy and trim your electric bill.

Raise your thermostat a couple of degrees—78° is the most efficient setting. Ceiling fans are a great way to move air around the house, and you can shade your electric bill by planting trees on the south side of your home.

Don't sweat summer electric bills—check out www.EnergySavers.gov for more ways to save!

Brought to you by NRECA

The Co-op Connections Card Q&A

Q: What is the Co-op Connections Card program?

A: The Co-op Connections Card provides Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) members with discounts at local and national businesses. The member shows the card at a business and receives a discount that has been pre-determined by the business owner. The card also provides discounts on prescription medication at pharmacies, dental, vision, and 815100 chiropractic work.

Q: Where can I use the card locally?

A: There are only local discounts at participating pharmacies, dentists, and eye doctors. There are no local retail discounts as of now for Haskell or Sequoyah Counties. CHEC will work to partner and recruit local businesses to participate in this new program in the next several months. As local businesses join the Co-op Connections Card program, they will be listed in our Hot Watts newsletter, as well as our website www.cooksonhills.com.

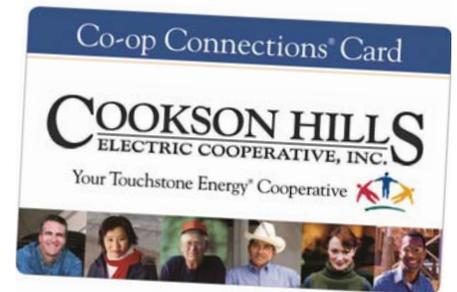
Q: What if I do not have internet service?

A: You can stop by one of our offices and pick up a list of national providers or a list of local pharmacies, dental and vision providers in our area. Watch for our monthly newsletter Hot Watts and we will provide a list of local participants as they join the program.

Q: How much are the discounts with the card?

A: The discount is different at each participating business or provider. The business determines the amount of the discount

they will allow. The discount may be a percentage off an item or service, or it may be a free item with the purchase of another item.



Q: Can I use the card at Wal-Mart?

A: You can only use the Co-op Connections Card at the Wal-Mart pharmacy. There is no discount for using the card for anything other than prescription drugs at Wal-Mart.

Q: Businesses that I frequently shop are not on the list. What can I do to get them to participate?

A: Mention the new program to your local business and tell them to call CHEC if they are interested. You may also contact CHEC to let us know there is a business you feel should be part of the program. It may be that the business has not yet been contacted about the program. Due to the large territory of Cookson Hills, the program will take several months before all communities are reached.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

**ALWAYS CALL
BEFORE YOU DIG**

