

Watts Inside

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Hot Watts

Published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: energy.gov

Congratulations!
Amy Johnson
is our online survey winner.



If you purchase an ENERGY STAR Room Air Conditioner this summer, you can earn a \$50.00 rebate. Visit our website at www.cooksonhills.com for more information or call 800-328-2368.

CHEC Awards Scholarships



Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) is pleased to announce the 2016 recipients of the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship: Elijah Matthew Davis of Sallisaw High School, son of Matthew and Jill Davis; Jennifer Stemmer of Central High School, daughter of Jeff and Helen Stemmer; Adyson Holt of Sallisaw High School, daughter of Kyle and Lisa Holt; and Cidney Madison Ross of McCurtain High School, daughter of Charles and Ashley Ross.

The employees and Board of Trustees of CHEC support the educational goals of area youth by awarding the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship. Each year four college bound graduates in the CHEC service area will receive a \$500.00 scholarship.

CHEC employees initiated the scholarship program in 1997 in memory of long time

employee and former general manager of CHEC, Herman Driscoll. Mr. Driscoll believed that education is of foremost importance of success. The scholarships are solely funded by employee fundraisers and donations. Their goal is to provide eligible graduating seniors the opportunity to further their education.

To be considered for this scholarship, students must submit an application and two letters of recommendation. Students must plan to attend a state accredited school or technical school offering an associate or bachelor degree. The program is open to any graduating senior whose parents or guardians are members of CHEC.

For details on the scholarship program, visit www.cooksonhills.com, or call Felicia Williams at 800-328-2368.



Jennifer Stemmer



Cidney Ross



Elijah Davis



Adyson Holt

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to editing. Cookson Hills reserves the right to publish or modify any article. Companies and individuals featured in the Hot Watts newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or view of Cookson Hills.

Felicia Williams, *Editor*
 E-Mail: fwilliams@cooksonhills.com

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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

Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

The names listed below are member accounts that have capital credit refund checks available to them. The owners of these checks received service from CHEC and were issued a check which was returned by the postal service as undeliverable, or were never cashed. If your name appears on the list, or

if you are the surviving heir of a name listed below, please contact CHEC about the capital credit refund check. Below is an alphabetical listing of names (Mo-Z). The first half of the list appeared in the May issue of the Hot Watts. If you have any questions about capital credits, please contact CHEC at 800-328-2368.

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| MONKS, LEON | ORGAN, WANDA M. | POLLARD, JOHNNY S. |
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| MONTGOMERY, SHELIA L. | ORRICK, MARJORIE | POOR, CECIL |
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You have the Power with Prepaid Metering

By Tom Tate

Prepaid metering is as simple as it sounds: consumers pay for electricity before it is used, and then use the electricity until the credit expires. A terrific analogy for prepaid metering is putting gas in your car. Say you only have \$30 for the week to pay for gasoline. You drive down to the station, pump in \$30 and drive off. As you drive during the week, what happens? You monitor the gauge and make sure each trip is necessary. If you drive too much, you burn up your \$30 before the week is out. Literally. By checking the gauge throughout the week, you became more prudent with your gas use and made informed decisions on when and how much to use.

Now let's transfer that analogy to your account with CHEC. With normal metering, you get a bill after you have used the electricity. Sometimes it comes as a shock. "How could I possibly have used so much electricity?" Prepaid metering is designed to ease – and hopefully eliminate – that shock. Let's take a look at how it works.

The components of a prepaid metering system aren't too different from regular metering. Two extra pieces are required: a way to turn off the power when all your money is used and a way for CHEC to tell you how much you have left in your account. Think of this as your "electricity tank gauge." On the cooperative's side, we handle the extra software and processes.

Now let's see it in action. You have the prepaid metering equipment installed. Prepaid users often receive electricity use notifications through a smartphone app, emails, and automated phone calls.

Now you decide how often you want to buy electricity. Monthly? Weekly? Then you budget for a certain amount of power and pay the co-op. Bingo, your electricity tank is full.

During the time period you have paid for (let's say a week for this example), you receive regular feedback on how much you have left in your tank.

As you approach "empty," you add more money to your account and are then set for the next period. If you run out, the power goes off just like your car stops when it runs out of gas. To complete the analogy, let's look at what you have been doing during the week. You become quite aware of how you are using electricity. You turn things off more often. You may change the setting on your thermostat so you don't cool or heat as much. You might cook outside to avoid using the oven or make sure your 3045300 dishwasher is really full before running it. Industry studies show that consumers who participate in prepaid metering plans use as much as 10 percent less electricity than their counterparts.

Prepaid metering teaches the value of electricity, what uses watts in your home, provides absolute control over how much you pay, and helps you reduce your energy use. It is a tremendous way to power your life. Contact CHEC at 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211 to learn more about prepaid metering.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

JUST DON'T DO IT! Phones and Driving Don't Mix

Take the **NO TEXT, NO TALK** Pledge

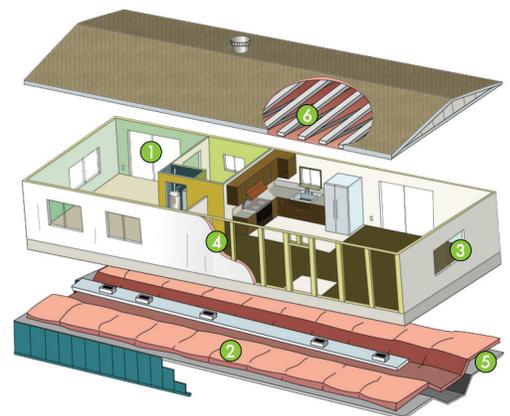


Keep your co-workers, members, family — and yourself — safe! Help reduce driving accidents by taking the pledge not to text or talk while driving.



RETROFITTING YOUR MANUFACTURED HOME FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- 1 Install energy-efficient windows and doors
- 2 Replace insulation in the belly
- 3 Make general repairs (seal bottom board, caulk windows, doors, ducts, etc.)
- 4 Add insulation to your walls
- 5 Install or seal belly wrap
- 6 Add insulation to your roof or install a roof cap



Original artwork provided by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

