

JANUARY 2010

# the Kilowatt

published monthly for members of  
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.



A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING

## Changing rates

Kiwash Electric is increasing its rates for all classes of consumer effective February 2010. How will this change affect your bill?

**Please turn to page 2 and 3 for more details about the increase.**



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY

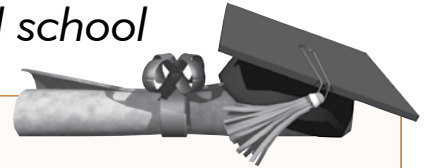
### Tip of the Month

Use your microwave for cooking whenever possible. They use 50 to 65 percent less energy than conventional ovens and do not heat up your house in the summer. However, conventional ovens may be more appropriate for larger size items when cooking time is increased.

SOURCE: TOUCHSTONE ENERGY COOPERATIVES

## Scholarships available for graduates

### \$500 for college, university or technical school



**K**iwash Electric Cooperative (KEC) is offering four \$500 college scholarships to seniors who graduate from a high school in co-op service territory.

KEC will host an essay contest to select its scholarship recipients. The essay topic is "Meeting climate change goals and keeping electricity reliable and affordable."

To be considered for a scholarship, the applicant's parent or legal guardian must be a member of KEC. Relatives of KEC trustees or employees are not eligible to participate.

Scholarships may be used to cover tuition expenses at a two or four year university, or two year technical school. Recipients must maintain full-time student status according to the minimum hour requirements at their specific university or tech school. To remain eligible for additional scholarship funds, the student must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 (on a scale of 4.0).

The deadline to enter the KEC scholarship competition is March 15, 2010. For more details, please contact Lisa Willard at **888-832-3362**.

### HOW TO ENTER:

1. Type a 500 word, double-spaced essay on the chosen subject, "Meeting climate change goals and keeping electricity reliable and affordable."
2. Prepare a cover sheet with your name, home address, telephone number, name of school, and email address (if available). Please include a recent photograph of yourself.
3. Deliver or mail your essay to Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Attn: Lisa Willard, P.O. Box 100, Cordell, OK 73632, by March 15, 2010. Essays can also be emailed to [lwillard@kiwash.coop](mailto:lwillard@kiwash.coop).

Essays will be judged on the student's understanding and knowledge of the subject, originality, creativity, composition, neatness and grammar.



## BILL PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Kiwash Electric  
120 W. 1st Street  
Cordell, Oklahoma

Pay online  
[www.kiwash.coop](http://www.kiwash.coop)

Custer City Hall  
Custer City, Oklahoma

First National Bank  
Thomas, Oklahoma

RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR

## Win a trip to Washington, D.C.



**J**uniors attending high school in Kiwash Electric service area could win a trip to Washington D.C. as participants in the Rural Electric Youth Tour. Kiwash Electric winners will travel with teens sponsored by other electric co-ops on a one week, all expenses paid tour of historic sites, museums, and cultural attractions. Teens learn about government, rural electrification, leadership and electric cooperatives, while making new friends from around the country.

Youth Tour application forms and resource information will be delivered to area high schools in January.

Applicants will take a short quiz on their knowledge of co-operatives. Kiwash Electric will select four finalists based on test scores. These finalists will be interviewed by judges at a special banquet. Two Youth Tour winners will be announced at the conclusion of the banquet.

For more details on Youth Tour please visit [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop), or contact Lisa Willard at **888-832-3362**.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

KIWASH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Providing the service that lights up your life.

**Office Location**

PO Box 100  
120 W. 1st Street  
Cordell, Oklahoma  
(888) 832-3362  
www.kiwash.coop

**STAFF**

Dennis Krueger  
MANAGER

Gene Smith  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Lisa Willard  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Roy Dewees  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**OFFICERS**

Jack Sawatzky  
PRESIDENT

Virginia Walker  
VICE PRESIDENT

Rex Eagan  
SEC.-TREASURER

Robert Travis  
ASST. SEC.-TREASURER

**DIRECTORS**

Ralph Cunningham  
Leslie Hinds  
John Schaufele

INSIDE YOUR CO-OP



By Dennis Krueger  
GENERAL MANAGER

# Kiwash rates go up despite best efforts

Over the last few months we have discussed various steps Kiwash Electric has taken to avoid increasing electric rates. These measures include several internal cost reductions to curb expenditures. We also discussed how the increase in the costs of materials impacts the co-op's daily operations, the cost involved in upgrading our system for better quality and reliability, expenses associated with late-payers, and the cost of maintaining and operating 2,950 miles of co-op owned electric line.

Furthermore, Kiwash Electric educated its staff through electric rate conferences where staff members talked with other cooperatives about future rate trends. The Kiwash Electric board of directors hired an independent consultant to complete an electric rate analysis and cost of service study based on the past sales and associated maintenance cost of this cooperative.

All the trends, calculations and analysis point to one conclusion: Electric rates are rising in Oklahoma and across the country. Neighboring electric

utilities—both investor-owned utilities and electric cooperatives—are increasing rates.

In Washington D.C., the House of Representatives on June 26 passed an energy-climate bill (House Bill 2454) that mandates emission controls that will affect carbon-based fuels. The Senate subcommittee on Environmental and

Public Works passed the Senate version on this bill (SB 1733). These energy bills will make each and every American reconsider energy efficiency as a part of their lifestyle, and force us to either conserve energy or pay the tax bill associated with burning carbon-based fuels.


These political actions are spurring a new philosophy


about electric rates. The short answer to this new philosophy is electric consumption (energy) charges will decrease while customer charges will increase. Kiwash Electric is adopting this new strategy by increasing the customer charge to \$30 per month while dramatically reducing the energy charges.


**Cont'd**

## CHANGE IN RATE STRUCTURE

Charts below show how the new rate will impact Kiwash Electric's three largest classes of consumers. Keep in mind, energy usage figures represent a system wide average. Individual bills may vary based on consumption.

RESIDENTIAL RATE 				
	avg. usage	current rate	new rate	difference
June-August	1163	\$121.38	\$127.37	\$5.99
December-February	1163	\$119.30	\$124.54	\$5.24
March-May/Sept.-Nov.	1163	\$120.13	\$123.50	\$3.37

RESIDENTIAL ALL ELECTRIC RATE 				
	avg. usage	current rate	new rate	difference
June-August	1845	\$183.58	\$187.40	\$3.82
December-February	1845	\$165.05	\$167.58	\$2.53
March-May/Sept.-Nov.	1163	\$171.95	\$174.47	\$2.53

NON RESIDENTIAL RATE 				
	avg. usage	current rate	new rate	difference
June-August	600	\$75.13	\$82.19	\$7.07
December-February	600	\$75.13	\$82.19	\$7.07
March-May/Sept.-Nov.	600	\$75.13	\$82.19	\$7.07

CO-OP VALUE

# New rate includes new options

## Low usage and time of use rates save money

Kiwash Electric's new rate structure includes two new rates that could help members and the co-op save money. A special low usage rate (Rate 120) is offered for low income residents. For members interested in lowering their use during peak usage periods, be sure to check out the time of use rate (Rate 130).

### RATE 120 RESIDENTIAL LOW USE

For residential consumers on fixed or low incomes, Kiwash Electric's Low Usage Rate 120 is worth looking into. The advantage of Rate 120 is a \$15 per month customer charge compared to a \$30 customer charge in the standard rates.

Member who qualify for the low usage rate should not exceed 600 kilowatt hours (kwh) per month between June 1st and September 30th. If you exceed 600 kwh per month during the summer months, the kwh charge is four times higher for energy used above 600 kwh. If metered consumption exceeds 600 kwh, Kiwash



Electric may review your billing history to determine if a better rate exists for you.

Rate 120 must be renewed at the beginning of each year. To qualify for the rate, applicants live in their home full time. In addition, applicants must provide proof that they are approved for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services LIHEAP program from June 1st through September 30th. Rate 120 applications are available at the Kiwash office or by calling 888-832-3362.

### RATE 130 EXPERIMENTAL RESIDENTIAL TIME-OF-USE

An experimental rate for Kiwash Electric, the residential time of use rate (Rate 130) is only available for the first 25 qualified applicants. If the rate proves beneficial to the co-op and its members, KEC will continue to offer the rate to other members.

Time of use rates are used by utilities to lower their system wide demand for power, which is a determining factor in wholesale power costs. To qualify for Rate 130, members must be willing to reduce their energy consumption from 2 pm through 8 pm during June, July, August and September. Electricity used during these on-peak hours will cost \$0.2625 cents per kwh, providing a large monthly energy savings. The downside to this rate is a large electric bill if the member fails to conserve during the stated on-peak hours.

Any electricity used outside the six hour period will cost \$0.0675 per kwh.

Time of use rates are designed for consumers who believe they can drastically reduce their summer energy usage during on-peak hours. If you can turn the air conditioner off and only use minimal electricity during these peak usage periods, then Rate 130 could work for you.

To be considered for Rate 130, members must submit an application before May 1, 2010. If you're interested in this program, please call Kiwash Electric at 888-832-3362 and request a Rate 130 application, or drop by and pick it up Monday -Friday, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. A complete rate sheet will be provided with the application.

RECIPE BOX

## Easy Slow Cooker Pot Roast

INGREDIENTS

- 4 pounds chuck roast
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 packet dry onion soup mix
- 1 cup water
- 3 carrots, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1 stalk celery, chopped

DIRECTIONS

Take the chuck roast and season with salt and pepper to taste. Brown on all sides in a large skillet over high heat.

Place in the slow cooker and add the soup mix, water, carrots, onion, potatoes and celery.

Cover and cook on low setting for 8 to 10 hours.

Yield 6 to 8 servings

# kiwash rates

**Cont'd**

This new direction will cause a system-wide average rate increase of 4.65 percent that will be incorporated into the bills you receive on or about February 1st. This will affect all the electric rates paid by members.

The board of directors and management of Kiwash Electric Cooperative resisted a rate increase for as long as possible, but the time has come. Rest assured, the decision was not an easy one. Your cooperative leaders made a thorough investigation into all the financial and human factors involved before making their recommendation, and they should be commended for their efforts. Your cooperative and its leaders are doing everything possible to hold down costs while bringing you safe and reliable electric service today, and in the future.

# Save more energy this year

If your New Year's resolution is to spend less and save more in 2010, don't overlook your energy use. You can save money each month by making just a few small changes around the house.



- Save up to 20 percent on heating by installing a programmable thermostat that automatically lowers the heat when you leave the house for more than five hours, or when you go to bed for the night.
- Save one percent to three percent on heating costs for each degree you turn the thermostat down. For optimal savings, set the thermostat at 68 degrees while at home and 65 degrees before you leave the house for the day.
- Save up to 20 percent on heating and cooling bills by sealing air leaks around doors and windows with caulk and weather stripping. This inexpensive energy saver will pay for itself within a year.
- Save at least 25 percent on air conditioning when you replace your old central a/c with one that has a seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) of 13 or higher.

- Save up to 40 percent on refrigerator operating costs by replacing your old unit with a new Energy Star model.
- Save more than 50 percent on energy for cooking by using a microwave instead of a conventional oven.
- Save more than 10 percent on water heating by lowering the water heater temperature from 140°F. to 120°F.
- Save 75 percent on energy for lighting by replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights.

Find more energy saving ideas and tips at [www.touchstoneenergysaver.com](http://www.touchstoneenergysaver.com), your cooperative's online energy resource.

## COMING UP in Kiwash Country

### ■ JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day
- 2-3 Quartz Mountain Eagle Watches  
Quartz Mountain Nature Park  
Lone Wolf
- 16-17 Quartz Mountain Eagle Watches  
Quartz Mountain Nature Park  
Lone Wolf
- 21 Chamber of Commerce Banquet  
100 Campus Drive, Weatherford
- 25 Annual Cordell Chamber Banquet
- 30-31 Quartz Mountain Eagle Watches  
Quartz Mountain Nature Park  
Lone Wolf

### ■ FEBRUARY

- 6 Corn Bible Academy German Feast and Benefit Auction
- 12 SWOSU Jazz Festival, SWOSU Fine

### SUBMISSION DETAILS:

Kiwash Electric Cooperative promotes local festivals, rodeos, fairs and other events in our monthly newsletter, *the Kilowatt*. Calendar listings are free and it's easy to submit your information.



Please send details to: Lisa Willard, Kiwash Electric, PO Box 100, Cordell, OK 73632, or send e-mail to: [lwillard@kiwash.coop](mailto:lwillard@kiwash.coop). Please send event listings by the 12th of the month prior to publication.

## Are you ready for winter?

Prepare for storms with the following essentials:



✱ **Light.** Keep a flashlight and extra batteries handy. Use care when burning candles; open flames are a dangerous fire hazard.

✱ **Warmth.** Have extra blankets or a sleeping bag for each person. Don't use gas stoves, kerosene heaters or other open-flame heat sources. Deadly carbon monoxide gas could build up in your home without your knowing.

✱ **Water.** If you have a water well and pump, keep an emergency supply of bottled water.

✱ **Food.** Stock an emergency supply of convenience foods that don't require cooking.

✱ **News and information.** Keep a battery-powered radio with extra batteries on hand.

✱ **Means of communication.** Keep a plain, hard-wired telephone handy; you may need it to report your electricity is out. Many cordless or feature-laden telephones require a plug-in power source to operate, and may not work if a power outage occurs. A cell phone will work as long as its battery is charged and the nearest cell tower has power or battery backup power.

For more safety tips, please visit [www.kiwash.coop](http://www.kiwash.coop) or call your co-op at **888-832-3362**.