

the Kilowatt

APRIL 2012



published monthly for members of
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING

Be our friend

Kiwash Electric Cooperative posts news and updates on Facebook. Be our Facebook friend, and stay informed about co-op people, programs, even power outages!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Trees on the south and west sides of your home provide shade—and can reduce cooling costs by as much as 10 percent—during hot summer months. And by adding vegetation to the north side of your home, you can cut winter winds that trigger higher heating costs. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

—TOUCHSTONE ENERGY



BILL PAYMENT LOCATIONS

Kiwash Electric
120 W. 1st Street
Cordell, Oklahoma

Pay online:
www.kiwash.coop

Custer City Hall
Custer City, Oklahoma

First National Bank
Thomas, Oklahoma

Celebrate Earth Day by saving energy

A few suggestions from Kiwash Electric Cooperative

April 22nd marks the celebration of Earth Day. If you're not sure about how to celebrate, consider these suggestions from Kiwash Electric Cooperative. You'll help the environment by conserving energy—and you'll also save yourself a little money. Remember, every action you take to lower energy costs helps ensure a brighter future for all of us.

Check out these easy ideas for going green:

◆ **Go paperless** with Kiwash Electric Cooperative's online bill payment service. You'll help save trees, keep waste out of our landfills and save your electric cooperative money. To sign up for eBill, visit www.kiwash.coop.

◆ **Plant energy saving trees.** Properly planted trees will help shield your home from the hot summer sun and lower your home cooling costs. Trees also benefit the environment by removing



carbon dioxide and contaminants from the air, and providing habitat for birds and wildlife. You can find information on creating an energy efficient landscape at www.energysavers.gov/yourhome/landscaping.

◆ **Recycle CFLs.** Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) contain trace amounts of mercury, which means they should never be tossed in the trash. Please bring your burned out or broken CFL bulbs to Kiwash Electric office in Cordell, and

we'll see that they are disposed of properly. Look for our CFL recycling bucket in our reception area.

◆ **Install energy efficient appliances.** When it's time to purchase an appliance, be sure to select one with an Energy Star rating for the utmost energy efficiency. They may cost more than less efficient models, but they make up for it in long term energy savings. If it's a new electric water heater or heat pump that you need, remember that Kiwash Electric offers rebates for qualifying units. Be sure to check rebate qualifications before you purchase by calling **888-832-3362** or visiting www.kiwash.coop.

◆ **Sign up for WindWorks.** While wind generated electricity costs slightly more per kilowatt-hour (kwh), Kiwash Electric members may support wind generated power by signing up for WindWorks. For details on WindWorks, please call your co-op at **888-832-3362** or visit www.kiwash.coop.

Share photos of your kids in the Kilowatt's "Mini Members" section



Share pictures of your "mini members" in the *Kilowatt*. **The theme for May is "Summer Vacation."** Please send your photos by April 12, 2012 to Mini Members, Kiwash Electric Cooperative, 120 W. 1st Street, Cordell, OK 73632, or email images to lwillard@kiwash.coop.

Please include your name, phone number, children's names, parent's names, and hometown. If possible provide a few details about the photo. Please make a copy—images cannot be returned.



Kiwash Electric Cooperative teams up with Western Farmers Electric Cooperative to prepare Cordell's baseball field lights for the 2012 baseball season.



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

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INSIDE YOUR CO-OP



By Dennis Krueger
GENERAL MANAGER

Our energy. Our future.

Federal energy policy goals should include affordable power

No matter how you personally feel about environmental issues government intervention with new regulations, rules, standards, and laws has the ability to negatively influence your future electric bill. Issues like EPA's stance on Cross State Air Pollution Rule, Clean Air Interstate Rule, Ambient Air Quality Standards, Regional Haze Requirements, or Hazardous Air Pollutant Emission Regulation potentially can raise your future electric bill anywhere from five percent to twenty percent. It's time to support our Oklahoma Congressional delegation and tell them your position on these matters.

More than 534,000 consumers across the nation are engaged in a dialogue with their members of Congress at www.ourenergy.coop. As energy-climate legislation that could significantly raise consumer electric bills now moves to the Senate, it is critical for you to urge members of Congress to balance any votes on federal policy goals with the need to keep electricity affordable.



Our Energy, Our Future™
A Dialogue With America

Senators are drafting climate change legislation NOW, and you can impact the outcome. Go to www.ourenergy.coop to make your voice heard.

The "Our Energy, Our Future" Campaign continues to urge members of Congress to work with electric cooperatives on energy and environmental issues that impact consumers. Elected officials need to know that electric cooperatives, and their consumers, stand ready to work with them to develop a plan. Consumers are asking Congress some basic questions:

1. How is Congress going to help us meet the future demand for electricity?
2. How are they going to help us develop technology to reduce carbon dioxide emissions?
3. How is Congress going to help keep electricity affordable?

The answers to these questions are important to every American. Elected officials need to know that electric cooperatives, and their consumer-owners, stand ready to work with them to develop a plan.

Begin a dialogue with your legislators—and ask the tough questions. Once you start, keep it going by visiting www.ourenergy.coop. Once there you can send an email to your legislators or write them yourself and support the electric cooperative's national effort to keep electricity affordable.

Talk to Kiwash Electric about financing your startup or expansion.

We'll help your business take the next step.

Kiwash Electric's revolving loan fund helps finance startup businesses and existing businesses in western Oklahoma. Revolving loan funds may be used to build infrastructure, improve factories, renovate existing businesses or fund new ventures; but creating jobs is the main objective. Cooperative memberships is not required. Please give us a call at **888-832-3362**, or visit www.kiwash.coop for details and loan applications.



SEASONAL REMINDER

It's time to tune up that a/c

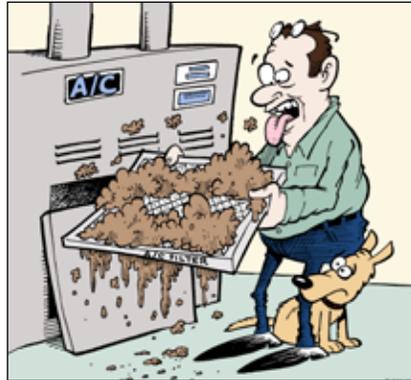
Basic maintenance will save you money

Once the weather starts to warm up but before it gets too hot outdoors, be sure to schedule an appointment with a qualified air conditioning technician to take a look at your a/c system.

Chances are, you'll get good news: Your a/c is good to go for another summer. But that doesn't mean you're completely off the hook until next spring.

Between visits, you should do some basic maintenance to ensure your unit operates efficiently:

- Change the filter every month or two, depending how hot and dusty it gets. A filter that's clogged with allergens and dust won't let air circulate freely to the a/c system, which will make it work harder, use more energy and cost you more to operate.
- Keep your outdoor a/c unit clean. Sweep away plants, fallen branches and debris that fall on top of it and even from the ground around it. Objects that are too close can prevent adequate air flow.
- Vacuum indoor registers and air vents regularly. Heating contractors say simple dust and dirt cause almost half of their service calls.
- Move furniture and drapes away from registers.



Find more ways to save by visiting Touchstone Energy's energy saving website at www.togetherwesave.com.

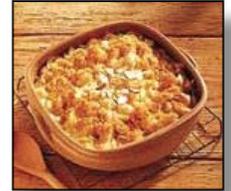
Question for your co-op? Give us a call or visit us online for information on how to transfer service, connect new service, and more. www.kiwash.coop • 888-832-3362

Recipe Box

Crunchy Chicken Casserole

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 T. butter or margarine
- 2 cups cubed, cooked chicken
- 1 1/2 cups cooked rice
- 1 (10.75 oz) can condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 (8 oz) can sliced water chestnuts, drained
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds
- 2 T. chopped onion
- salt and pepper to taste



TOPPING:

- 1 T. butter or margarine, melted
- 1/2 cup crushed cornflakes
- Sliced almonds

DIRECTIONS

In a skillet, saute celery in butter until tender. Remove from the heat; add the next eight ingredients. Spoon into an ungreased 2-1/2-qt. baking dish. Combine melted butter and cornflakes: sprinkle on top of casserole. Sprinkle with almonds if desired. Bake, uncovered, at 350°F. for 30 minutes.

Yield: 6 servings.

When the weather turns wild...

iMap Alerts keep you safe

Free iMapAlert delivers emergency weather bulletins via email or text message, plus updates from your co-op during emergency situations. Service includes seven day forecasts to your email box and more.

Visit www.kiwash.coop for details, or call 888-832-3362.



Tornado Safety Tips

Practice and Prepare

Know where you'll meet your family during the tornado (and after). Practice a tornado drill annually. Keep a weather radio in your storm shelter, along with safety supplies.

Seek Shelter

Go to your basement, a small interior room, or under stairs on the lowest floor of the house. If you live in a mobile home, get out and look for a stable building. If outside, find low ground—away from trees and cars—and lie face down with your arms protecting your head.

After the Storm

Stay away from downed power lines, and avoid flooded areas—power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Don't enter seriously damaged buildings and avoid using matches and lighters in case of gas leaks.

Know the Signs

- Look for swirling clouds.
- Watch for quick wind shifts or stark calm after heavy rain.
- Listen for a loud roar or rumble that doesn't fade.



PLAY IT SAFE

Plan yard work around safety

Notice powerlines before you trim or dig

The lure of spring means planting, pool cleaning and tree trimming. Your friends at Kiwash Electric Cooperative remind you to look up before you begin working in your yard.

Accidentally clipping an overhead powerline with a ladder, a long-handled pool-cleaning tool, or a tall load in the back of your pickup can result in shock, electrocution or a power outage at your house.

So be aware of powerlines on and near your property—and stay far away from them. Here are five tips:

1. Stay at least 15 feet away from overhead power lines. Don't try to cut tree limbs that are closer than that; call your electric cooperative for help instead. Don't try to sneak a tall load or a ladder under a line if it will come within 15 feet of the line. Find a detour.
2. Same goes if you're working on your roof. You might be up there blowing off a winter's worth of debris, repairing gutters or repositioning your satellite dish. If any of those chores brings you within 15 feet of a power line, call a pro to do the job. It's worth paying someone who is trained and familiar with power line safety.
3. Before you trim limbs or bushes, inspect them on all sides. Powerlines are easily hidden by foliage. Know if that's the case before you start climbing or cutting so falling branches don't send a live electrical wire flying in your direction.
4. Before you dig in your yard, make a phone call. Call 811, the national Call Before You Dig number, to learn where underground utility lines—from electrical to cable to natural gas—are buried. Make the call before you plant trees or shrubs, break ground for a new deck or even install a mailbox. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you could harm yourself, disrupt utility service in your neighborhood, or damage buried equipment that you might have to pay for later.
5. When you're tossing a ball around with your kids, or flying a kite or a model airplane, choose a play area free of overhead power lines. And teach your children the dangers of climbing and playing too close to electrical wires.

For more electrical safety tips, please visit www.kiwash.coop.



Watch local athletes compete during the SWOSU Rodeo on April 12 in Weatherford.

COMING UP in Kiwash Country

■ APRIL

- 6 Good Friday
- 7 Hobart Chamber Easter Egg Hunt
- 8 Easter
- 12 SWOSU Rodeo
Don Mitchell Rodeo Arena
Weatherford
- 12 Annual Chamber Banquet, 6 pm
Western Technology Center
Hobart, 580-726-2553
- 14 Town-wide Garage Sales, Hobart
580-726-2553
- 22 Earth Day
- 29 Weatherford Youth Horse Show
Don Mitchell Arena, Weatherford

■ MAY

- 13 Mother's Day
- 14 Armed Forces Day
- 18 Legislative Luncheon, 11:30 am,
Hobart. Location to be announced.
For details contact Hobart Chamber of
Commerce, 580-726-2553
- 28 Memorial Day

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

Kiwash Electric Cooperative promotes local festivals, rodeos, fairs and other events in our monthly newsletter, *the Kilowatt*. Calendar listings are free.



Please send details to: Lisa Willard, Kiwash Electric, PO Box 100, Cordell, OK 73632, or send e-mail to: lwillard@kiwash.coop. Please send event listings by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

If you have questions about submitting an event, or need to speak with a Kiwash representative about other matters, please call **888-832-3362**, or visit www.kiwash.coop.



NEW CARD. BETTER SAVINGS.

Download the new Co-op Connections card to save on dental care, vision and hearing treatments, and chiropractic care. You could save a bundle on pet care, too, plus earn cash rewards via the new My VIP Savings Program.

To take advantage of these new benefits, you'll need to download the new Co-op Connections Healthy Savings discount card at <http://www.nbdrugcard.com/touchstone/>.