

the Kilowatt

DECEMBER 2013

published monthly for members of
Kiwash Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A SUPPLEMENT TO OKLAHOMA LIVING



Holiday Hours

Kiwash Electric Cooperative will close at noon on Dec. 24 and remain closed through Dec. 25. The co-op will close at 3 pm on Dec. 31 and remain closed through Jan. 1. To report a power outage, please call **888-832-3362**. Happy holidays!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Electric bills rise in the winter for lots of reasons—holiday parties, house guests, and shorter days and longer nights. Take measures to help control costs by turning down the thermostat, washing clothes in cold water, using high-efficiency lightbulbs, and using microwaves or toaster ovens to cook.

SOURCE: TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Co-ops Urge EPA to Slow Ruling

EPA should be mindful of coal's affordability and reliability when establishing emission standards for power plants

Electric co-ops expressed concerns over power plant emission standards at a series of sessions hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in September.

At a meeting at the EPA's regional office in New York, John Novak, executive director of environmental issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, told EPA that the plants targeted for the new air rules have "significant remaining life" and to consider the billions of dollars already invested by co-ops to clean up those plants. "While the best available control technology for pollution

reduction was installed when these units were built, co-ops also have spent billions on pollution control upgrades more recently to meet current EPA regulations," Novak said.

Proposed EPA regulations would force many existing U.S. coal-fired plants to close prematurely. For power plants to meet the strict standards would require technology that has yet to be tested. Over 48 percent of electric co-ops depend on coal to generate the electricity delivered to their members.

"We ask EPA to recognize the unique characteristics of electric co-ops and to work

with us on a fair solution that will allow us to continue to provide affordable, reliable electric power," Novak said.

Fearing the new regulations will result in significant price increases for rural residents, electric co-ops are urging members to voice their opinion.

Kiwash Electric Cooperative members are urged to visit **www.Action.coop**, and send an email to the EPA. The site offers additional information on the issue and its potential impact on rural residents. Please visit Action.coop and let your voice be heard.



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

COOPERATIVE ACTION NETWORK

STAND WITH US AS WE FIGHT TO KEEP ELECTRIC BILLS AFFORDABLE.

ACTION.COOP




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

A Safer Holiday — in Verse

Special thanks to the *Service Line*, published by Duquesne Light for the following inspirational poem. I hope you enjoy it.

Twas the night before
Christmas when all
through the house, not
an outlet was empty, not a lamp
did we douse.

Light strings of bright
colors were hung without
care; in hopes that fray
wires would not wear
themselves bare.

The tree bulbs were
nestled all snug in their
sockets, except for the
burnouts, which graced
Grandpa's pockets.

And the three-pronged
plugs in the two-hole
outlet, was an accident
waiting if we didn't re-route
it.

When all of a sudden there arose
a great notion, that electrical
safety deserves our devotion!

To the circuit breaker panel we
went in a dash, to check the load
limit and avoid a big flash.

We made sure that our cords
were all UL-approved, and the
ones that showed damage were
quickly removed.



Bulbs that were broken and had
filaments showing, were replaced
right off lest a fire start glowing.

Our survey of danger was so
thorough and quick, we knew
we'd be ready to welcome St.
Nick.

More rapid than eagles the
solutions they came, and each
safety measure we called out by
name:

"Now timers that turn off the
holiday spectacle! On safety
caps! On outlet covers! On GFCI
receptacle!

Christmas lights on the porch,
bright lights on the wall! Dash
away danger spots, dash away
all!

Then we spoke not a word, but
went straight to our work, and
watered the fir tree then turned
with a smirk to the tree that was
metal – no electric décor—but
rather a spotlight was set up on
the floor.

A wink of the eye and a turn of
the head, soon proved that there
wasn't a hazard to dread.

The whole house was risk-proof
before we could whistle, and
away we all flew for our bedtime
dismissal.

You can hear us exclaim as we
turn in for the night, "Happy
holidays to all. Let's keep all lights
safely bright!"

WAYS TO SAVE

Taking the CHILL Out of Winter Bills

Between holiday house guests and shorter, colder days, electric bills tend to climb in the winter. Read on for ways to save energy when the temperature drops.

Lower your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower): If you decrease the temperature by just one degree, you can save up to 5 percent on heating costs. Consider a programmable thermostat that you can set to lower the temperature when away from home and increase before you come back.

Adjust blinds and curtains: Keep them open to let in sunlight during the day, and close at night to keep heat inside and protect from drafts.

Reduce hot water temperatures: Heating water accounts for 12 percent of the average home's energy use. Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees or lower—that's usually sufficient for a household's hot-water needs. Also, if you've had your water heater for more than 12 years, you might want to consider replacing it with a more energy-efficient model.

Seal and insulate: This is the best way to keep heat in and air out. Areas that may need sealing include corners, cracks, door frames, and windows.

Follow the ENERGY STAR: Consider replacing old appliances, doors, and windows with ENERGY STAR-rated models: You can save about 15 percent of your normal energy use with these appliances and get better insulation on doors and windows for the price you pay. ENERGY STAR-rated items meet special efficiency standards set by the federal government.

Free your vents: HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems will have to work twice as hard if vents are blocked by rugs, furniture, or doors. Keep vents clear for proper air flow.

Keep food cool: Don't make your fridge work too hard. A temperature set between 34 and 37 degrees Fahrenheit is usually sufficient.

A special holiday tip: Use LED lights to decorate. They're up to 75 percent more energy efficient than traditional incandescent lights and last much longer—but check for an ENERGY-STAR rating before you buy. Cheaper LEDs tend not to last as long or be as durable.

Visit TogetherWeSave.com or kiwash.coop for more ways to save.

Recipe Box

Gourmet Sweet Potatoes

INGREDIENTS

5 sweet potatoes
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 cup butter
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
1/2 cup white sugar
2 T. heavy cream
1/4 cup butter, softened
3 T. all-purpose flour
3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
1/2 cup chopped pecans



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.

Bake sweet potatoes 35 minutes in the preheated oven, or until they begin to soften. Cool slightly, peel, and mash.

In a large bowl, mix the mashed sweet potatoes, salt, 1/4 cup butter, eggs, vanilla extract, cinnamon, sugar, and heavy cream. Transfer to the prepared baking dish.

In a medium bowl, combine 1/4 cup butter, flour, brown sugar, and chopped pecans. Mix with a pastry blender or your fingers to the consistency of course meal. Sprinkle over the sweet potato mixture.

Bake 30 minutes in the preheated oven, until topping is crisp and lightly browned.

Yield: 8 servings.

Co-op News on Your Phone

Get the free OKL-Kiwash Kilowatt mobile app

Oklahoma Living magazine—the statewide publication of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) recently launched cutting-edge digital tools to enhance the reading experience of 317,000-plus electric consumer-members across the state.

The tools include an interactive digital edition and a FREE app for Apple, Android and Kindle

Download the free app through the **Apple Newsstand**, **Google Play**, or **Amazon** by searching for "**Oklahoma Living magazine.**"





New TV on Your Wish List?

PROTECT IT AND AVOID HAZARDS

Big-ticket electronics such as televisions, computers, and gaming consoles are at the top of many holiday wish lists—but safety may not be. Purchasing, installing, and operating these items safely will protect that expensive equipment, and your entire home. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) offers the following tips.

- Always purchase electrical devices from a reputable retailer, and make sure they are certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA), or Intertek (ETL).
- Send warranty and product registration forms for new items to manufacturers in order to be notified about product recalls.
- Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit into a two-prong outlet.
- Appliances and cords should be kept in good condition. Check them regularly for damage, and repair or dispose of damaged items.
- Keep cords out of reach of children and pets.
- Make sure entertainment centers and computer workstations have enough space around them for ventilation.
- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical devices. Spills can result in dangerous shocks or fires.
- Unplug equipment when not in use to save energy and reduce the risks for shocks or fires. Power strips or surge protectors make a good central turn-off point.
- Always unplug electrical items by grasping the plug firmly rather than pulling on the cord.
- If you receive any kind of shock from a large appliance or any other electrical device, stop using it until an electrician has checked it.
- If an appliance smokes or sparks, or if you feel a tingle or light shock when it's on, stop using it. Replace it or have it repaired.

For more safety tips, visit www.esfi.org.

Surge protector or power strip?

Although surge protectors and power strips both allow you to plug several devices in one location, it's important for to understand that they are not interchangeable. A true surge protector includes internal components that divert or suppress the extra current from surges, protecting your valuable electronics from electrical spikes. A power strip simply provides more outlets for a circuit. Be sure to check your device before plugging anything in.



COMING UP

in Kiwash Country

■ DECEMBER

- 3 Clinton Festival of Lights & Parade
Downtown Clinton
- 5 Free Pictures with Santa, 5 pm,
Walgreens Pharmacy, Weatherford
- 6 Symphonic & Community Bands
Concert, 7 pm-9 pm, SWOSU Fine Arts
Center, Weatherford
- 14 Home for the Holidays Art & Craft Show
3rd and Washington Street, Hobart.
Peruse a variety of booths featuring
one-of-a-kind items, gifts, artwork and
more. Bring the whole family to enjoy
performing arts and a relaxing day of
shopping!
- 24-25 Kiwash Electric will close at noon on
Dec. 24 and remain closed through
Christmas day. To report an outage,
please call **888-832-3362**.
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 Kiwash Electric will close at 3 pm.

■ JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day. Kiwash Electric closed
for the holiday. To report a problem,
please call **888-832-3362**.

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