

Kilowatt

A supplement to Oklahoma Living

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electricity is a good bargain. **PAGE 2**

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Kiwash Electric Cooperative
PO Box 100 • 120 West 1st Street
Cordell, Oklahoma

tele: **(888) 832-3362**
www.kiwash.coop

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm.

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE
888-832-3362

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jack Sawatzky, *President*

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John Schaufele, *Secretary Treasurer*

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Dennis Krueger, *General Manager*

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pay online at **www.kiwash.coop**.
- Pay by phone by calling **855-875-7216**. Available 24 hours a day. Visa or Mastercard.
- Pay in person at 120 West 1st St., Cordell, Monday - Friday, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm.
- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account. To sign up, please visit **www.kiwash.coop** or call **888-832-3362**.
- Pay at one of our authorized payment locations:

Custer City Hall
Custer City, Oklahoma

First National Bank
Thomas, Oklahoma



Help Kiwash Electric Bust That Peak!

If you own a whole home generator or are considering buying one, your electric co-op has a deal for you. Enroll in Kiwash Electric's new Peak Buster program and Kiwash Electric will pay you from \$32.50 to \$60 per month for your participation. You'll lower your monthly electric bill, and you'll help your co-op curb its system-wide energy use.

The Peak Buster program aims to reduce Kiwash Electric's system peak, which is a key factor in what Kiwash pays for wholesale electricity from its supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative.

"We're hoping to reduce our overall consumption by one megawatt over the next five years," said Dennis Krueger, Kiwash general manager. "By doing this, we could save nearly \$100,000 in wholesale energy costs."

Kiwash Electric system peaks tend to occur during the hot summer months when lots of co-op members use electricity at the same time.

Peak Buster works to reduce this demand by signaling a member's home generator to switch on during periods of high system usage. "The program requires the entire load to disconnect from the co-op grid for up to four and half hours

per day within the designated time frames, Krueger explained. With a properly sized and well maintained generator, Peak Buster participants shouldn't notice any reduction in power or the comfort of their home during these periods.

Krueger added that Kiwash will try to hold

Sign up for Peak Buster
and earn cash back on your
electric bill every month.



the time frame to 20 days between June 9 and September 15; however, extreme circumstances could require more.

Regardless of the number of times their load is cycled, Peak Buster participants continue to receive a bill credit every month. It's a huge incentive to participate, but it's not the only one. "Disconnecting from the Kiwash grid gives home and business owners an opportunity to use their generator to produce electricity, while providing a financial incentive to install one," Krueger said. "Members benefit from the financial incentive and they gain an important secondary source of power in the event of a major power outage."

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A whole-home generator provides backup power in the event of a major power outage. Now that generator can make money for co-op members who sign up for a new peak shaving program from Kiwash Electric Cooperative.

PHOTO/LISA WILLARD



Celebrating the Co-op

The utility that keeps your lights and appliances humming along every day is a cooperative business, not a corporation.

Cooperatives are owned by the consumers who use their services: you and your neighbors. In fact, your electric cooperative doesn't even refer to you as a "customer." Instead, everyone who works there knows you are a "member."

Every October is Cooperative Month, when members from more than 29,000 cooperatives nationwide—including more than 900 electric cooperatives—celebrate their heritage.

Take a few moments this month to learn a little more about the way your electric cooperative does business.

Here is the basic cooperative business philosophy: They are not-for-profit, democratically controlled, volunteer-run and member-owned.

That means cooperatives don't sell stock to out-of-state shareholders and let outsiders decide what's best for their local consumer-members.

It also means that any member—including you—can run for election to the cooperative's board of directors. It is the board's responsibility to hire the cooperative manager and set policies for the utility.

Even if you don't want to be a board member, you still can vote for the candidates you would like to represent you. That's the beauty of belonging to a co-op: You are an owner of the co-op, and you have a say in how it is run.

Details on Kiwash Electric trustee qualifications and elections are found in the co-op bylaws. For a copy of the bylaws, please call **888-832-3362**.

BY DENNIS KRUEGER

GENERAL MANAGER

Play it Safe With Extension Cords

I'm betting there's an extension cord in practically every home or garage on Kiwash Electric lines. While they are handy devices, light-duty extension cords have their limitations so it's wise to be aware of over-use and over-heating.

With cold weather on its way some of you may be reaching for an extension cord to power an extra heater in your home or shop. Winter is commonly the season when extension cord use is at its peak. Both inside the home and out, extension cords are useful for extending power to temporary heaters, not to mention our beloved holiday lighting displays. But when the decorations come down, please don't use those same light-duty cords for mismatched applications elsewhere.

Extension cords with a small wire size (16 gauge or smaller) will overheat if used to power electric heaters, high-wattage halogen lights, or other loads that draw large amounts of current. The fire hazard becomes even greater when cords are covered by rugs or other material that traps the heat.

In addition, a lightweight cord that extends power long distances will experience voltage drop from one end of the cord to the other. All conductors (wires) have a resistance to the flow of electricity. If the wire size is small and the cord is long, the voltage will drop to a level that shortens the life of electric motors, and reduces the performance of appliances. This is particularly true when two or more extension cords are strung together.

"Use only light-duty extension cords for indoor lights and small appliances. For all other applications, use larger diameter cords with wire sizes of 12 gauge or greater."



The simplest rule of thumb is: only use light-duty extension cords for indoor lights and small appliances such as reading lamps, holiday lights, radios, counter-top appliances, and so on. For all other applications, use larger diameter cords with wire sizes of 12 gauge or greater (gauge designates wire thickness). When checking extension cord labels, remember that the smaller the gauge number, the larger the conductor diameter. For example, a 12 gauge wire is thicker than a 14 gauge wire.

A final tip, sunlight and temperature extremes can slowly degrade the outer insulation on extension cords over time. If a cord is cracked, brittle, or separated anywhere, throw it away. The costly hazard of keeping a damaged or undersized cord far outweighs the expense of a new one.

Keeping these tips in mind will help you weather the approaching winter in comfort and safety.

For more information on electrical safety for all seasons, please visit the Kiwash Electric website at www.kiwash.coop, or the Electrical Safety Foundation website at www.esfi.org.



Peak Buster Pays Members to Participate

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Peak Buster residential rebates are based on Kiwash Electric's system-wide average kilowatt usage. Residential accounts with a 15kVa transformer or less receive \$32.50 per month; accounts with a 25 kVa transformer qualify for \$50 per month, and accounts with a 37.5 kVa transformer or larger qualify for \$60 per month.

Commercial accounts that have been on Kiwash lines for at least a year are also encouraged to participate, however, rebate incentives will vary based on the account's peak kwh usage and other factors.

Krueger pointed out that members who participate in Peak Buster are required to purchase and install the proper size generator for their home or business. Usage data from Kiwash Electric records is available to help members determine the correct size. Generators may operate on any fuel—propane, diesel or natural gas— but it is the member's responsibility to maintain it. "A malfunctioning generator could result in a loss of power during a peak cycling period, so it pays to keep it in good running order," reminds Krueger.

Kiwash Electric won't re-energize a meter during a cycling period. If co-op personnel are called out to restore service to a Peak Buster account with a faulty, non-operating generator in place, normal service charges will be assessed.

Because the generator must control the entire metered load to be eligible for the program, all participating generators will

require an automatic transfer switch. "The transfer switch allows a home or business to disconnect entirely from the distribution grid and be powered by the generator," he explained.

Kiwash Electric employees will perform field inspections of generators enrolled in the program by July 1 of each year. Members interested in participating in the program should contact Kiwash Electric. Inspections will begin in late December or early January of this year. The Peak Buster program begins on January 1, 2015 with credits available as early as your February 1 billing.

Members who appreciate receiving their monthly rebate as soon as possible should plan on installing their generator from December 1 through July 1. Members who install a generator after July 1, 2015, will not receive their monthly incentives until January 1, 2016 because the summer peak season is already well underway.

Kiwash Electric's Peak Buster program mirrors similar programs taking place across the U.S. All strive for the same long-term goal—to curb the growing electricity demand, delay the need to build expensive new power plants, and keep prices affordable.

For more details on Kiwash Electric's Peak Buster program and how you can participate, please call your co-op at **888-832-3362**.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Fall is here, and that means colder months will be here before we know it. Is your home prepared for the drafts that may enter? Tight-fitting insulating drapes or shades are a perfect way to keep the heat in and the cold out.

Source: Department of Energy

SIREN SONG

Old storm sirens find new purpose serving rural residents

Kiwash Electric Cooperative partnered with Custer County officials to re-purpose storm sirens that once served the city of Weatherford.

When Weatherford received new sirens, Custer County Commissioner Kent Hamburger asked that the old sirens be donated to the county to alert residents in outlying areas to approaching tornadoes.

The sirens, located northwest and south of Weatherford, are linked to the alert system in Weatherford and will sound at the same time as the city sirens.

Kiwash Electric provided the poles and manpower necessary to install the sirens, which became fully operable in August.

Kiwash Electric's B.J. Carter (in the bucket) and Johnny Jones install a storm siren that will serve rural residents northwest and south of Weatherford.

Know Clearance Before Moving Big Equipment



Children aren't the only ones who need to play it safe around electric lines. Farmers and others moving grain bins and large equipment should be sure their load will clear an overhead line before trying to drive under it.

Kiwash Electric Cooperative offers this advice for anyone preparing to move large objects:

- *Map your course.* Drive the route you'll travel and note the location of all overhead power lines—even the ones that look like they're too high to cause a problem.
- *Choose a road less traveled.* Making the move is risky enough when just the driver and a helper are involved. Don't put others at risk if you don't have to.
- *Call Kiwash Electric and any other electric utilities with lines you might pass underneath.* The utility can measure your load — including the bed it's lying on — and then measure the distance from the ground to the lowest hanging wire. Never measure the line clearance yourself; getting close enough for an accurate measurement puts you at risk of electrocution.

- *Don't drive under the line until the utility says it's safe.*
- *Never touch any line with your hands or with any object --even a wooden one.* Most utility lines are uninsulated and will burn or shock anyone who comes in contact with them.
- *Abide by safety regulations.* Once you get a grain bin to its new home, remember that the National Electrical Safety Code requires it to be located at least 18 feet from overhead lines. Better yet, contact Kiwash Electric's engineering department *before* your move for advice on safely moving and locating your grain bin. If a grain bin is not located a safe distance from power lines, Kiwash may be unable to provide service.

For more information, please call **888-832-3362**.

coming up



Cordell Pumpkin Festival • October 11, 2014
Downtown Cordell

Herald the arrival of autumn, shop arts and crafts booths, sample yummy food, and enjoy fun activities for the whole family. Don't miss it!

Recipes

Stuffed Jack-O-Lantern Bell Peppers

INGREDIENTS

- 6 bell peppers, any color
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 egg
- 4 slices whole wheat bread, cubed
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 small tomato, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup chili sauce
- 1/4 cup prepared yellow mustard
- 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease an 8x8 inch baking dish.

Lightly mix together the ground beef, egg, bread cubes, onion, tomato, garlic, chili sauce, mustard, Worcestershire sauce, salt, and pepper in a bowl.

Wash the peppers, and cut jack-o'-lantern faces into the peppers with a sharp paring knife, making triangle eyes and noses, and pointy-teeth smiles. Slice off the tops of the peppers, and scoop out the seeds and cores. Stuff the peppers lightly with the beef stuffing, and place them into the prepared baking dish so they lean against each other.

Bake in the preheated oven until the peppers are tender and the stuffing is cooked through and juicy, about 1 hour.

Yield: Makes 6 peppers.

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM

Sentinel Town and Country Bazaar • November 7-8, 2014
Sentinel Area Activity Center,
East of Sentinel on Hwy 55.



Grab a friend and make a trip to Sentinel for a little early Christmas shopping. Sentinel's Town and Country Bazaar offers two days of fun and a choice of handmade crafts including quilts, jewelry, clothing, purses and more. There'll be plenty of homemade foods to choose from, too, including pies, cookies, and other baked goods.