

JANUARY 2015

Published for members of
Kiwash Electric Cooperative

Kilowatt

A supplement to Oklahoma Living

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

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE
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Kiwash Offers Teens Trip of a Lifetime

Youth Tour gives teens the chance to be a part of something powerful.

Tennis shoes. Check. Bottled water. Check. An eagerness to learn and lead. Check, check. If you're a high school junior looking for the trip of a lifetime, then the Rural Electric Youth Tour is the trip for you!

Imagine visiting our nation's capital for one week, meeting with more than 1,500 students from across the U.S. and visiting the nation's most significant memorials and museums. The best part? It won't cost you a penny.

Lisa Willard, Kiwash Electric marketing director, says Kiwash is committed to the communities and member-consumers it serves. "Sponsoring students on this trip is just one of the ways we're investing in our youth."

The week-long Youth Tour is jam-packed with sightseeing. Students visit many of the major monuments and memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Vietnam Memorial and the Washington Monument.

Students also visit Capitol Hill, where they meet with Oklahoma's congressional representatives and their staff. Some teens are so inspired by the experience that they later serve as interns on the Hill; others have gone on to



pursue careers in politics. Youth Tour inspires students to discover who they want to be.

Oklahoma co-ops have participated in Youth Tour since 1963. "Each year we take a group of approximately 65 students," said Jennifer McCall, State Youth Tour coordinator. To see their reactions to these sights is an experience in itself. Not only do they gain insight into the most important moments in U.S. history, they also meet with more than 1,500 student leaders from across the nation. It's a great opportunity to make lasting connections."

The 2015 Rural Electric Youth Tour will take place June 12-19 in Washington, D.C. Kiwash Electric will deliver Youth Tour contest materials to local schools this month.

Eligible juniors are encouraged to read the resource material and prepare for a short test. The four top-scoring finalists will be honored at a special banquet where they will meet with contest judges for a brief interview. Two winners will be announced at the conclusion of the banquet.

"Being a part of Youth Tour means you're a part of a family," said McCall. "Whether it's writing a letter of recommendation or providing career advice, we want our participants to know that we're here for them and we care."

For more details on Youth Tour, please visit **www.kiwash.coop** or call your co-op at **888-832-3362**.

Get Paid To Save!

Wouldn't it be nice to receive a monthly credit on your electric bill? Members who enroll in Kiwash Electric's Peak Buster program will earn a bill credit of \$32.50 to \$60 per month for their participation.

Peak Buster participants must have a backup generator installed on their property, and agree to allow Kiwash to switch their electrical load to the generator during periods of high system-wide electricity use.

Participants will experience no interruption in service or decrease in the comfort level of their home. Members who sign up before June 1, will begin enjoying their monthly bill credit immediately. For complete details, please contact your co-op at **888-832-3362**.

Protect Yourself From Rising Drug Prices

Here's another great reason to use your Co-op Connections card: Drug prices are on the rise. An AARP report found that retail prices for 227 brand-name prescription drugs commonly used by older Americans increased nearly 13 percent in 2013.

Generic drug prices are also going up. A Pembroke Consulting analysis of federal data shows the price pharmacies pay for generics over the past year has soared by as much as 17,700 percent.

To battle rising drug costs, co-op members are encouraged to make use of their Co-op Connections Healthy Savings pharmaceutical discounts. The program saves members an average of 45 percent off retail prices.

For more details, including a list of participating pharmacies near you, please visit www.connections.coop/healthysavings or call Co-op Connections at **800-800-7616**.

BY DENNIS KRUEGER

GENERAL MANAGER

New Rate Effective January 1

Over the past two years we have been preparing you for rising prices in the electric industry. We have addressed the topic in speeches at the Kiwash Electric Annual Meeting and in various articles in your newsletter, the *Kilowatt*. We've asked for your support at www.action.coop to change thinking in Washington D.C. on the Clean Air Act and climate change, and you responded. We thank you for that support. By taking action, you joined other concerned people who sent more than 1.1 million comments opposing EPA power plant proposals. Yet, Washington's position has not been totally altered.

We've asked you to consider energy saving efficiencies in your home and businesses and we hope you have reduced your energy usage in some manner. Energy savings at home will lessen the impact of rate increases in the future.

The most recent disturbing information came from the North American Electric Reliability Corp (NERC) study warning that EPA's existing power plants Green House Gas rule may threaten grid reliability in 2020, when the proposal would take effect. NERC identified generation capacity at coal plant marked for shutdowns much higher than EPA estimates. "The proposed timeline does not provide enough time to develop sufficient resources to ensure continued reliable operation of the electric grid by 2020," the study found.

Meanwhile, we are a small but growing electric cooperative with multiple issues of our own. The largest issue revolves around reliability of the Kiwash Electric system. Over the last 10 years, your board of directors has pushed to improve the local distribution grid by bringing more than 700 miles of Kiwash Electric lines up to higher standards. This includes wiring improvements, pole replacements, new insulators, and other upgrades. It also includes better metering that gives us information on voltage, outages, energy

usage, and more. Kiwash has made positive strides to improve your service and repair all damages caused by the 2001 ice storm. As a result the equity position of your co-op has decreased by 20 percent.



All of the above issues equate to higher electric prices. Last year the wholesale electric rate for large power energy users (special contracts) increased roughly 7.5 percent, and in 2017 Kiwash will also see smaller increases in residential and small commercial wholesale rates. These increases are based on Washington's decision to pursue climate change in a radical manner.

This month Kiwash residential and small commercial accounts will find a 1.5 percent increase in their electric rates. This increase is necessary to rebuild equity and maintain a positive financial condition. It will allow Kiwash to begin repaying the debt for system improvements that have accumulated over the last ten years, and pay for increases in the price of materials and equipment required to maintain your system.

No one likes electric rate increases; however, we must consider how electricity has changed our rural lifestyle. Today we view electricity as a necessity; in the 1930s and '40s, it was considered a luxury. Today, a blink in electric service will light up the Kiwash phones with annoyed consumers. In the 1940s, members reported outages on postcards delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. Things have changed. While all of us appreciate improvements and progress, we must accept the fact that they come at a price.

The new residential rates that will be reflected on your next bill are printed here for your review. If you have questions, please call Kiwash at **888-832-3362**.

FYI: Kiwash Electric Rates in 2015

All rates include a monthly pass-through wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) that is added to your electric bill based upon your kilowatt-hour (kwh) usage. The PCA is determined by fuel prices and other variables associated with generating and transmitting electricity. A two percent mandatory gross receipt tax will be added to all rate classifications per state law. Kiwash rates have been approved by the board of directors and are on file at the Oklahoma Corporation Commission. Small commercial and other rates are available by calling 888-832-3362.

RESIDENTIAL, FARM & HOME SERVICE and PUBLIC BUILDINGS (Rate 101)

1.	Customer Charge:	\$33.50 per month
2.	Energy Charge:	
	Summer: Usage months June - August	
	First 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0770 per kWh
	Over 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0825 per kWh
	Winter: Usage months December - February	
	First 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0770 per kWh
	Over 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0655 per kWh
	Shoulder: Usage months March - May and September - November	
	First 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0770 per kWh
	Over 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0715 per kWh

RESIDENTIAL ALL ELECTRIC (Rate 110)

1.	Customer Charge:	\$32.50 per month
2.	Energy Charge:	
	Summer: Usage months June - August	
	First 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0770 per kWh
	Over 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0810 per kWh
	Winter: Usage months December - February	
	First 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0770 per kWh
	Over 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0555 per kWh
	Shoulder: Usage months March - May and September - November	
	First 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0770 per kWh
	Over 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0655 per kWh

NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICE (Rate 207 - fence chargers, livestock wells, etc.)

1.	Customer Charge:	\$33.50 per month
2.	Energy Charge:	
	Summer: Usage months June - August	
	First 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0805 per kWh
	Over 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0825 per kWh
	Winter: Usage months December - February	
	First 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0805 per kWh
	Over 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0695 per kWh
	Shoulder: Usage months March - May and September - November	
	First 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0805 per kWh
	Over 1,000 kWh:	\$0.0735 per kWh



Be a good neighbor

Winter weather can be difficult on elderly loved ones and neighbors. The temperature alone, not to mention wind, ice or snow, can make it hard for senior citizens to get to the doctor, pharmacy and even the grocery store. Those on a tight budget sometimes skimp on basics such as food and utilities to keep their home warm.

Kiwash Electric encourages you to be a good neighbor by checking on your aging friends and family regularly. Take action if you haven't seen them in awhile, or if you notice mail or newspapers piling up in their mailbox. They will appreciate your concern, and you'll feel better knowing they are safe and sound.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

They're out of sight, but don't forget about your air ducts. Taking care of them can save money and energy. Check ducts for air leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and in vented crawl spaces. Call the pros for major ductwork repairs.

Source: Department of Energy

Fires Spread Faster Today

UL Labs says synthetic fabrics are to blame



With the many advancements made in constructions and manufacturing, you'd think house fires would be less flammable. They're not. Underwriters Laboratories (UL) finds that fires spread quicker in homes today than they did 30 years ago.

The UL says the reason lies in the fabrics we use. Today's furnishings—pillows, furniture, carpeting and clothing—are more likely to be made from synthetic or petroleum products, which burn quicker than natural materials. In a UL test, a room furnished with modern products went up in flames in less than three minutes. The same room furnished with 50-year-old products took half an hour to burn.

The best furnishings your home can have, fire officials say, are sprinklers and smoke alarms. Now is the perfect time to change the batteries in every smoke detector in your home, and make sure you have a sufficient number of devices located in the right areas. At the minimum, place one detector on every level of your home, and inside and outside of every bedroom. For more information, visit www.nfpa.org.

Recipes

Oven-Roasted Asparagus

INGREDIENTS

1 bunch thin asparagus spears, trimmed
3 tablespoons olive oil
1½ tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese (optional)
1 clove garlic, minced (optional)
1 teaspoon sea salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
1 tablespoon lemon juice



DIRECTIONS

Preheat an oven to 425°F. Place the asparagus into a mixing bowl, and drizzle with the olive oil. Toss to coat the spears, then sprinkle with Parmesan cheese, garlic, salt, and pepper. Arrange the asparagus onto a baking sheet in a single layer.

Bake in the preheated oven until just tender, 12 to 15 minutes depending on thickness. Sprinkle with lemon juice just before serving.

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM

Light up lives across the globe.

All funds raised from the sale of Oklahoma Living's 2015 Calendar will go to NRECA's International Foundation, a not-for-profit committed to bringing electricity to remote villages around the world. This organization, supported only through donations, brought electricity to 92-year-old Felicita in October 2013.

2015 OKL Calendar
Only \$10

Available for online order at
ok-living.coop



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Photo courtesy of NRECA International