

# Kilowatt

A supplement to Oklahoma Living

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

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE  
**888-832-3362**

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## EPA Is Over Stepping Its Boundaries

### Oklahoma AG says EPA Clean Power Plan forces states to choose

In a recent press release from his office, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt issued harsh comments for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan, claiming the rule undercuts the states' ability to manage its own power grid and will raise electricity costs dramatically.

EPA issued proposed emission guidelines on existing power plants in June. The proposal gives states the authority to enforce regulations on a plant-by-plant basis, yet imposes a predetermined emission target that critics say is inflexible.

Referencing a study by Energy Venture Analysis, Pruitt said the EPA's proposed rule could increase the typical household's annual electricity and natural gas bills by \$680, or 35 percent, by 2020, escalating each year thereafter as EPA regulations grow more stringent.

"While cost of energy will certainly be impacted, the reliability of our states' power grid is also threatened," Pruitt stated in a news release issued by his office. "When federal regulators mandate that states use more renewable energy sources, nuclear or hydro-electric power than fossil-fuel fired power, the state's infrastructure may not be prepared for the fuel switch."

The Southwest Power Pool, a regional transmission organization that serves an eight-state region that includes Oklahoma, warned the rule could result in potential rolling blackouts that could affect human health, public safety and economic activity within the region.

"Not only do states not need the ineffective hand of the federal government determining what fuel sources it uses, but the EPA does not have legal authority granted under the Clean Air Act," Pruitt said. "The EPA's proposal overrides state authority by forcing states to prioritize non-fossil-fuel generation over fossil-fueled generation. This is a direct violation of states' traditional role in making their individual energy policies."

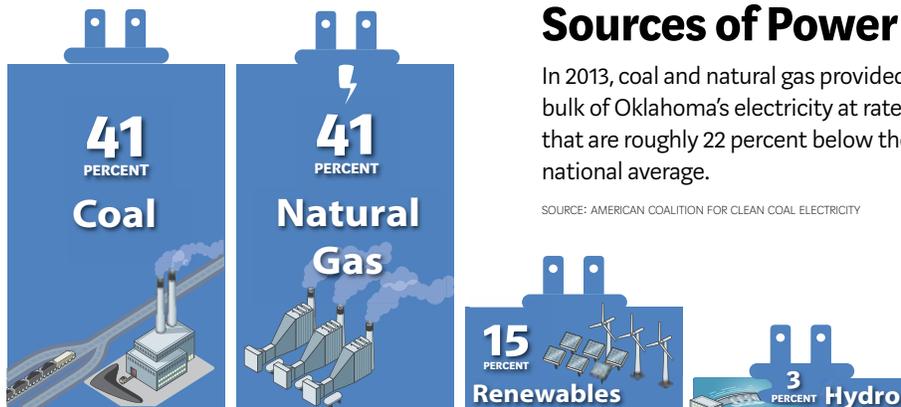
Pruitt added that the EPA's ruling could jeopardize Oklahoma's power grid "while offloading responsibility to the states that have to answer to their citizens."

Attorneys general in 16 other states also voiced concerns over the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed Clean Power Plan. "This proposed rule should be withdrawn, or at least stayed, until the courts have a chance to weigh in on legal challenges against these regulations," Pruitt stated.

## Sources of Power

In 2013, coal and natural gas provided the bulk of Oklahoma's electricity at rates that are roughly 22 percent below the national average.

SOURCE: AMERICAN COALITION FOR CLEAN COAL ELECTRICITY



## Send Your Kid To Energy Camp

If you have an energetic eighth grader, encourage them to apply for YouthPower Energy Camp. Sponsored by Oklahoma's electric co-ops, Energy Camp helps teens build leadership skills and learn cooperative principles in a fun camp environment.

The camp takes place May 26-29, 2015 near the Red Rock Canyon. With a full schedule of games and group activities, teens make friends with students from across the state. During their stay, campers organize their own coke and candy co-op, elect officers and hire a general manager. They even get a lesson in safety and pole climbing from co-op linemen.

Kiwash will select a team of two students to attend Energy Camp. Each team must submit a 100-word essay on the Seven Cooperative Principles. Teams must attend school in Kiwash Electric service area.

Kiwash Electric covers all camp expenses including transportation to and from camp.

Please submit essays with cover sheet to Lisa Willard, Kiwash Electric, PO Box 100, Cordell, OK 73632, or visit [www.kiwash.coop](http://www.kiwash.coop) for complete details.

## Deadline Reminder

Teens interested in winning a \$500 college scholarship from Kiwash Electric Cooperative are reminded to turn in their application by April 15, 2015. To be considered, teens must submit a written essay or a three minute video.

For more details on the scholarship competition, please visit [www.kiwash.coop](http://www.kiwash.coop), or call your cooperative at 888-832-3362.

BY DENNIS KRUEGER

GENERAL MANAGER

## Voluntary and Open Membership

*Why this principle still applies to electric co-ops today*

Last month Lisa Willard challenged our high school senior's scholarship applicants to delve deeper into the cooperative business model and its founding principles. She said, "We want to see that they truly understand what we mean when we say there is a cooperative difference."

When electric co-op members look at the seven co-op principles, many may question if they really live up to the first principle, Voluntary and Open Membership. It's a fair question. There is a two-part answer.

First, it is important to remember that when Kiwash Electric Cooperative was formed in 1938, every potential member had the option to refuse service. While it may be hard to believe, there are numerous stories from throughout the country where the farmer said, "No thanks. We are doing fine with kerosene." Over time, most of them changed their minds and eventually became members of the co-op.

their provider. Still, the best option for most people for safe, reliable and affordable power is from your electric co-op.

Today, electric co-ops focus on the second part of the principle, Open Membership. All residents and businesses in Kiwash Electric service territory are welcome to receive power. We strive to ensure that your membership has value to you, not just through the service of electricity, but by being an active part of our community.

Co-ops offer and welcome your participation in the governance of the organization through a democratically elected board of directors. As a locally owned and controlled utility, co-ops are in a better position to understand the needs of their members, and can be quicker to react to ensure their members receive the best service possible.

Members are welcome to suggest improvements to their co-op's operations and, unlike large investor owned utilities with millions of customers, you can be assured your ideas will actually be read by a real person in real time.

All co-ops, whether it is your credit union, farm co-op, telephone co-op or any of the 29,000 co-ops that exist in the U.S. today, live by these seven co-op principles:

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

By using all of these principles integrated together, Kiwash Electric Cooperative is able to serve your needs every day.



**"Co-ops offer and welcome your participation in the governance of the organization through a democratically elected board of directors."**

Due to the incredible cost of offering electric service, the vast majority of people and businesses only have one choice if they want to connect to the grid and receive electricity. That's changing as city limits expand into established cooperative territories and give some consumers the option to choose their electric service provider. Many large power consumers already have the option to pick

## Find Energy Leaks—And Stop'em

Heating and cooling your home costs money, yet most homes let some of that conditioned air escape through tiny “leaks” around the home, such as cracks around windows, doors that don’t close quite tightly enough; and holes in walls that allow cable, telephone, sump pump and electrical lines to enter the building.



2. Plug the leaks. You can do that by applying caulk right into the hole or crack. You can also install weather-stripping around doors and windows, and place foam gaskets behind outlets and switch plates.

3. When you’re on the prowl for leaks, be sure to check your attic. Reattach any insulation that is drooping away from the walls and roof. It should touch the surface it’s meant to protect.

4. If windows in your home are a source of leaks, try covering them with plastic. If your budget allows, consider installing storm windows. Replace single-pane windows with double-pane models for the best savings.

5. Close the damper on your fireplace when you aren’t using it.

If you’re looking for more ways to lower your energy costs, visit **TogetherWeSave.com**. The site offers articles, blogs, tips and interactive activities that will help you find the best energy saving solutions for your home.

Whether conditioned air is getting outside or fresh air is coming in, the result is the same: Your heating or air conditioning system has to do extra work to keep the indoor air at the temperature you like.

The best solution is to find those leaks and seal them. Here are some tips:

1. On a windy day, light a stick of incense or a match indoors and hold it near each window, door, electrical box, plumbing fixture, electrical outlet, ceiling fixture, attic hatch and anywhere else where you see an opening that lets something from the outside in. If the smoke moves, you have found an air leak.



## You Deserve The Extra Credit

*Join Peak Busters and get paid to save energy!*

When you sign up for Kiwash Electric’s Peak Buster program, your co-op will pay you from \$32.50 to \$60 per month.

Peak Busters is for members who have a whole-home generator installed on their property. When you become a Peak Buster, you allow your generator to run during periods of extreme system-wide electricity use. Your participation helps lower your energy costs while helping your co-op control curb its peak demand.

Please call Kiwash Electric today for more details.

888-832-3362  
www.kiwash.coop.

**PEAK BUSTER**



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY *Tip of the Month*

Your home works hard for you. Consider giving it an energy checkup. Hire a professional energy auditor to diagnose where your house could be losing energy and where you can start saving money. Auditors check for air leaks, inspect insulation, survey heating and cooling equipment and more. After making efficiency upgrades, you could save 5-30 percent on your energy bills.

Source: EnergySavers.gov

## Clearing For Reliability

*Right of way maintenance makes sense*

One of the most important ways that Kiwash Electric provides reliable service is right-of-way clearing, or vegetation management.

A right-of-way (ROW) refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric co-op has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear. Trees must grow at a distance far enough from wires that they won't cause harm to individuals or disrupt electric service. A general guideline of maintaining a safe ROW is 15 feet of clearance on either side of the primary conductors and 20 feet of clearance above the highest wire on the pole.

When trees and shrubs encroach on this safe distance, Kiwash Electric crews must trim them back. Chemical control methods are also used to support the growth of low growing plants that will out-compete the tall trees plants beneath power lines.

Power lines can carry up to 34,500 volts, making an energized tree branch incredibly deadly. Be mindful of trees that are close to power lines, and make sure your children know that climbing trees near power lines is extremely dangerous.

Remember to contact Kiwash Electric if you decide to trim or remove trees near any power service or line. And never trim a tree in the right-of-way zone on your own. For more information on Kiwash Electric's right of way management program, please call 888-832-3362.

**Right of way (ROW):** Refers to a strip of land underneath and around power lines that your electric cooperative maintains and clears. Trees must grow at a distance far enough from electric lines that they will not cause harm to individuals, or disruption to electrical service.

Fifteen percent of power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines. By managing vegetation, your electric cooperative keeps power safe and reliable.

## Recipes

### Spicy Rapid Roast Chicken

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 (3 lb) whole chicken
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper



#### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 450°F.

Rinse chicken thoroughly inside and out under cold running water and remove all fat. Pat dry with paper towels.

Put chicken into a small baking pan. Rub with olive oil. Mix the salt, pepper, oregano, basil, paprika and cayenne pepper together and sprinkle over chicken.

Roast the chicken in the preheated oven for 20 minutes. Lower the oven to 400° F. and continue roasting to a minimum internal temperature of 165 °F, about 40 minutes more. Let cool 10 to 15 minutes and serve.

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM

## Vegetation Management

*Why right-of-way maintenance matters to you*

- ✓ Kiwash Electric Cooperative owns over 2,900 miles of electric line that spans a six-county region that includes Washita, Kiowa, Custer, Dewey, Roger Mills and Blaine Counties.
- ✓ Maintaining reliable and affordable electric service depends on providing a clear and unobstructed path for electricity to travel. Clear rights-of-way mean fewer and shorter outages, reduced risk for co-op employees working on power lines, and less wear and tear on co-op vehicles and equipment.

Your cooperation is appreciated!

