

## ■ Prize Winners

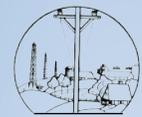
Members win \$100 prizes at ECE Annual Meeting.. PAGE 2

## ■ Generation Costs

How generation costs affect your ECE electric bill. PAGE 3

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Copper thieves destroy co-op property and cause outages.. PAGE 4



# country living

SEPTEMBER 2017

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## Crowds Turn Out For ECE Annual Meeting

### Members shared the fun using hashtag #weareECE

**E**ast Central Electric (ECE) members turned out in full force for the ECE Annual Meeting on July 27. Many were rewarded for their attendance by winning prizes that included cash awards, kid's prizes, and the grand prize zero turn lawn mower.

ECE employees received good reports from those who attended the event. An administrative decision to add more personnel and iPads to the registration process allowed members to check in more efficiently. The use of a new App Suite app also helped.

The ECE "Selfie Station" encouraged members to share their meeting experience with others using hashtags #ECE2017AnnualMeeting and #weareECE. The station included a backdrop and an ECE sign. Co-op staff also created a Snapchat geofilter for the event so members could share images using Snapchat.

*For a list of prize winners and photos, please turn to page 2.*



### Grand Prize Mowing Machine

David Horn of Okmulgee astride the grand prize mowing machine he won at the East Central Electric's Annual Meeting on July 27. Pictured with Horn is Tim Smith, general manager of East Central Electric Cooperative.

East Central Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 1178 • 2001 S. Wood Drive  
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447-1178  
**(918) 756-0833**  
[www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com)

OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday-Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

POWER OUTAGE HOT LINE  
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### operation roundup **update**

Operation Roundup funds support local charitable organizations, civic groups, youth programs, community services, and needy families and individuals. For more information on this voluntary bill roundup program, please visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).

#### Figures to date:

Applications reviewed.....	920
Applications granted.....	633
Applications denied.....	272
Applications tabled.....	19
Scholarships awarded.....	\$190,000
<b>Total Disbursements.....</b>	<b>\$1,493,171.78</b>
Average member contribution.....	44¢



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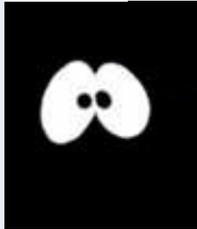
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### Power Outage?

## Please Don't Report It On Facebook

If you experience a power outage or service problem, please don't report it on Facebook.



East Central Electric wants to ensure the quickest possible response to all outage reports, however, it is difficult for co-op staff to monitor Facebook 24 hours a day.

To ensure the most timely response, please report your outage by calling your co-op at **918-756-0833**.

Remember, during a major power outage, East Central Electric is experiencing an extremely high call volume. If you receive a busy signal, please be patient. Your call will be answered in the order it is received.

Thank you for your cooperation!



Connect with East Central Electric on Facebook for updates on power outages and information on member benefits and services, energy saving tips and more. If you like what you see, we'd appreciate your "thumbs up."



## Proud Members

ECE's younger co-op members make use of the "Selfie Station" at the 2017 ECE Annual Meeting. Members were encouraged to share their meeting experience via Snapchat and Facebook. Those who posted using hashtags created for the meeting were eligible for a special prize.



## Members Win \$100 At Annual Meeting

**Congratulations to our winners, and thank you for attending!**

The following members are the winners of ECE's \$100 Annual Meeting prize drawing. Members who register at the meeting are automatically entered into cash prize drawings for \$100 and \$50, however, \$50 winners must be present to win. Congratulations to our \$100 winners!

- Marc Points, Haskell
- Pearlie Daniels, Okmulgee
- Davis Gary, Bixby
- William McAfee, Mounds
- Jeff Gilliland, Mounds
- Vivian Taylor, Bristow
- Bill Lee, Morris

- James Fowler, Boynton
- Jerry Coleman, Haskell
- Perry Bowling, Glenpool
- Mickie Bennett, Checotah
- Wanda Wittman, Okmulgee
- Grayson Community Bldg, Morris
- Helen Fisher, Bristow
- Larry Slone, Henryetta
- Michael Whaley, Depew
- Lewis Cooper, Mounds
- Mike Every, Checotah
- Kathy Boone, Bixby
- Rodger Osmon, Muskogee
- Richard Barry, Henryetta
- Stonebluff Baptist Church



# How Generation Costs Affect Your Monthly Electric Bill

## Fuel costs cited as factor in upcoming increase in member bills

Every month, roughly 61.5 cents of every dollar you pay for electricity goes to cover the generation costs. That money isn't paid to your electric co-op; instead, every dime goes straight to East Central Electric's power suppliers.

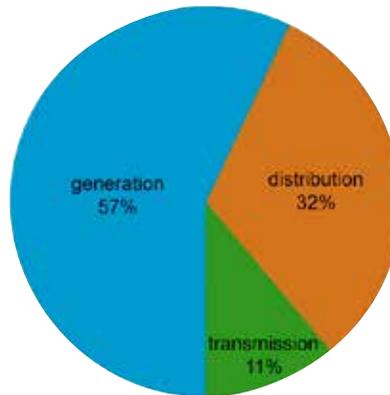
In January, generation costs will climb by 2 percent, along with a 3.5 percent increase in transmission expenses. Members will notice this increase in the power cost adjustment on ECE's monthly electric bill.

"The cost to generate and transmit electricity is by far the most expensive portion of our member's electric bills," said Tim Smith, ECE general manager.

The same is true for utility customers across the U.S. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) finds generation costs make up 57 percent of electricity costs nationwide. Transmitting power from the plant to individual utilities makes up 11 percent of that cost, while the remaining 32 percent is distributing it to consumers.

The biggest factor driving generation costs is the cost of generating fuels. ECE's power suppliers rely on a mix of fuels including natural gas, coal, hydro power, and renewables such as solar and wind power.

Major Components of U.S. Electricity Prices, 2016



Fuel prices fluctuate almost constantly, which in turn affects the price of electricity.

The demand for power also drives generation costs. When demand climbs due to system growth or extreme temperatures, generation prices also increase. That's why ECE encourages members to conserve energy during periods of high usage, or "peak" periods.

ECE's power supplier cited system growth, infrastructure improvements and fuel cost as reasons for the 5.5 percent price adjustment. More information on the increase will appear in the October issue of *Country Living*.



## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH

Consider purchasing surge protectors with cable and phone jacks to provide protection to your phone, computer modem and television.

SOURCE: ELECTRICAL SAFETY FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

## Sign Up for Usage Alerts

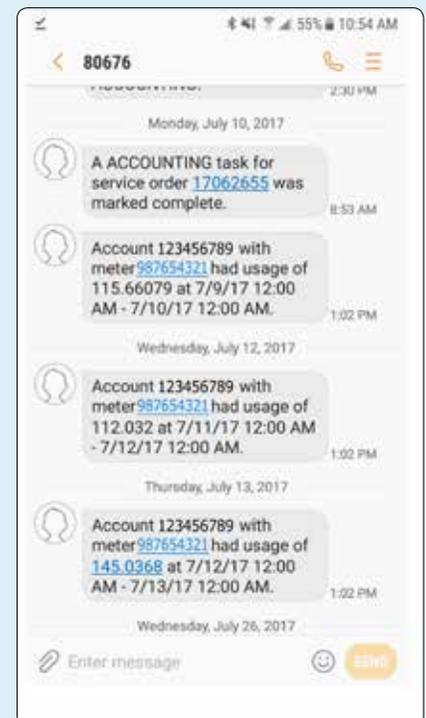
Monitor your daily usage via text message or email

Whether your goal is to lower your electric bill or simply end high bill surprise, SmartHub usage alerts are the answer!

Available via web or mobile app, East Central Electric's SmartHub now offers members the option to turn on and receive usage alerts based on a daily threshold of their choice. Set up takes place in the web version of SmartHub, where you can choose to receive alerts via text, email, or both.

With usage alerts, you'll know what you're using before you get the surprise bill in the mail.

For help setting up Smarthub usage alerts, please call your co-op at **918-756-0833** or visit [www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com).



## Copper Crime Costs YOU!

Help ECE bust copper thieves by reporting suspicious activity around co-op power lines to your local authorities.

**\$5,000 reward** for information leading to conviction!

Copper criminals love the copper wire that distributes your electricity and will do almost anything to get it. Here, thieves yanked the wire down causing damages and outages for members near Morris. Copper crime costs your co-op and you—thousands of dollars every year.

## Recipes

Great tastes for members of East Central Electric Cooperative

### Baked Honey Mustard Chicken

#### INGREDIENTS

- 6 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- salt and pepper to taste
- ½ cup honey
- ½ cup prepared mustard
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- ½ teaspoon dried parsley

#### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350° F. Sprinkle chicken breasts with salt and pepper to taste, and place in a lightly greased 9x13 inch baking dish.

In a small bowl, combine the honey, mustard, basil, paprika, and parsley. Mix well. Pour ½ of this mixture over the chicken, and brush to cover.

Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes. Turn chicken pieces over and brush with the remaining ½ of the honey mustard mixture. Bake for an additional 10 to 15 minutes, or until chicken is no longer pink. Let cool 10 minutes before serving.

SOURCE: ALLRECIPES.COM

## NEED MORE DATA?



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## Got a favorite family recipe to share?

We'd like to publish it in the

**80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbook**  
of East Central Electric Cooperative



Please mail your recipe to:

East Central Electric/Attn: Recipes  
PO Box 1178, Okmulgee, OK 74447

*Note: Recipe must include contributor's name and town, list of ingredients, measured amounts of each ingredient, and directions.*