

# The Current

A Publication of Cotton Electric Cooperative Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*“The Current - Informing Our Members Since 1957”*

VOLUME 64

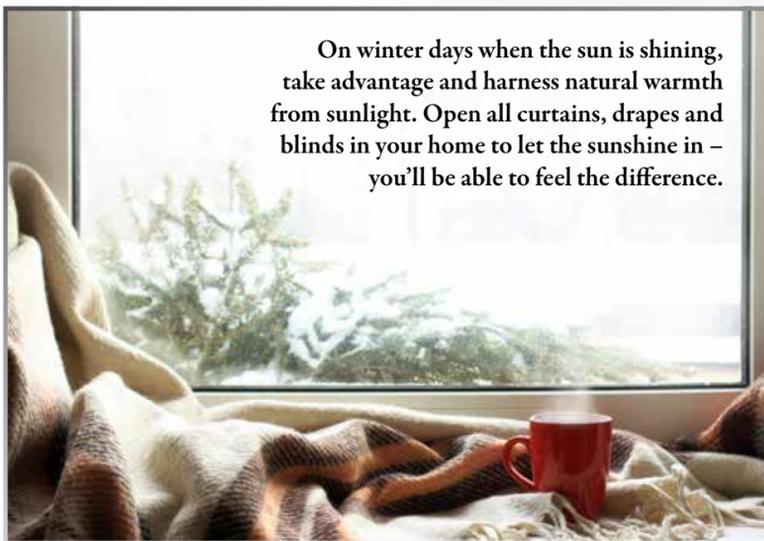
January 21, 2021

NUMBER 5

## Stay cozy this winter

*Comfort can be less costly with these tips*

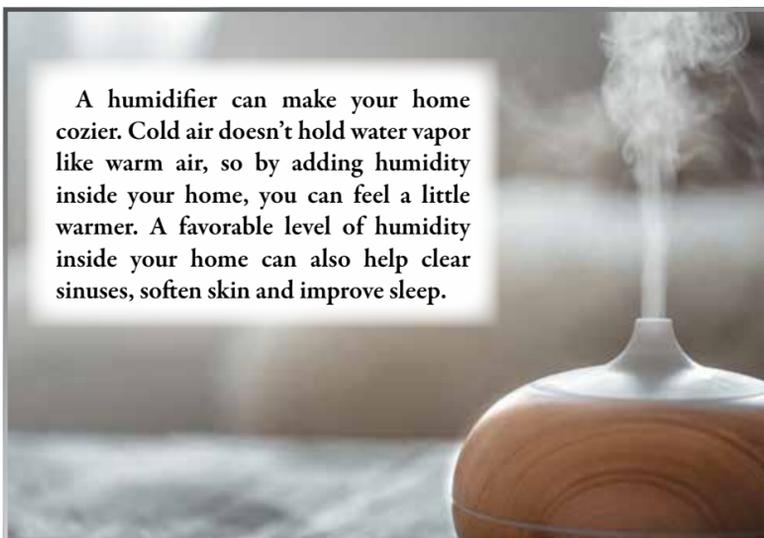
Baby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.



On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and harness natural warmth from sunlight. Open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in – you'll be able to feel the difference.



Eat warming foods. Swap your soda for a steaming cup of tea, coffee or cocoa, and put on a pot of soup for lunch. Cook a hot, healthy meal for dinner and leave the oven door open to allow the heat to escape into the room as you enjoy your meal.



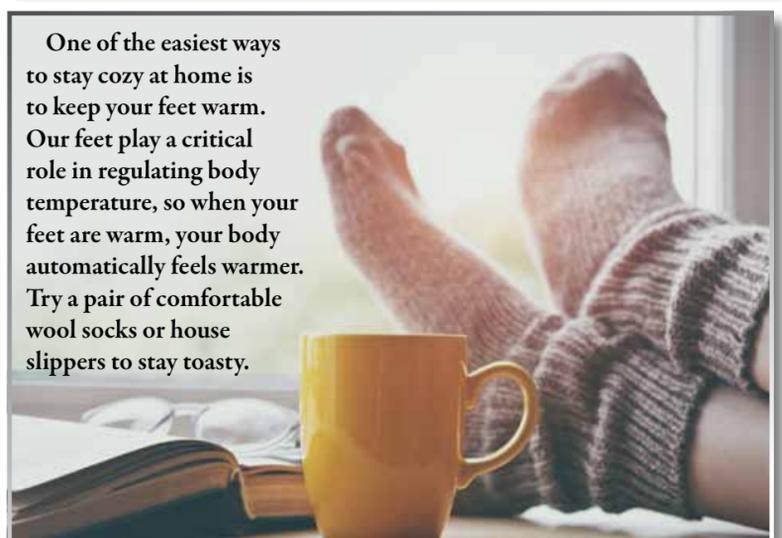
A humidifier can make your home cozier. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.



Get cozy with sheets and blankets. Change your sheets and use flannel in winter. You won't need the room as warm, so you save on heating costs. Add extra blankets to the beds, so family and guests can pull up a layer of warmth at night instead of cranking up the thermostat.



Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.



One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to keep your feet warm. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.

### Power Cost Adjustment Calculated

The power cost adjustment now being applied to bills mailed after Jan. 1, 2021, is \$0.00245 per kWh.

On a member's average bill of 1,300 kilowatt hours (kWh), this will amount to a charge of \$3.18 on the January bill.

### December 2020 Temperature Extremes

Day	High	Low	Avg.	Day	High	Low	Avg.
1	60	24	42	16	45	27	36
2	44	37	41	17	58	22	40
3	41	27	34	18	61	38	50
4	58	24	41	19	57	29	43
5	61	24	43	20	64	26	45
6	62	28	45	21	68	28	48
7	68	28	48	22	72	28	50
8	70	26	48	23	60	27	44
9	73	27	50	24	56	20	38
10	74	27	51	25	62	23	43
11	59	38	49	26	67	23	45
12	49	29	39	27	70	32	51
13	40	26	33	28	55	40	48
14	45	20	33	29	62	48	55
15	37	32	35	30	52	35	44
				31	37	29	33

Source: [srh.noaa.gov/oun/](http://srh.noaa.gov/oun/)  
Average Daily High: 58 Average Daily Low: 29

### Did You Know?

Cotton Electric offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 15 for President's Day. Emergency calls will be answered at 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520.

The next issue of The Current should arrive in mailboxes on Feb. 16, 2021.

### Contact Us

Do you have a story idea for The Current or do you need to place an ad? If so, let us know. We can be reached at 580-875-3351 or by email at [TheCurrent@cottonelectric.com](mailto:TheCurrent@cottonelectric.com). You can also drop us a line at Cotton Electric Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572.

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More news at <a href="http://cottonelectric.com">cottonelectric.com</a>	

# From the CEO

# New year, renewed resolve to serve

The beginning of a new year is much like the recent snow that fell over the holiday. The blanket of white stretched across our pasture and it was as though the slate was wiped clean for a few hours, signaling a fresh start for 2021.

Like many of you, I've contemplated my resolutions for the year, both personally and professionally. Here are a few areas we at the co-op resolve to focus on in the New Year.

### Working Safely

Working safely comes first, so that we all can go home to our families. We're dedicated to following the co-op's Life-Saving Rules and being proactive in preventing accidents and injuries.

### Member Focus

We are owned by you, our members, and you are our focus. No matter the conditions, we're committed to providing you and your community with power that is safe, reli-



Jennifer Meason, CEO

able and affordable. If you have questions or issues that need to be resolved, you can reach someone at the cooperative 24/7.

### System Improvements

Improving the reliability and resilience of your electric system

continues to be a top priority for us. We've already kicked off our pole inspection and replacement program and we're continuing our meter upgrade project this month in the Medicine Park area. Our goal is to complete this three-year endeavor by the end of 2021.

### Trusted Energy Advisor

We're here to help you manage your energy use by offering advice on energy efficiency, renewables, and implementing energy-saving measures. We'd love to visit

with you about the most effective way to invest in energy efficiency measures.

### Commitment to Community

The Board of Trustees and employees of Cotton Electric are your friends and neighbors. We take our mission personally and will work hard to help our local communities succeed.

The past year was challenging and plans have changed many times. We've learned to be more flexible and keep our focus on what matters most – taking care of you, our members.

As a speaker said in a recent podcast I listen to, "You can make excuses or you can make progress but you can't make both." We resolve to make progress.

I welcome your feedback in 2021. Please reach out with any questions or suggestions you have. I can be reached at 580-875-3351 or [jmeason@cottonelectric.com](mailto:jmeason@cottonelectric.com).



## Phase one complete WFEC, NextEra building largest combo wind, solar, energy storage facility in U.S.

ANADARKO – Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), together with a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources, LLC, recently announced completion of the first phase of the largest project in the country to combine wind energy, solar energy and battery storage in the same location. Skeleton Creek Wind began generating 250 megawatts (MW) of wind energy on Dec. 16, 2020.

"Oklahoma is a leader in renewable energy, and at Western Farmers, we are excited to add an additional 250 MW of clean, reliable and environmentally-friendly wind energy from Skeleton Creek," said Gary Roulet, chief executive officer for WFEC. "This is another

milestone on our evolution towards increasing zero-carbon energy. And, when we add the solar and battery storage components, we'll be able to make more affordable, renewable energy\* available to customers for more hours of the day – even when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining."

WFEC is a generation and transmission cooperative, providing essential electric service to 21 member cooperatives, including Cotton Electric, and other power users.

The Skeleton Creek Project – combined of wind, solar and energy storage – is the first of its kind in the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), the electric grid region that includes Oklahoma

and 13 other states in the central U.S. covering 546,000 square miles. When it comes online, it is also expected to be the largest co-located wind, solar and energy storage project in the U.S.

The project is expected to come online in the following phases:

- Skeleton Creek Wind – 250 MW of wind energy, operational Dec. 2020
- Skeleton Creek Solar – 250 MW of solar energy, expected to begin operations by the end of 2023
- Skeleton Creek Storage – 200 MW, 4-hour battery energy storage project, expected to begin operations by the end of 2023

"We are pleased to partner with WFEC to help bring low-cost, renew-

able energy to members and look forward to the next phase of this project – adding solar and energy storage," said John Ketchum, CEO of NextEra Energy Resources, the world's largest generator of solar and wind energy. "The Skeleton Creek project will provide millions of dollars in additional revenue for landowners and local communities while generating clean, homegrown energy for years to come."

After completion of the solar and energy storage phase of the project is completed, WFEC's planned generation portfolio will consist of 623 MW of solar generation, 957 MW of wind generation and 268 MW of hydroelectric generation.

The wind, solar and battery storage project will be located in Garfield, Alfalfa and Major counties in Oklahoma. In addition to the clean energy it generates, the project is expected to stimulate the local economy through the creation of hundreds of construction jobs, and through millions of dollars in lease payments to landowners and tax payments to the local communities.

The wind project created approximately 200 jobs during the construction phase and will add an additional 150 during the construction of the solar and energy storage site. The entire project will provide approximately \$105 million in payments to the county governments over its projected 30-year operational life, and approximately \$90 million in payments to local landowners.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source: [www.nrel.gov](http://www.nrel.gov)

## The Current

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Kaila Williams..... Display Advertising

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**COTTON**  
ELECTRIC CO-OP

**Mission Statement**  
Our mission is to be the leader in providing the most reliable and innovative electric system, with affordable rates, through the positive, enthusiastic and professional use of its resources and people.

	2020	2019
Total Amount Billed/Accrued	\$5,031,727	\$5,149,594
Cost of Purchased Power	3,220,270	3,438,928
Taxes	94,351	91,823
Total Operating Expense Per Mile	923	966
Average Farm and Residential Bill	135	138
Average Farm and Residential kWh	1,157	1,294
Total Meters Billed (farm, residential)	18,779	18,491
Miles Energized	5,208	5,200
Density Per Mile	3.61	3.56
New Service Connects YTD	377	303
Services Retired	147	114

# Community Spotlight

If you would like your community event listed in the February issue, please submit information by Feb. 3 by calling 580-875-3351 or send an email to [TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com](mailto:TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com). Events that occur before Feb. 16 will not be published in the next issue.

*Editor's Note: We recommend checking for cancellations with local sources before attending any event.*

### CTAC postpones Summer Breeze

Originally scheduled for late January, the Chisholm Trail Arts Council has postponed the Summer Breeze performance until Jun 4 in the Simmons Center Theater in Duncan. Tickets purchased for the January presentation will be honored in June.

Celebrating 45 years, Summer Breeze was originally formed in 1976 by five young musicians with varying musical backgrounds. Summer Breeze, known as one of the top cover bands in the state, has had the opportunity to be the opening act for over 75 of Nashville's top recording artists including Garth Brooks, George Strait, Vince Gill and numerous others.

For information or tickets call 580-252-4160 or go online to [ChisholmTrailArts.com](http://ChisholmTrailArts.com).

### Annual coin show begins Feb. 19

Duncan's 52nd Annual Coin Show is set for 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 19 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Stephens County Fairgrounds. Guests will receive appraisals on gold, silver, currency, coins, tokens and supplies. Event includes free parking, admission and refreshments. For more information, call 580-475-4570 or 467-0168.

### Magic Lantern hosts 2 in February

Magic Lantern Film Society of Cameron University screens DVD presentations of classic films each month. Most screenings begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Feb. 12 offering will be shown in the McCasland Ballroom.

"Before Sunset" is a 2004 romance film directed by Richard Linklater, a sequel to "Before Sunrise." This film starts 9 years later as Jesse (Ethan Hawke) travels across Europe giving readings from a book he wrote about the night he spent in Vienna with Celine (Julie Delpy). After his reading in Paris, Celine finds him, and they spend part of the day together before Jesse has to again leave for a flight. They are both in relationships now, and Jesse has a son, but as their strong feelings for each other start to return, both confess a longing for more.

On Feb. 26, "Daughters of the Dust" is presented in the Shelpler Ballroom. At the dawn of the 20th century, a family in the Gullah community of coastal South Carolina – former West African slaves who adopted many of their ancestors' Yoruba traditions – suffers a generational split. Young Haagar (Kaycee Moore) wants to move to the mainland away from tradition-bound matriarch Nana (Cora Lee Day). Former prostitute Yellow Mary (Barbara-O) gets a cold shoulder when she returns to the island with her female lover, especially from her sister Viola (Cheryl Lynn Bruce).

There is no admission charge, but donations are accepted. For information about the society, or to see a schedule and synopsis of films, visit [Cameron.edu/magiclantern](http://Cameron.edu/magiclantern).

### DLT presents 'Spelling Bee'

Duncan Little Theatre presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee!" at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26 and 27 and March 5 and 6 and at 2 p.m. Feb. 28 at the Palace Theater in Duncan.

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescentes vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves! At least the losers get a juice box.

Tickets may be purchased at the door.

### Market returns to winter hours

Lawton Farmers Market, an initiative of the Southwest Oklahoma Growers Association, returns for winter months in the Cameron University Animal Sciences building at the Agriculture Facility, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday, running through the beginning of May 2021.

Shoppers will find a variety of choices at the winter market, including winter produce, sprouts, micro greens, meat, eggs, honey, nuts, and handmade and artisan items. The building is located on Southwest 38th Street and is south of Dr. Elsie Hamm Drive and the railroad crossing. Parking is available on the south side of the building.

For more information about the market or becoming a vendor at the market, visit [LawtonFarmersMarket.com](http://LawtonFarmersMarket.com) or send an email to [lawtonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com](mailto:lawtonfarmersmarket@yahoo.com).

### Food pantry open once monthly

Walters Community Food Pantry is open from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. The pantry is in the old City Hall, 131 1/2 W. California Street.

Pantry organizers try to provide a two-week supply of basic staples to anyone with identification and proof of Cotton County residency.

Monetary donations may be sent to Food Pantry, c/o Paul Metcalfe, 211 E. Colorado St., Walters, OK 73572.

For information, call Roger Noland at 580-591-6826.

### Blessings Boutique open monthly

Marlow First United Methodist Church opens its Blessings Boutique from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every first and third Tuesday of the month. Clothing donation drop-off days are Tuesdays, or donors can call the church at 580-658-2765 to make other arrangements.

### Free Sunday occurs each month

A HOUSE FULL Resale hosts Free Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., the first Sunday of each month, at 1821 W. Gore Blvd. in Lawton.

A variety of items will be available outside on racks and tables for free. Items include recyclables, clothing, kitchenware, books and others that would be great for projects or reuse.

Visitors are encouraged to bring at least one item to add to the tables. Items can also be donated for Hungry Hearts and LoveSick Ministries between 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Information can be found on A HOUSE FULL Resale's Facebook page.

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



This New Year's Day shot of one-year-old Isaiah Pennington, enjoying his first time to play in the snow with his big brother Isaac, 4, is our favorite entry in the SMILES contest. Their parents are Cotton Electric members Caleb and Logann Pennington of Walters.

Enter your "best shot" in our Photo of the Month contest. Theme for February is FRIENDSHIP. Entries can be emailed to [TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com](mailto:TheCurrent@CottonElectric.com) or mailed to The Current, 226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572. Winners will receive a Cotton Electric prize package of CEC goodies.

### Flu shots available at Comanche County Health Department

Comanche County Health Department offers no-cost flu shots for anyone in the community. If you have insurance, please bring your insurance card, but if no insurance is available you still are eligible for the no-cost vaccine. Anyone under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian present.

The flu shot is available for ages 6 months and up. The "high dose" flu vaccine for ages 65 and up is also available.

Shots are administered from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. most weekdays at 1010 SW Sheridan Road in Lawton. For information, call the health department at 580-248-5890.

## GUESS WHICH HOUSE HAS BETTER INSULATION IN THE ATTIC.

Heat rises. And when it slips past your ceiling, it melts snow on the rooftop. It's an easy way to tell if you need new insulation.

Find out what you can do at [TouchstoneEnergy.com](http://TouchstoneEnergy.com).



**COTTON**

**ELECTRIC CO-OP**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



[TOUCHSTONEENERGY.COM](http://TOUCHSTONEENERGY.COM)

## Upcoming Deadlines for The Current

February		March		April	
Ad Sales	Jan. 29	Ad Sales	Feb. 26	Ad Sales	March 26
Classified	Feb. 3	Classified	March 3	Classified	March 31
Publish Date	Feb. 16	Publish Date	March 15	Publish Date	April 12
May		June		July	
Ad Sales	April 23	Ad Sales	May 28	Ad Sales	June 25
Classified	May 3	Classified	June 2	Classified	June 30
Publish Date	May 10	Publish Date	June 14	Publish Date	July 12

# Are these devices too good to be true?



**Heath Morgan,**  
Energy Efficiency  
Coordinator

During times when energy use is high, people selling “power saving” devices prey on consumers wanting to cut electric bills. At first glance, the advertisements are very appealing, but misleading. What follows is some accurate information to help avoid being drawn in by these potential scams.

Ads for these devices are often disguised as news articles reviewing the product. If you look closely, you’ll see a disclaimer acknowledging that the “article” is an advertisement.

They also come in the form of “paid content” or as a press release on an otherwise legitimate website. I found one on the Associated Press website. Paid content will also have a disclaimer stating the information was provided by a third party and the website is not responsible for the information.

The sites will also have a terms and conditions section saying information made available on their site may not be accurate, complete, or current. They take no responsibility for inaccuracies or false information.

A quick search will provide some real reviews and some actual mathematical calculations for the products. Searching for “power saver scams” or “energy saving scams” results in a long list of devices that make similar claims based on inaccurate calculations.

Pay attention to what links you click in a search. If they are marked “Ad” or show to be paid content when opened, the companies paid to have their sites pop up during this search. They are in the business of selling you a product and have become very good at disguising their ads. Oklahoma State University has some great information available on the topic at [extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/energy-saving-scams.html](http://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/energy-saving-scams.html).

The plug-in “energy savings box” is a scam that has been around for some time. Examples of these devices include the Eco-Watt, EcoPlug, and Go4Green. Advertisements claim you can save up to 90% on energy bills simply by purchasing their product and plugging it in. The old saying, “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is,” rings true in this case. They claim to lower energy bills by correcting small variances in voltage and current in homes. In reality, these gadgets are simply plug-in capacitors which attempt to correct power factor.

The problem is, you are billed for watts used, not your power factor. A 60-watt light bulb uses 60 watts over an hour of operation regardless of the power factor. This consumption of watts over time used is how your energy usage is calculated.

A better way to lower your bill is to replace that old bulb with a 9-watt LED bulb. An incandescent bulb uses almost seven times the energy to provide the same amount of light. When you upgrade to LEDs throughout your entire home, you are saving some real power and some real money.

Let’s take a look at the “miracle” heater, also known as the Amish heater. Once again, the advertisement for this device looks like a legitimate news article praising the newest and most efficient heating invention. In the past, these heaters were offered as “free” with a limit of two per household. To order one, however, this heating unit was sold only inside an Amish fireplace mantle for around \$300 each. So, two free miracle heaters would end up costing over \$600 with shipping.

Many promotions use misleading language and creative math to sell the device. I’ve always been pretty cynical when it comes to advertisements.

When an ad says it takes only minutes to assemble, I normally think to myself “Sure, only 283 minutes to be exact.” I can assure you that the research for this article has not cured me of that.

The heater ad boasts that it uses less energy than a coffee maker, therefore you can leave it on all day and night. There is some truth and some deception in that statement. A normal drip coffee maker operates at a wattage of 1,200 to boil the water, then a much lower wattage to maintain the coffee temperature. Some single cup models, like a K-cup machine, use up to 1,500 watts to brew each cup. The Amish heater comes with two heat settings: 1,250 watts on low and 1,500 watts on high. So, their statement about using less energy than a coffee maker holds some truth.

The difference is the amount of time the unit is operated. Your standard coffee maker operates at the upper wattage for only a few minutes. Once the pot is brewed, it drops to a much lower wattage and normally has an auto-shutoff after 2 hours. This means your coffee maker consumes less than 0.1 kWh per pot; a K-cup machine is even lower. The space heater is going to run a lot longer than a coffee maker to keep your home at a comfortable temperature.

Using the ad figures, a space heater running day and night on low would use 30 kWh per day. That means it would cost 300 times more to operate the heater than it would to operate your coffee maker.

Another important thing to consider when looking at any space heater is the amount of heating (BTUs) produced versus the energy used (wattage). Most space heaters are rated at 1,500 watts on high, and all provide around 5,000 BTUs of heat. Whether a space heater costs \$40 or \$300, it uses the same amount of energy to produce approximately the same amount of heat.

Websites for the space heaters try to sell you on zone heating. That is heating only the room of the house that you occupy. For climates like ours, where temperatures can be well below freezing, you would need a separate heater for each bathroom, the kitchen, and laundry room to keep pipes from freezing. If you have kids, add another for each of their bedrooms.

Once you add up the usage for these space heaters, you have surpassed what a conventional heat pump system uses.

Let’s look at a 1,500 square foot home, and compare heating with space heaters against a 16 SEER heat pump system. It would take seven space heaters set on high to equal the heating capacity of the heat pump. Each heater uses 1.5 kWh of electricity for each hour of operation, totaling 10.5 kWh (\$0.95) per hour to operate all seven.

When I run calculations for space heaters, I approximate the run time at 12 hours daily. Most people turn on these heaters when they get home from work and let them run until they leave the next day. Even at a conservative calculation of 8 hours of runtime per day (\$0.95 per hour x 8 hours per day x 31 days), it costs \$235 just to operate these space heaters.

In comparison, the heat pump system uses around 3.5 kWh (\$0.32) per hour to heat the same space. Using the same formula, cost is just under \$80.

A little bit of skepticism and some research go a long way in helping to identify these scams. Be leery of anything that sounds like it might be too good to be true.

Heath Morgan can be reached at 580-875-3351.

feeling chilled?

## HEAT YOUR SPACE SAFELY

- 2

Place on a flat, level surface
- 1

Keep flammable items at least 3 feet away
- 3

Make sure the cord is not frayed or cracked
- 4

Plug it directly into an outlet
- 6

Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which can overheat
- 5

Follow all instructions and use models endorsed by a reputable testing lab
- 7

Do not use around small children or pets
- 8

Do not use one with a damaged plug or prongs

## Elekta Versa HD Linear Accelerator

Technology is Now Available at the  
**Cancer Centers of Southwest Oklahoma**

The Cancer Centers of Southwest Oklahoma are committed to bringing you the *Very Best Cancer Care...Right Here at Home.*

We are continually investing in the latest technology like our new **Elekta Versa HD Linear Accelerator.**

For the first time, patients in Southwest Oklahoma can receive **stereotactic radiation therapy.**

This technology allows our doctors to treat more complex cancers, treat more patients and shorten their wait time.

**The Cancer Centers of Southwest Oklahoma are Bringing you the Latest Technology...Right Here at Home!**

**J. MICHAEL KERLEY, MD, FACRO**  
*Board Certified in Radiation Oncology, Medical Oncology and Internal Medicine*

**M. LEEANN SMITH, MD**  
*Radiation Oncologist*

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## CANCER CENTERS

of Southwest Oklahoma

www.ccswok.com

<b>ALTUS</b> 1200 East Broadway Altus, OK 73521 580.379.6000	<b>LAWTON</b> 104 NW 31st Street Lawton, OK 73505 580.536.2121	<b>DUNCAN</b> 2110 Duncan Regional Loop Road Duncan, OK 73533 580.251.6600	<b>CHICKASHA</b> 210 Mary Bailey Drive Chickasha, OK 73018 405.222.9222
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**Cotton Electric is always here to answer any questions.**  
**We would love to help you find low-cost and no cost ways to lower your energy consumption or offer advice on options you are considering.**

# Co-op announces rebate standards for 2021

Cotton Electric has announced standards for the 2021 Rebate Program for the purchase and installation of certain energy-efficient equipment and fuel conversion measures. The program expanded in recent years to include rebates for air source heat pumps, mini-splits and water heaters installed under certain conditions.

Rebate funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Once rebate funds have been exhausted, the program will end for the year. The maximum rebate in 2021 will be \$4,000 per residence.

Heat pumps and mini-splits must be installed by a licensed contractor. Indoor and outdoor equipment must be replaced at the same time. Members will need to provide a copy of their itemized invoice and, from the HVAC contractor or supplier, AHRI certification and Manual J calculation in order to qualify for the program. Verification by Cotton Electric personnel and an Energy Efficiency Home Evaluation are also required to receive the rebate.

Rebate applications are available online at [www.cottonelectric.com/rebate-program](http://www.cottonelectric.com/rebate-program)

**Ground source heat pumps (GSHP)** – Rebates are paid on new installations or GSHP to GSHP replacements. A desuperheater is not required but additional rebates are available if one is part of a GSHP installation.

Minimum standards vary for closed and open loop installations and apply to the full load operation of a GSHP, not the partial load. The amount of rebate is determined by the size of each unit, its Energy Efficiency Rating (EER) and Coefficient of Performance (COP).

Qualifying units can receive a rebate of up to \$750 per ton installed if the unit meets the minimum specifications, which are 15.9 EER and 3.3 COP for closed loop systems and 18.0 EER and 3.6 COP for open loop.

To qualify for a rebate when replacing an existing GSHP system with another GSHP system, the new installation must increase the EER by at

least 3.0. The minimum specification for COP is 3.3 for closed loop systems and 3.6 for open loop. Rebates are \$300 per ton.

**Air source heat pumps / Mini-splits** – Rebates are paid on replacement of existing heat pumps, new construction or conversion from natural gas or propane furnaces to total electric heat pumps. Rebates are per unit, not per ton.

To qualify, units must meet standards that vary with the Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) rating.

A unit with a 16.00 to 16.99 SEER must have an EER of 12.0 or greater and a Heating Seasonal Performance Factor (HSPF) of 9.0 or greater. Rebates are \$400 per unit for a replacement and \$650 per unit for a fuel conversion or new construction.

A unit with a 17.00 to 17.99 SEER must have an EER of 12.3 or greater and a HSPF of 9.0 or greater. Rebates are \$500 per unit for a replacement

and \$750 per unit for fuel conversion or new construction.

A unit with 18.00 or greater SEER must have an EER of 12.5 or greater and a HSPF of 9.5 or greater. Rebates are \$600 per unit for a replacement and \$850 per unit for fuel conversion or new construction.

**Water heaters** – Rebates are offered for water heaters installed in new homes or as part of a home expansion project. Conversion from natural gas or propane to an electric water heater also qualifies for a rebate. Water heaters should have a minimum 40-gallon capacity, an energy factor of .95 or greater and a manufacturer's warranty of 5 years or greater. Tankless water heaters are not eligible.

Collecting the rebate requires an AHRI reference sheet, invoice or receipt dated after Jan. 1, 2021, and an inspection by Cotton Electric.

To arrange an inspection or for information to make sure your purchase is eligible, please contact Heath Morgan, Cotton Electric's energy efficiency coordinator, at 580-875-3351.

# Don't become a victim of phishing expeditions

A common misconception about cyber attackers is that they use only highly advanced tools and techniques to hack into peoples' computers or accounts. Cyber attackers have learned that the easiest ways to steal your information, hack your accounts, or infect your systems is by simply tricking you into doing it for them using a technique called social engineering. Let's learn how these attacks work and what you can do to protect yourself.

## What is Social Engineering

Social engineering is a psychological attack where an attacker tricks you into doing something you should not do through various manipulation techniques. Think of scammers or con artists; it is the same idea. However, today's technology makes it much easier for any attacker from anywhere in the world, to pretend to be anything or anyone they want, and target anyone around the world, including you. Let's take a look at two real-world examples:

You receive a phone call from someone claiming to be from the government informing you that your taxes are overdue and that if you do not pay them right away you will be fined or arrested. They then pressure you to pay over the phone with a credit card, gift card, or wire transfer warning you that if you don't pay you could go to jail. The caller is not really from the government, but an attacker attempting to trick you into giving them money.

Another example is an email attack called phishing. This is when attackers create an email that attempts to trick you into taking an action, such as opening an infected email attachment, clicking on a malicious link, or giving up sensitive information. Sometimes phishing emails are generic and easy to spot, such as pretending to come from a bank. Other times phishing emails can be highly customized and targeted as attackers research their targets first, such as a phishing email pretending to come from your boss or colleague.

Keep in mind, social engineering attacks like these are not limited to phone calls or email; they can hap-



pen in any form including text message, over social media, or even in person. The key is to know what clues to look out for.

## Common Clues of a Social Engineering Attack

Fortunately, common sense is your best defense. If something seems suspicious or does not feel right, it may be an attack. The most common clues include:

- A tremendous sense of urgency or crisis. The attackers are attempting to rush you into making a mistake. The greater the sense of urgency, the more likely it is an attack.
- Pressure to bypass or ignore security policies or procedures you are expected to follow at work.
- Requests for sensitive information they should not have access to or should already know, such as your account numbers.
- An email or message from a friend or coworker that you know, but the message does not sound like them - perhaps the wording is odd or the signature is not right.
- An email that appears to be from a coworker or legitimate company, but the email is sent using a personal email address such as @gmail.com.
- Playing on your curiosity or something too good



to be true. For example, you are notified your package was delayed, even though you never ordered a package or that you've won a prize in a contest that you never entered.

If you suspect someone is trying to trick or fool you, do not communicate with the person anymore. Remember, common sense is your best defense.

Source: [www.sans.org/seurity-awareness](http://www.sans.org/seurity-awareness)

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**Not feeling well? Reschedule please!**

We are doing all we can to keep employees and members safe & healthy. Please help us help you.  
 Call 580-875-3351 or 800-522-3520 to reschedule engineering appointments if you are ill.

# Generate comfort safely

Wintry weather can be pretty to look at sometimes. It can also be mighty uncomfortable.

Home heating systems consume more fuel in an effort to keep you and your family comfortable. More fuel means higher energy bills, which can mean an uncomfortable impact on the family budget.

ter weather damages the distribution system and the comfort of electricity is gone. Many families turn to backup generators to fill in the comfort gap until line workers can make repairs.

Generators can be portable units stored away when not in use or more permanently-placed standby units. Some standby generators are activated when a

transfer switch is thrown. Others are professionally-installed and automatically transfer the power source from the electric grid to the generator.

No matter the type of generator, the safety measures are the same. Keep yourself, your family and line workers safe by following the guidelines shown in the graphic below.



WINTER WEATHER

CAN BRING POWER LINES DOWN

### DID YOU KNOW:

- Downed power lines are extremely dangerous and even deadly?
- The current could spread throughout the ground and anything touching the ground?
- Stray voltage spreads like ripples on a pond?
- If you step from one "ripple" (voltage) to another you could be electrocuted?
- Downed lines could be hiding under standing water, ice or debris?
- If you are in an auto accident involving downed lines, that in most cases, your vehicle is the safest place to be?

### STAY WHERE YOU ARE



You've just been in an accident involving a downed power line. Your first instinct might be to get out and run, but that could cost you your life. In most cases, the safest place to be is inside your car or truck. Wait there until electric utility workers deenergize the power. If your car is on fire or you see smoke, escape as safely as possible by making a clean, solid jump out and hop away with both feet together as far as you can. Warn others not to approach the scene.

## GENERATOR SAFETY

### USE BACKUP POWER SAFELY

When used properly, portable and standby generators are a great option to provide backup power during brownouts or blackouts. **Learn how to use generators safely** with the following tips:

#### GENERATORS

**Location**

- 20 ft** Always keep generators at least **20 feet away** from your home
- Never operate a generator in an **enclosed space**
- Make sure the generator has **3-4 feet** of clear space above and on all sides for proper ventilation
- Keep generators **away** from doors, windows, and vents
- Always **direct exhaust away** from your home

**Use**

- Always use **grounded cords** and inspect cords for damage prior to use
- Use the **proper cord** for the wattage being used
- Always use **GFCI protection**
- Make sure to start / stop generators when **no electrical loads** are connected
- Keep generators dry, **do not operate when wet**, and refuel when cool
- Do not overload** generators
- Do not plug a generator directly into your home, connect items being powered **directly to the generator**

#### TRANSFER SWITCHES

Transfer switches, whether manual or automatic, allow you to choose between **utility power** or **backup generator power**

Transfer switches are the only way to **safely power** your home's electrical system

Using a transfer switch **prevents backfeeding**. This occurs when your generator becomes a power source for the **surrounding area** and can damage your home, your neighbor's homes, and injure workers trying to restore power

---

### CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONING PREVENTION

Improper use and installation of generators could **cause CO poisoning**

Make sure your home has **carbon monoxide alarms** outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home

CO can kill in as little as **5 minutes**

**Symptoms of CO poisoning**

Dizziness    Headaches    Nausea    Tiredness

If you experience CO poisoning symptoms, **get fresh air, do not reenter areas, and call 911.**

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The award-winning newspaper premiered in September 1957, The Current has been the newspaper of record for the members of Cotton Electric Cooperative. The Current is a popular full-size newspaper, distributed to more than 15,000 households every month.

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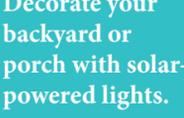
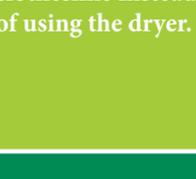
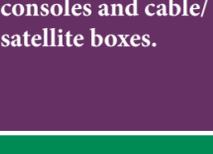
# COTTON

## ELECTRIC CO-OP

### 2021 ENERGY EFFICIENCY CALENDAR

There are so many ways you can save energy! Saving energy helps reduce your family's monthly bills – and it helps our environment. Change your energy use habits by following the monthly tips below. Keep this calendar on your refrigerator to remind family members to be energy efficient throughout the year.



<b>JANUARY</b> Turn off ceiling fans when you leave room. 	<b>FEBRUARY</b> Instead of turning up the heat, put on an extra layer of clothing or stay cozy under a blanket. 	<b>MARCH</b> Turn off lights when you leave a room. 	<b>APRIL</b> Ask an adult to help you plant a tree to help shade your home in the summer. 
<b>MAY</b> Decorate your backyard or porch with solar-powered lights. 	<b>JUNE</b> Take short showers instead of baths. 	<b>JULY</b> Dry heavy linens outside on a clothesline instead of using the dryer. 	<b>AUGUST</b> Ask an adult to help you schedule a reminder to change the A/C filter every 60-90 days. 
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> Turn off running water while brushing your teeth. 	<b>OCTOBER</b> Unplug energy vampires, like chargers, gaming consoles and cable/satellite boxes. 	<b>NOVEMBER</b> Remind family members to use cold water when washing clothes. 	<b>DECEMBER</b> Decorate your home with energy-saving LED holiday lights. 

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**ACROSS**

- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 2014 Winter Olympics host
- Soft fabric
- Covered in flowers
- Works at a college or university
- Keeps us cool
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- Similar
- Birthplace of Muhammad
- They \_\_\_
- Preamble to a book
- Southern China people
- Hair product
- The woman
- Partner to cheese
- One point north of due east
- Round Dutch cheese
- Be in awe of
- Christmas song
- Emits coherent radiation
- Something that is comparable to another
- Monetary unit
- The cutting part of a drill
- Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- Touch lightly
- Toyota SUV
- \_\_\_ and Andy, TV show
- Made less dangerous
- Assets under management (abbr.)
- Nostrils
- Moved quickly
- Thai isthmus

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67
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**DOWN**

- Nowhere to be found (abbr.)
- Not new
- Brew
- Stain with mud
- Chief or leader
- Luke Skywalker's mentor \_\_\_-Wan
- Type of sauce
- Sharpens
- Priestess loved by Zeus
- Jean Henri \_\_\_, French entomologist
- Regulates supply of fuel
- Disturbing and horrifying
- Equal (prefix)
- Hosts film festival
- Tattered piece of clothing
- Rich desserts
- Unique motor (abbr.)
- Disfigure
- Chemical substance
- Slang for famous person
- Dept. of Labor
- The A-team rode around in one
- Beach cabin
- Living things
- Gun (slang)
- Disconsolate
- Stroke gently
- Actress Richards
- "Cletus Hogg" actor
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Brazilian mountain range
- Upset
- One with supernatural insight
- Insecticide
- Taxi
- "Much \_\_\_ about nothing"
- Cannister
- Popular clothing retailer

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# Understanding your electric bill

Among the many events that unfolded as planned in 2020, Cotton Electric launched a newly-designed paper bill. New features include graphics in red and blue from our logo and an unbundled Energy Charge to show members what goes into the total amount due.

There is one important thing we did not change: Our rates. They are the same as they have been since 2015.

The example below shows a typical residential bill and explanations of expanded information.

## Account information

A member's account number, contact information, service address and statement date for this bill. In the case of a bill for multiple meters, there will be a member number and invoice number listed here.

## Account Detail

This area will list your meter(s), bill type, service dates, readings and energy use recorded by the meter.

## Energy Use Graph

Shows energy use history over the past 24 months. Members can spot their energy use trends at a glance.

## Monthly Comparisons

Compares this month's energy use with the previous month and also the same month from the previous year.

## Contact Us

General information about our business hours and phone numbers is located in the upper right corner. The Pay By Phone number can be used to make electronic check or credit/debit card payments.

## Current Amount Due

We know most members want to know only two things: What do I owe and how soon do I need to get it paid? That's why we made this big and put it at the top, so you can tell at a glance. If an account has an outstanding balance, the outer circle will be in red. Avoid a late fee and pay before the delinquent date.

## Kiosk Bar Code

Unique to each member account, this bar code will automatically pull up the account when exposed to the code reader of a payment kiosk at the Cotton Electric office at 1101 W. Oak in Duncan. Cash or credit/debit card payments can be made at any time at this outside kiosk.

## Service Detail

This shows a detailed breakdown of charges. **There are no increases or additions to the fee structure;** we're just breaking everything out for you. This section shows the previous balance, payments, and the components of current charges.

Depending on the type of service a meter provides, the Service Detail box may include some of this information:

**Facility Charge** A cooperative member's equal share of fixed costs so power can be available at your location. This includes the cost of poles, wires, trucks, billing, vegetation management, meters, transformers and substations. This is a fixed cost attached to all meters.

**Energy Charge** The amount of electricity used as measured in kilowatt-hours, multiplied by the current rate. The amount of electricity used is controlled by you, the member.

**Power Cost Adjustment (PCA)** This can be a decrease or increase, depending on the true cost of wholesale power purchased from our energy supplier. PCA is applied to kWh consumed and to fees for lights.

**Outdoor Light** Charges vary according to the type of light installed.

**Gross Receipts Tax** Cotton Electric is required to collect a 2% state gross receipts tax on all power bills. This is NOT a sales tax and is not eligible for exemption.

**Operation Round Up** Participants in Operation Round Up can see how much the bill is rounded up to the nearest dollar, an amount that will never be more than 99 cents.

**COTTON ELECTRIC CO-OP**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

**Account Information:**  
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 1234567890  
Member Name: COTTON MEMBER  
Member #: 5555  
Statement date: 02/15/2020  
Phone #: 580-555-3351

**Service Address:** NW-00-0N-00W

**Current Amount Due:** \$186.00  
DELINQUENT DATE: 03/01/2020

**Office Hours:** 8 AM - 5 PM Monday - Friday  
580-875-3351 or 1-800-522-3520  
Pay by Phone: 855-730-8711  
Pay Online: www.CottonElectric.com

Meter #	Description	Bill Type	Reading Dates From	Reading Dates To	Days	Previous Readings	Present Readings	Meter Multiplier	kWh Billed
AA00001	HOUSE	Regular	01/07/20	02/06/20	30	28119	31013	1	1680

**ENERGY USE COMPARISON**

- This Month: 1680 kWh (30 Days)
- Last Month: 1650 kWh (31 Days)
- This Month Last Year: 2310 kWh (30 Days)

**SERVICE DETAIL**

<b>Previous Account Activity</b>	
Previous Balance	\$ 245.00
Payment Received 07/30/19 Thank you!	(\$ 245.00)
<b>Account Balance Before Current Charges</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>Current Activity</b>	
Facility Charge	\$ 30.00
Energy Charge 1680 kWh @ 0.08950	\$150.36
PCA Charge 1680 kWh @ -0.004330	(\$ 7.27)
Outdoor Light	\$ 8.81
Light PCA	(\$ 0.30)
Gross Receipts Tax	\$ 3.63
Operation Round Up Amt	\$ 0.77
<b>Total Current Charges</b>	<b>\$ 186.00</b>

**PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT**

**COTTON ELECTRIC CO-OP**  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

226 N. Broadway, Walters, OK 73572  
1101 W. Oak, Duncan, OK 73533

Account #: 1234567890  
CURRENT BILL AMOUNT \$ 186.00  
BALANCE FORWARD \$ 0.00  
**AMOUNT DUE BY 03/01/20 \$ 186.00**  
AMOUNT DUE AFTER 03/01/20 \$ 191.58

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
COTTON ELECTRIC CO-OP  
226 N. BROADWAY  
WALTERS, OK 73572-1226

ANY MEMBER  
123 ANY STREET  
ANYTOWN, OK 00000

36022217700002000027952000026791030520191

# 2021 Electrical Rates

## General Service Monthly Rate Customer Charge:

Single-Phase Service \$30.00 per month  
Three-Phase Service \$35.00 per month

## Energy Charges:

All kWh \$0.08950 per kWh

The rate includes 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power in our base charge for electricity. Any amount above or below 6.25 cents will be computed in the Power Cost Adjustment.

## Available To:

Available to general service customers for farm, home and residential use subject to the established rules and regulations of the Cooperative. No resale, standby or auxiliary service permitted.

## Type of Service:

Single-phase, at available secondary voltage or three-phase at the discretion of the Cooperative.

## Minimum Charges:

(1) A charge of \$30.00 per month for single-phase service and \$35.00 per month for three-phase service; or

(2) Compliance with Operational Policy 556, if applicable, of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

(3) A charge of \$30.00 per month for single-phase service and \$35.00 per month for three-phase service, plus a charge of \$1.00 per kVA of transformer capacity in excess of ten (10) kVA.

## Adjustments:

The above rates do not include power cost adjustments, gross receipts tax, city tax and franchise taxes where applicable.

## Service Reconnection:

When a reconnection of service is made for a Member at the same location within a 12-month period after the date the service was disconnected at the Member's request, a charge equal to the sum of the minimum monthly bills determined for the months that service was disconnected will be billed to the customer and must be paid, in addition to the charges for connection in compliance with Operational Policy 553 of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

## General Service HD Monthly Rate Customer Charge:

Single-Phase Service \$25.00 per month  
Three-Phase Service \$30.00 per month

## Energy Charges:

All kWh \$0.07690 per kWh

The rate includes 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power in our base charge for electricity. Any amount above or below 6.25 cents will be computed in the Power Cost Adjustment.

## Available To:

Available to residential consumers in franchised municipal areas with a line density of 11 customers per mile or greater, subject to the established rules and regulations of the Cooperative. No resale, standby or auxiliary service permitted.

## Type of Service:

Single-phase, at available secondary voltage or three-phase at the discretion of the Cooperative.

## Minimum Charges:

(1) A charge of \$25.00 per month for single-phase service and \$30.00 per month for three-phase service; or

(2) Compliance with Operational Policy 556, if applicable, of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

(3) A charge of \$25.00 per month for single-phase service and \$35.00 per month for three-phase service, plus a charge of \$1.00 per kVA of transformer capacity in excess of ten (10) kVA.

## Adjustments:

The above rates do not include power cost adjustments, gross receipts tax, city tax and franchise taxes where applicable.

## Service Reconnection:

When a reconnection of service is made for a Member at the same location within a twelve-month period after the date the service was disconnected at the Member's request, a charge equal to the sum of the minimum monthly bills determined for the months that service was disconnected will be billed to the customer and must be paid, in addition to the charges for connection in compliance with Operational Policy 553 of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

## Commercial Service Monthly Rate Customer Charge:

Single-Phase Service \$40.00 per month  
Three-Phase Service \$45.00 per month

## Energy Charges:

All kWh \$0.08620 per kWh

The rate includes 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power in the base charge for electricity. Any amount above or below 6.25 cents will be computed in the Power Cost Adjustment.

## Available To:

Available for commercial and industrial consumers up to fifty (50) kVA of transformer capacity, subject to the rules and regulations of the Cooperative. Available for commercial and industrial consumers to one hundred fifty (150) kVA of transformer capacity at the discretion of the Cooperative. Service under this rate is not available wherein transformer capacity requirements exceed one hundred fifty (150) kVA. No resale, standby or auxiliary service permitted.

## Type of Service:

Single-phase or three-phase at available secondary voltages.

## Minimum Charges:

(1) A charge of \$40.00 per month for single-phase and \$45.00 per month for three-phase service plus a charge of \$1.00 per kVA of transformer capacity in excess of ten (10) kVA; or

(2) Compliance with Operational Policy 556, if applicable, of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

## Adjustments:

The above rates do not include power cost adjustments, gross receipts tax, city tax and franchise taxes where applicable.

## Commercial Service HD Monthly Rate Customer Charge:

Single-Phase Service \$35.00 per month  
Three-Phase Service \$40.00 per month

## Energy Charges:

All kWh \$0.07940 per kWh

The rate includes 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power in our base charge for electricity. Any amount above or below 6.25 cents will be computed in the Power Cost Adjustment.

## Available To:

Available for commercial and industrial consumers up to fifty (50) kVA of transformer capacity, in incorporated areas with a line density of 11 customers per mile or greater, subject to the rules and regulations of the Cooperative. Available for commercial and industrial consumers to one hundred fifty (150) kVA of transformer capacity at the discretion of the Cooperative. Service under this rate is not available

wherein transformer capacity requirements exceed one hundred fifty (150) kVA. No resale, standby or auxiliary service permitted.

## Type of Service:

Single-phase or three phase, at available secondary voltages.

## Minimum Charges:

(1) A charge of \$35.00 per month for single-phase service and \$40.00 per month for three-phase service plus a charge of \$1.00 per kVA for transformer capacity in excess of ten (10) kVA; or

(2) Compliance with Operational Policy 556, if applicable, of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

## Irrigation Rate Monthly Rate

Customer Charge \$32.50 per month  
Energy Charge \$0.06650 per kWh

Horsepower Charge \$2.70 per horsepower of connected load per month

## Available To:

Available to Members for pump irrigation service subject to the established rules and regulations of the Cooperative. Service under this rate shall be under the standard Cooperative contract. Motors shall be ten (10) horsepower or greater. No resale, standby or auxiliary service permitted.

## Type of Service:

Single-phase or three-phase, at available secondary voltages.

## Minimum Charges:

(1) \$32.50 plus a charge of \$2.70 per horsepower of connected load per year; or

(2) Compliance with Operational Policy 556, if applicable, of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

## Service Reconnection:

When a reconnection of service is made for a Member at the same location within a twelve-month period after the date the service was disconnected at the Member's request, a charge equal to the sum of the minimum monthly bills determined for the months that service was disconnected will be billed to the customer and must be paid, in addition to the charges for connection in compliance with Operational Policy 553 of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

## Interruptible Irrigation Monthly Rate

Customer Charge \$32.50 per month  
Energy Charge \$0.06650 per kWh

Horsepower Charge \$2.70 per horsepower of connected load per month

The Interruptible Irrigation Rate includes 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power in the basic charge for electricity. Any amount above or below 6.25 cents will be computed in the Power Cost Adjustment.

## Available To:

Available to Members for pump irrigation service subject to the established rules and regulations of the Cooperative. Service under this rate shall be metered with "Time-of-Day" metering or shall have "load interrupting" devices installed on the service. Electric power and energy usage under this rate is prohibited from June 20 through Sept. 9, between the hours of 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Each year, Members will be given credit for horsepower charges, applied toward but not to exceed energy charges, if no power was used during the prohibited time period. No resale, standby or auxiliary service permitted.

## Minimum Charges:

(1) \$32.50 plus a charge of \$2.70 per horsepower of connected load per year; or

(2) Compliance with Operational Policy 556, if applicable, of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

## Service Reconnection:

When a reconnection of service is made for a Member at the same location within a twelve-month period after the date the service was disconnected at the Member's request, a charge equal to the sum of the minimum monthly bills determined for the months that service was disconnected will be billed to the customer and must be paid, in addition to the charges for connection in compliance with Operational Policy 553 of the Terms and Conditions of Service.

## Large Power Rate

Large Power Rates are available for large industrial loads with a transformer capacity of more than 50 kVA. For details about LP Rates, contact the cooperative at 580-875-3351. Special rates also are available for Cotton Gins.

## Outdoor Lighting Monthly Rate

(1) Where an approved Outdoor Light is installed on an existing pole; and (a) where the Outdoor Light is installed on the Cooperative's side of the meter, the monthly charge per light shall be \$8.81 for 175-Watt Mercury Vapor, 100-Watt High Pressure Sodium or LED; and \$20.87 for 400-Watt Metal Halide; or (b) where the Outdoor Light is installed on the consumer's side of the meter, the monthly charge per light shall be \$2.60 for 175-Watt Mercury Vapor; \$3.12 for 100-Watt High Pressure Sodium or LED; and \$5.98 for 400-Watt Metal Halide.

(2) Should the Member desire a location other than an existing pole, the cost of installation shall be determined by figuring the total cost of labor, materials installed, plus digging and hauling charges, and will be incurred by the consumer. The wire, pole and material will become the property of the consumer.

## Available To:

Available to all Members of the Cooperative for illumination of outdoor areas at any point on the distribution or service lines, subject to the established rules and regulations of the Cooperative.

## Vandalism:

In the event the Outdoor Light is damaged by vandalism, such as gun shots, rocks, or any other type of vandalism, the Member shall be responsible for the cost of repairing the Outdoor Light.

Due to fluctuations in the cost of fuel for generating wholesale power, it is impossible to buy electricity at the same cost per kWh each month. The base rates include 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power cost. Any variation above or below 6.25 cents per kWh of wholesale power cost must be computed as Power Cost Adjustment. The actual PCA factor is indicated on each power bill and is reported in your monthly Cotton Electric Current. Occasionally, when hydro or other low cost generating power is available, a credit is shown on your bill.

This adjustment shall be based on 70 kWh per month per 175-Watt Mercury Vapor Light, 40 kWh per month per 100-Watt High Pressure Sodium Light or 160 kWh per month per 400-Watt Metal Halide, applicable to Rate (1), Plan (a).

## Adjustments:

The listed rates do not include power cost adjustments, gross receipts tax and franchise taxes where applicable.

**Cotton Electric is required to collect a 2% state gross receipts tax on all power bills.**

# Members contribute \$74,750.97 through ORU during 2020



Download CECF grant applications at CottonElectric.com.  
 First-quarter 2021 grant applications are due Feb. 9.  
 Since 2004, CECF contributions have been made to a variety of efforts:

Volunteer Fire Departments	\$316,623.00
Communities	\$283,592.28
Schools	\$208,157.33
Youth	\$198,539.58
Services	\$101,494.98
Public Safety	\$70,308.97
Individuals	\$65,250.00
Seniors	\$48,843.64
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,292,809.78</b>

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program. Members may opt out at any time by calling or sending a letter or email stating the account holder's name, account number and the request to be removed.

Turn out the change in your pocket or coin purse and count it up. Often, the pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters add up to less than a dollar. Now, imagine if most of the people you know did the same, making one big pile of change. It would add up to quite a bit.

Some 12,590 Cotton Electric members do something similar every month by participating in Operation Round Up. Power bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar and all of those partial dollars are pooled. It adds up to some significant funds that can make a significant difference in the quality of lives

throughout the Cotton Electric service area. During 2020, CECF issued 26 grants for a total of \$74,750.97. Grant recipients included schools and youth programs, volunteer fire departments, non-profit organizations and communities.

A highlight of 2020 was crossing the \$1.25 million mark in total grants issued to improve the quality of life in southwest Oklahoma. Since its beginning in 2004, Cotton Electric Charitable Foundation has distributed \$1,292,810 to assist the needs of more than 225 organizations and individuals.

## 2020 grant recipients include:

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alzheimer's Association         | Hearts That Care                 |
| Armed Services YMCA of Oklahoma | Indiahoma Community Food Bank    |
| Cache High School               | Indiahoma Fire Department        |
| Children United SWOK Community  | Indiahoma Public Schools         |
| Chisholm Trail Arts Council     | Make-A-Wish Oklahoma             |
| Comanche Area Toys 4 Tots       | Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma   |
| Cotton County Sheriff's Office  | Rush Springs UMC Food Bank       |
| Duncan Area Literacy Council    | Safe Center                      |
| Duncan Fire Department          | Surgical Extraction Foundation   |
| Empire Public Schools           | Temple Public Schools            |
| Gabriel's House                 | Walters Public Schools           |
| City of Geronimo                | Waurika EMS District Association |



Students at Temple Schools work on the challenges presented in STEM pods partially funded by a CECF grant.



Sara Orellana-Paape, Executive Director of Armed Services YMCA of Oklahoma, accepts a CECF grant from Shane Bowers, Cotton's Manger of HR & IT. ASYMCA used the grant to stock the Soldiers' Pantry, intended to support military families struggling with income loss related to the pandemic.

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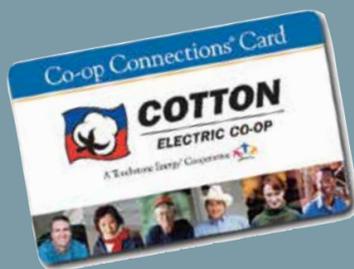
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# Reflect, reassess, refuel instead of detox in 2021

If you engage with any media, print or digital, you have probably seen at least one “detox” advertisement every day starting January 1. We are coming off a season of excess between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day, and marketing experts are desperate to help you feel better fast. While we all could use a dietary tune-up, detox in the sense of a concoction or pill that you consume is not the way to go. There is no evidence that these regimens work and some are actually dangerous. Plus, your body already has a built-in detoxification system: the lungs, liver, kidneys, and colon. This system only needs help if one of these organs is missing, diseased, or damaged.

Since your body has the “detox” covered, you should focus on how you fuel your body in order to feel better in 2021. It is time to examine what you put into your body, why you make that food choice, how much you put into your body, and when you fuel your body. Based on what you find, make



Kim Bandelier, MPH, RD, LD

## Food For THOUGHT

some changes.

The question of “what you should put into your body” has been answered by the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which can be accessed at [www.dietaryguidelines.gov](http://www.dietaryguidelines.gov). Focus on fruits, vegetables, lean meats

including fish, whole grains, low-fat dairy, and low-calorie or calorie-free beverages like water. Ideally, you also choose foods that have less saturated fat and more unsaturated fat, less salt, and less added sugar.

An easy way to get started is to clear your pantry, refrigerator, and freezer of items that do not fit the criteria and fill these storage areas with food that does meet the criteria. You need to create a food environment that makes healthy choices easier and allows your internal detoxification system to do its job.

Why you make a food choice points to your relationship with food. Do you eat when you are hungry, or do you eat when you are stressed, bored, tired, angry? Do you know what being hungry feels like? Do you know what being full feels like?

Eating food for reasons other than fueling your body can result in poor food choices. Not understanding hunger and fullness can lead to overeating. A book that helps examine the “why

you eat” and recalibrate is called Intuitive Eating by Evelyn Tribole. You may want to add it to your reading list if you suspect you are an emotional eater. This book can also help you establish intuitive boundaries for how much you should eat and when you should eat. Instead of counting calories, you learn to honor your fullness and hunger cues like you did when you were a child.

Detoxes are a waste of money, and for some people, they can be dangerous. They are also unnecessary, as your body already has a built-in detoxification system. You detox without even thinking!

Put your money toward making your food environment healthier and getting to know the behaviors that affect your food choices and consumption patterns. Then set some achievable goals for 2021 and get started refueling with healthier food options.

## Uncovering the Top Mexican Food Trends for 2021

FAMILY FEATURES

Many families constantly search for meal inspiration, and one of the best ways is to look toward trendy tastes for new options to add to the menu. One of the country’s top Hispanic food brands, Cacique, tapped culinary experts and chefs Aaron Sánchez, Bricia Lopez and Santiago Gomez to curate the third annual “What’s Next in Mexican Cuisine” trends forecast uncovering popular flavors, techniques and dishes to expect in the coming year.

“One way we can all honor the impact of Latin culture in America is through food,” Sánchez said. “One easy step you can take to connect with a culture is by using authentic ingredients, like in this Chorizo Ragu with Cheesy Toast, which uses three staple Mexican ingredients – queso fresco, crema Mexicana and chorizo. It’s inspired by my prediction that Mexican comfort foods and deep, rich sauces made from scratch will rise in popularity.”

Consider these top Mexican food trends for 2021 according to Sánchez, Lopez and Gomez along with findings from a survey conducted by OnePoll on behalf of Cacique:

- The bread baking craze of 2020 will now include homemade corn and flour tortillas with 55% of Americans reaching for masa harina, flour and tortilla presses to make their own.
- Americans have a thirst for dehydrated chiles with varieties ranging from pasillas to anchos set to become more popular in American kitchens.
- Dried chiles, beans and cheeses such as queso fresco will find their way into more American kitchens as people adopt a “from scratch” approach and back-to-basics techniques.
- Coziness, meet Cozumel as Mexican comfort foods reign supreme and people gravitate toward nostalgic “homemade” style favorites like enchiladas.
- Get ready to dive into deep, rich sauces, including mole, which will continue to grow in popularity.
- Salsa macha will share the spotlight thanks to exploration of the breadth of salsa varieties that exist within Mexican cuisine.
- Food exploration will satisfy Americans’ wanderlust as 55% plan to travel less in 2021, and the same percentage report they’re looking to learn the stories behind famous Mexican recipes.

To find more trend-inspired recipes, visit [caciqueinc.com](http://caciqueinc.com).



### Chorizo Ragu with Cheesy Toast

Recipe courtesy of chef Aaron Sánchez

- 3 bolillo-style rolls or 1 long baguette
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 yellow or white onion, chopped
- 2-3 carrots, chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 6 cloves garlic, divided
- 8 ounces white or cremini mushrooms, chopped
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 1/4 pounds ground beef
- 1 package (9 ounces) Cacique Pork Chorizo

- 1 can (28 ounces) crushed or pureed tomatoes
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 9 tablespoons Cacique Crema Mexicana, plus additional for serving
- 1 1/2 cups crumbled Cacique Ranchero Queso Fresco

Preheat oven to 400 F. Halve bread lengthwise. In heavy-bottomed pot, warm olive oil over medium heat. Add onions, carrots and salt then cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables just start to soften, 3-4 minutes. Mince 2 garlic cloves and add to pot with mushrooms; cook about 3 minutes. Use spoon to push vegetables to edges of pan then add tomato paste, oregano and cumin to center of pan; saute until fragrant, 1-2 minutes. Increase heat to high and add beef and pork chorizo. Break meat up with spoon but don’t over-stir. When beef is no longer pink, pour in

tomatoes and bring to simmer. Decrease heat to medium-high and let simmer, stirring occasionally.

While ragu simmers, use fork to mash or whip butter with crema until smooth. Mince or finely grate remaining garlic cloves then stir into crema mixture.

Spread crema mixture evenly over bread, trying to cover as much area as possible. Sprinkle crumbled queso fresco all over and place bread on rimmed baking sheet, cheese side up. Toast 4-5 minutes until cheese is melted and bubbling. Finish under broiler 30-60 seconds for deeper browning, if desired. Cut bread into individual portions.

After about 20 minutes of simmering, ragu should thicken and flavors meld. Swirl in additional crema then serve ragu in bowls with cheesy toast or ladle over pieces of toast.

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# Parting Shots



## Employee of the Year Ashley Shortt

Ashley Shortt was named 2020 Employee of the Year in December.

As a Member Service Representative, Ashley's nominator pointed that her entire job is focused on member service. "She is always available to members." Ashley is an 18-year employee who is "committed to performing her job to the best of her ability."

Her nominator cited Ashley's exceptional execution of her job in the Billing department and her willingness to help out another department. "Ashley does so much more for the co-op than people realize ... She's an important and valued member of our team. She works closely with nearly every department." Congratulations, Ashley!



**Heath Morgan**  
Leadership in Health/Safety

Employees also nominated co-workers for Leadership in Safety and Leadership in Health/Safety.

Heath Morgan received the Leadership in Health/Safety award. The energy efficiency coordinator's nominator said:

"Heath has taken charge of the Employee Safety Team to address safety issues. He goes above and beyond to improve the health and safety conditions of his co-workers. He has the kind of personality where he leaps at



**Zack Smith**  
Leadership in Safety

the chance to help others."

Congratulations, Heath!

Zachary Smith received the Leadership in Safety award. The journeyman lineman's nominator said of Zack: "(He) always makes detailed job briefings and makes sure everyone on the crew understands what's going on. Always tries to help, even when he's tired or hurting himself. At all times doing the job the safe way, using proper PPE, and telling us the hazards."

Congratulations, Zack!



*Community. It's important to the members of the Masonic Lodge just like it is to Cotton Electric. Recently, members of Cache Valley Masonic Lodge #530, Duncan Lodge #60 and the local Sergeants Major Association teamed up to help a citizen in need. Jim McElhany of Walters, top row, center, now has a handicap-accessible ramp thanks to their efforts. The ramp was funded with a grant from ASCOG, and through donations from members of the lodges.*



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