



Your Touchstone Energy Partner

**Got a suggestion
for a story in a
future issue of
Kilowatt?**

**Call Lisa at
1-888-832-3362**

**Kiwash Electric
Cooperative will close
Friday, December 23
at 12:00 p.m.
and will be closed
Monday, December 26
and Monday, January 2
for the holidays.**

KILOWATT

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Electric vs. Natural Gas vs. Propane

Escalating fuel prices are definitely impacting utility bills and the pocket-books of many, as the volatility in the natural gas market continues. Many of you have maybe wondered what does it cost to heat a home with electric vs. propane vs. natural gas?

Electricity is becoming an increasing competitor to the once standard way of heating the home with natural gas or propane. Kiwash Electric Cooperative has an all electric residential rate along with incentives such as heat pump rebates and water heater rebates to assist those in choosing the all electric route.

We have done a simple comparison to show you the economic feasibility of heating your home during the winter months with electric vs. propane and natural gas.

For this example, let's use a 2,000 square foot home. Keep in mind, the heating requirements are dependent on many factors such as insulation, efficiency of heating systems, thermostat settings as well as other factors.

The typical 2,000 square foot home will require a total of 46 million BTU's (British Thermal Units) of heat in order to maintain a temperature of 72 degrees during the winter months. To make things as simple as possible, 46 million BTUs of heat is the equivalent of 57 MCF (thousand cubic feet) of natural gas when using an 80 percent efficient gas furnace; 625 gallons of propane when using an 80 percent efficient gas furnace; or 6,365 kWh's of electricity when using a 12 SEER heat pump.

Now, let's convert that to dollars and cents.

- 57 MCF of natural gas, based on this winter's delivered gas projections of \$15 per MCF = \$855
- 625 gallons of propane at \$1.50 = \$937
- 6,365 kWh's of electricity on KEC's all electric rate = \$487.09.

The water heating differences are smaller, but still noticeable. A family of five will typically average 75 gallons per day of hot water usage. The calculations used are based on the delivered prices of natural gas, propane and Kiwash Electric's all electric residential rate. Taking into account jacket losses of the water heater, as well as the efficiency ratings, it would take 40 MCF of natural gas, 436 gallons of propane or 6,800 kWh's of electricity to heat the family's hot water for one year.

Using the above prices, the costs are

- Natural gas water heater - \$600
- Propane - \$650
- Electric - \$513

Please remember these figures are based on current projections.



Manager's Monologue
By Dennis Krueger



Energy Conservation

Batten down the hatches because winter is on the way and it's not going to be easy. Natural gas prices are giving everyone fits, which affects electricity prices as well as diesel, gasoline and propane. Industry experts are predicting that natural gas prices will hit \$15 per mmbtu by mid-winter.

What do we do? The answer could be as easy as energy conservation. Imagine an energy company telling you to conserve electricity, natural gas, propane or fuel oil. Your heating system probably is operated by one of the above fuel sources and your winter heating bill will be increasing. Kiwash

Electric Cooperative has very little control over this national price issue.

Kiwash Electric Cooperative is NOT, I repeat is not, increasing your electric rates. A portion of your bill called the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is increasing. The generation company's cost of purchasing natural gas has increased. It takes natural gas to produce a portion of your electricity. Our generation company is doing a good job of minimizing the increased cost of natural gas by advance purchasing and projecting forward pricing; but, the price of natural gas has doubled over the last year.

This chart below shows natural gas jumping from \$7.00 per mmbtu in October 2004 to over \$14.00 per mmbtu in October 2005. We all agonize over these figures.

For over two years, natural gas prices have been rising. Many experts indicated Hurricane Ivan in 2004 started the increases with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita adding complete volatility to the market by damaging gulf coast oil & gas assets. Natural gas prices are one of the reasons we are looking at constructing a new coal-fired generation plant in conjunction with other electric cooperatives; but that's a five year process, and provides no immediate relief.

In the meantime, we are asking our member-owners to conserve electricity by making your home more energy efficient. Insulation is one the most important components of any building and one of the major factors that will determine how you spend your energy dollars for your home. Eliminate air flow into your home by installed storm doors and windows or by caulking window and door frames. Read the other ideas within this edition of the Kilowatt and begin now to conserve energy. Kiwash wants you to spend your energy dollars wisely.

NO AND LOW-COST WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY & MONEY

Wash in cold instead of hot water, switching to washing in cold water can save up to \$63 a year.

Turn off everything not in use: lights, TVs, computers, other electronics.

About 16% of an average home energy bill goes just for heating water. Use cold water when washing clothes.

Take a five-minute shower instead of a bath to reduce hot water use.

Do only full loads when you use the clothes washer or dishwasher to avoid wasting hot water.

Check the temperature on your water heater. It should be set at "warm," or a thermometer held under running water should read no more than 120 degrees. If it's higher, lower the temperature on your water heater thermostat.

Check the furnace or air conditioner (AC) filter each month, and clean or replace it as needed. Dirty filters block air flow through your heating and cooling equipment, increasing your energy bill and shortening the equipment's life.

During hot months, keep window coverings closed on the south, east, and west windows. In winter, let the sun in. Close the fireplace damper when not in use.

Activate "sleep" features on computers and office equipment that power down when the equipment is not in use for a while. Turn off equipment during longer periods of non-use to cut energy costs and improve longevity.

When cooking, keep the lids on pots. Better yet, use a microwave oven instead of a conventional range or oven.

Dress appropriately for the weather, and set your thermostat to the lowest possible comfortable setting. On winter nights, put an extra blanket on the bed and turn back your thermostat even more.

Using Co-op Connections for Your Holiday Shopping

Hello, my name is Lisa Willard and I am a shopper! I contribute this to my mom who introduced me to shopping sprees and taught me the value of smart shopping when I was very young. And as a mother of three, value takes on a whole new meaning. This year, my Christmas shopping is taking a new approach - one that's easier on my feet and my pocketbook.

You see, I am a card carrying, Co-op Connections member. Still in the dark? Many local electric cooperatives, along with hundreds of electric cooperatives nationwide, are participating in a new program that benefits us cooperative members by offering valuable discounts at participating local and national businesses. It's a win-win situation for everyone. I will receive discounts from participating businesses and they, in turn, will receive free advertising and increased customer visits.

So now, I've made my Christmas list, checked it twice to see who has been naughty and who has been nice. I'm ready to start my "Connections" shopping. I went directly to my local co-op's website. In my case it was Kiwash Electric Cooperative. I checked all retail stores in Oklahoma to see what discounts they offered. It was amazing! There are 216 businesses participating in this program and 57 of them are retail entities featuring great holiday shopping ideas at discounted prices.

First, my husband. For the man that works too much and says he doesn't need anything. I decided to travel to B&K Bait house in Foss. 10% off fishing and tackle is the perfect discount to add a little fun and relaxation to his life. When the weather warms up, he will be ready to take our two boys for an afternoon of fishing and fun. Okay, maybe it won't be relaxing. Fishing with a three year old and nine year old though, will definitely be fun and not to mention exciting.

Next are my children. My two sons are nine and three and have just about everything and anything and are sometimes hard to buy for. And then there is Ellie, who is 11 months old. This is her first Christmas. You can imagine how surprised and excited I was to see Eskimo Joe's on the list. Between now and the end of December, I can buy three, short sleeve holiday t-shirts and get one free. And the one free is for me! I can just see the photo now - me and my little ones all dressed alike in our holiday t-shirts. It's a true Kodak moment.

Now for my mom. She's the type of person that says she doesn't need anything, but I found the perfect gift for her at Jack's Flowers and Gifts in Cordell. I was able to choose a really cool lamp with a 10% discount and a silk arrangement to go with it. There's a 10% savings on that too.

Next on the list is dad. Dads are always a little difficult to buy for. I decided to do a little something different this year. The Standifer House Bed and Breakfast in Elk City offers a 15% discount on a one night or more stay. So I'm sending you and mom away for the weekend. Dad, you can't beat this deal. A little time off and a chance to get away for a weekend. And maybe you can earn some brownie points with mom or at least stay on her good side for a few days.

And now my brother. The avid sports fan. I decided to use my connections card to purchase Redhawk tickets. On any Tuesday game during the 2006 season, you can receive two tickets for the price of one. What a deal!

As I scrolled through the list, I'm getting close to being finished. I am going to travel to The Country Store in Weatherford for a gift for my sister-in-law. So much to choose from and a 10% discount on any regular priced merchandise. We're talking, candles, candleholders, picture frames, bath and body products, Fiesta Tableware, Heritage Lace, Table Linens, and Mary Englebreit. Everything she loves. I'm in heaven!

I look over my shopping list one last time. Yes, I still need something special for my nephew. He is 18, 6 foot 5 and wears a size 15 shoe. Can shopping be any more difficult? Well, Butcher's Clothing Company in Weatherford to the rescue. With a 15% discount, I can choose from name brands such as Polo, Cutter & Beck and Tommy Hilfiger. Unbelievable! I'm through with my shopping and I haven't even broken a sweat.

Oh, there is one last bit of information I need to pass on, especially to my husband. The Small Gift Shop in Clinton offers a 10% discount. They have some really neat sterling jewelry that would just be perfect for me. Oh! And Tautfest offers 20% discount on all regular priced furniture accessories. What a deal! I sure could use some new accessories for myself and my living room. You know the importance of accessorizing. (hint hint).

Editor's Note: Lisa is the marketing director for Kiwash Electric Cooperative. *She's a Co-op Connection member through her electric cooperative - Kiwash Electric.*

The Co-op Connections Membership Card is brought to you by Kiwash Electric Cooperative, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative. Check out the following businesses in your area for additional discounts available.

Butcher's Clothing Co. * Weatherford	15% off regular priced items
B&K Bait House * Foss	10% off all fishing and tackle
The Country Store*Weatherford	10% discount on regular priced merchandise
Jack's Flowers and Gifts * Cordell	10% off silk, floral arrangements, Wall pictures and lamps
Panther Hills Winery and Vineyard * Bessie	\$2 off purchase of 3-6 bottles or \$4 off purchase of 7-11 bottles, \$10 off Case purchases
The Small Gift Shop * Clinton	10% discount
Tautfest *Weatherford	20% off regular priced furniture accessories

Flawless Fudge

1 (7 ounce) jar marshmallow creme
1 1/2 cups white sugar
2/3 cup evaporated milk
1/4 cup butter
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 cups milk chocolate chips
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
1/2 cup chopped nuts
1 teaspoon vanilla extract



DIRECTIONS:

Line an 8x8 inch pan with aluminum foil. Set aside.

In a large saucepan over medium heat, combine marshmallow cream, sugar, evaporated milk, butter and salt. Bring to a full boil, and cook for 5 minutes, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat and pour in semisweet chocolate chips and milk chocolate chips. Stir until chocolate is melted and mixture is smooth. Stir in nuts and vanilla. Pour into prepared pan. Chill in refrigerator for 2 hours, or until firm.

**Christmas is a very special time of year for all of us.
Kiwash Electric sincerely hopes this Christmas season
will be a special time, filled with happiness, for you and your family.
So from our families to yours,
have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

BULLETIN BOARD

What's Happening In Your Community

December 6 - Hazel Cross Library in Thomas Zebra Tales Storytime at 4:00 pm

December 8 - Clinton Public Library Kids Make and Take Crafts 3:30 pm

December 9 - Zebra tales Storytime at 4:00pm at the Weatherford Public Library

December 12 - Clinton Public Library Coffee Cup Bunch Book Review 2:30 pm

December 12 - Clinton Public Library Zebra Tales Storytime 4:00 pm

December 13 - Weatherford Public Library Cooks and Books at 6:00 pm

December 15 - Clinton Public Library Make and Take Crafts 3:30 pm

December 16 - Sentinel Public Library Storytime with Santa 4:00pm

December 17 - Hobart Christmas Cash Give Away 10am to 12pm

December 19 - Cordell Public Library Storytime with Santa 4:00 pm

To report the events in your community, or for more information, call Kiwash Electric Cooperative.

1-888-832-3362

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