

Member Contact



Boone Electric Cooperative's Monthly Newsletter *November 2013*

A New Payment Option

Payment kiosk located in Cooperative's drive-thru lane offers an easy bill-pay location at any hour of the day.

Beginning this month, Boone Electric Cooperative members have another option to pay their monthly bill. Look for a payment kiosk in the outside lane of the Cooperative's drive-thru area.

This easy-pay kiosk accepts payments by check, debit card or credit card at any hour of the day or night. In addition, members can pay their bill in cash. An important thing to note is that the machine does not return change. Any overpayment to an account is not returned, but instead is applied as a credit to the account.

To make a payment at the kiosk, simply enter the account number on the touch screen or scan the paper bill you received in the mail. Confirm the account by entering the first four letters of the last name on the account. Follow the prompts to make a payment with a card, check or cash. Partial payments can be made, and you will receive a receipt at the end of the process.

Members will have the option to store credit/debit card and banking information so that you do not have to re-enter it the next time you make a payment.

"Our goal is to provide payment options that fit the schedules and needs of all Boone Electric members," said Todd Culley, General Manager and CEO. "This kiosk allows members to pay their bill at any time, day or night, and to pay in emergency situations."

Boone Electric members can still pay their bill through traditional methods of mailing the payment, using a credit/debit card over the phone during business hours or paying in person inside our office or through the drive-thru. After hours, pay by telephone with our automated phone system. In addition, on-line bill payment is available at any time day or night. Members can also choose to have their payment automatically withdrawn from a bank account through our Auto-Pay program.

If you have any questions or concerns about the new payment kiosk, please call the Cooperative at (573) 449-4181.



A kiosk very similar to this one can soon be found in the Boone Electric drive-thru area for payments day or night using credit or debit cards, check or cash.

Visit Boone Electric's new website

Boone Electric Cooperative has a new website design. Visit www.booneelectric.coop to see all new graphics and find all the information you might need as a member of the Cooperative.

On the site, you will find easy links to view/pay your bill or to visit Boone Electric's outage map. Also, have quick access to the Co-op Connections Card program and to energy efficiency information. Click the Member Services tab to find out about rebates for energy efficiency upgrades.

Call Boone Electric with any questions or concerns about the new site.

Energy Tip of the Month



If you're expecting guests for holiday festivities, consider giving your heating unit a break. With the oven cranked up and the house packed with people, the temperature will rise on its own. Also make sure it has a clean filter so it can work as efficiently as possible all winter long. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

Office Closing:

Boone Electric Cooperative will be closed:

**Tuesday, December 24 and
Wednesday, December 25 --**
in celebration of Christmas

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BEC Linemen Assist Haiti

Three Boone Electric linemen spent three weeks in Caracol, Haiti, recently to assist with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International effort to electrify the region. It was the second time in less than a year that BEC linemen traveled to the region to assist.

Tim Gilbert, Jeff Marren and Travis Lynn spent three weeks helping to build electricity infrastructure.

The linemen also fulfilled some local needs by purchasing shoes at a market and distributing them to local children.



Three Boone Electric linemen help local Haitian line workers "pike" a utility pole. Without modern equipment, line crews use long poles and a lot of muscle to raise utility poles.

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Cooking Efficiently

Control energy costs while preparing holiday feasts.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that cooking accounts for 4 percent of total home energy use, and this figure doesn't include the energy costs associated with refrigeration, hot water heating and dishwashing.

As holiday parties gear up, keep these tips in mind to control energy costs:

- **Don't peek.** Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy to get back to the proper cooking temperature.
- **Turn it down or turn it off.** For regular cooking, it's probably not necessary to have your oven on as long -- or set as high -- as the recipe recommends. For recipes that need to bake for longer than an hour, pre-heating the oven isn't necessary. And residual heat on an electric oven or stovetop will finish the last 5 to 10 minutes of baking time. Alternately, if you're baking in a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe calls for. Because ceramic and glass hold heat better than metal pans, your dish will cook just as well at a lower temperature.
- **Give your burners a break.** For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay free of dirt and grime.
- **Don't neglect your slowcooker;** or your microwave, toaster oven or warming plate. The average toaster oven can use up to half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time. Information to help you estimate how much energy your appliances use is available on EnergySavers.gov.
- **Give your furnace the day off.** If your next party involves a lot of work for your stove, think about turning down your furnace to compensate. The heat of the oven and all those guests may keep the temperature comfortable.
- **Make contact.** Electric stovetops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact with; the less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stovetop will have to expend to heat the pan. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update.

Take the Chill Out of Winter Bills

Between holiday houseguests and shorter, colder days, electric bills tend to climb in the winter. Read on for ways to save energy when the outside temperature drops.

- **Lower your thermostat:** Each degree decrease in temperature can save up to 3.1 percent on heating costs. Consider a programmable thermostat or simply lower the temperature yourself when you are away from home.
- **Adjust blinds and curtains:** Keep them open to let in sunlight during the day, and closed at night to keep heat inside and protect from drafts.
- **Reduce hot water temperatures:** Heating water accounts for 12 percent of the average home's energy use. Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees or lower. That's usually sufficient for a household's hot-water needs.
- **Seal and insulate:** This is the best way to keep heat in and air out. Areas that may need sealing include corners, cracks, door frames and windows.
- **Consider replacing old appliances, doors and windows with Energy Star®-rated models:** You can save about 15 percent of normal energy use with these appliances and also get better insulation on doors and windows for the price you pay.
- **Free your vents:** HVAC systems will have to work twice as hard if the vents are blocked by rugs, furniture or doors. Keep vents clear for proper air flow.
- **Keep food cool:** Don't make your fridge work too hard. A temperature set between 34 and 37 degrees Fahrenheit is usually sufficient.
- **A special holiday tip:** Use LED lights to decorate. They are up to 75 percent more energy efficient than traditional incandescent lights and last much longer. Check for an Energy Star® rating before you buy. Cheaper LEDs tend not to last as long or be as durable.

Visit www.booneelectric.coop and click the TogetherWeSave button for more ways to save on your energy costs.