

Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Hillsborough, N.C.

www.pemc.org

April 2010

Annual Meeting Set for Friday, April 16

This year's Annual Meeting of the Members of Piedmont Electric will have something for everyone.

Scheduled for Friday, April 16, at Orange High School in Hillsborough, the meeting will feature reports on the progress and programs the Cooperative offered during the past year, as well as future plans.

Three seats on the Piedmont Electric Board of Directors will be up for election. The Nominating Committee offered the following slate of nominees:

- District 4: C. Franklin Murphy and Alfred Wayne Scott
- District 6: Talmadge W. Yancey,



Cody Shuler and Pine Mountain Railroad will perform at the meeting.

Jack L. Long and Emmerson Lacy Morris

- District 9: Sam T. Woods and Janet Baldwin

More information on this year's annual meeting can be found on the outside cover of this magazine. The 2009 Annual Report is included as an insert inside this newsletter.

APPLIANCE REBATES AVAILABLE THIS MONTH

North Carolinians will be able to save on major appliance purchases while putting \$8.8 million in federal recovery funds to work stimulating the economy, cutting energy use and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Phase I of the rebate offer will be over a four-day period during Earth Day weekend: April 22-25.

Appliance rebates will be given at the time of purchase.

Rebates will be 15% on Energy Star-rated appliances. The rebates will be in addition to any store, manufacturer or other discounts being offered.

Qualified Energy Star clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators

and freezers are eligible for the rebates.

Residents who are replacing older clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators and freezers are eligible for the rebates on designated Energy Star appliances.

The program is only available to those replacing appliances. Those purchasing multiple appliances or appliances for commercial properties are not eligible.

The N.C. Energy Office is working with the N.C. Retail Merchants Association and expects major retail chains, as well as most independent appliance

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Website 'Tour' Offers Savings Suggestions

Do you know Piedmont Electric has another tool to help you manage your energy use better?

Go to www.togetherwesave.com to take a virtual tour of a home to see how specific tips can affect your energy savings. Just follow these steps:

- Go to www.togetherwesave.com
- Select "Add Up Your Savings"
- Enter your zipcode and start going through the house finding ways to save.

You can also watch "how to" videos that show easy ways to insulate your home.

We will be tracking our dollar savings to see how much Piedmont members can save based on the website findings.

As of March 8, there have been 118 visits to this website. If all the recommendations made by the program are implemented, the Cooperative's total projected savings exceeded \$49,000.

We encourage all members to take advantage of this valuable tool to help better manage energy use.



From Your President...

EPA Regulation Is Not the Answer

R. G. Brecheisen
Chief Executive Officer & President

Your electric cooperative is very concerned about impending action by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from electric power plants under the Clean Air Act (CAA).

The CAA, last amended in 1990, was never intended to be used as a regulation to control power plant emissions and if the EPA is allowed to use the CAA for power plant regulation everyone would see significant increases in the cost of electricity.

We feel strongly that these types of regulation that have such a significant impact on the economy should be subject to open legislative debate which balances environmental concerns with the

impact greenhouse gas regulation would have on an already fragile economy.

Any greenhouse gas regulation needs carefully thought-out legislation which is not available if the CAA is the vehicle chosen to regulate power plant emissions.

This open debate would also allow review of the science concerning the causes of global warming and serve to clarify the contribution electric power plants contribute to global warming.

At this writing two bills were introduced to suspend the ability of the EPA to use the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases from electric power plants for two years.

We are pleased that Senator Jay Rockefeller and Representatives Rick Boucher, Nick Rahall and Alan Mollohan have introduced legislation to provide for this important time-out.

The Clean Air Act is the wrong tool to regulate carbon from stationary sources.

We urge you to contact your federal legislator and ask them to pass legislation to prevent that outcome as soon as possible.

It is the responsibility of Con-

gress to decide this issue, not the Environmental Protection Agency.

...

I hope to see you at this year's Annual Meeting of the Members on Friday, April 16, at Orange High School. Our theme this year is "Together We Save," and we will share the programs and plans Piedmont Electric has to meet the challenges of future energy supply and the effects on our environment and the economy.

By the Numbers...

- 937 members have signed up for the use monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com
- 321 members are participating in the Pre-Pay Program
- 310 members have turned in receipts for 3,177 CFLs, representing a total of 1,089,711 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate
- 1,811 people have sent cards for "Our Energy, Our Future," and 7,283 people have sent emails—all of which are being forwarded to the elected officials in Piedmont's service area
- 18 solar water heater rebates given to members
- 431 electric water heater wraps sold

Piedmont Electric & ElecTel CCU will be closed Friday, April 2, for the Easter holiday. Employees will be on call. Please have a safe, happy holiday!



Member Speak-Out

Do you have a question or comment about Piedmont EMC? If so, we want to hear from you. Questions about specific accounts will be answered personally instead of appearing in the newsletter.

Because of space limitations, Piedmont EMC reserves the right to publish any comments and to edit comments at its discretion.

Send your comments and questions to: Todd Pope, "Member Speak-Out," Piedmont EMC, P.O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, NC 27278-1179. You may also include it with your monthly payment, or send an email to: todd.pope@pemc.org.

Rural Electric Youth Tour

Deadline Is April 30

Rising high school seniors may apply for the week-long, expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, by submitting their applications by April 30.

Information about each of these opportunities is on the Piedmont Electric website at:

www.pemc.org.



What YOU Can Do to Manage Electricity Use

One of the first steps to making your home more efficient involves understanding how it uses energy. Your home will need a good inspection before most inefficiencies can be identified and corrected.

Piedmont Electric offers free home energy audits to its members, and you can easily conduct a basic home energy audit with a simple but diligent walk-through.



Keep a checklist of areas you have inspected and problems you find. First, make a list of obvious air leaks (drafts).

The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home may range from 5% to 30% annually, with a much more comfortable residence as the result.

Check for indoor air leaks, such as gaps along a baseboard or edge of the flooring and at junctions of walls

and ceilings. Inspect windows and doors for air leaks.

If you can rattle them, movement means possible air leaks. If you can see daylight around a door or window frame, then the door or window has a leak; you can usually seal these with caulking or weather stripping.



Look for cracks and holes in the mortar, foundation and siding, and seal them with the appropriate material.

Check exterior caulking around doors and windows, and make sure exterior storm doors and primary doors seal tightly.

Heat loss through the ceiling and walls in your home could be very large if insulation levels are less than the recommended minimum.

Inspect heating and cooling equipment annually, or as recommended by the manufacturer.

If you have a forced-air heating/cooling system, check filters and replace them as needed—about once every month or two, especially during periods of high use.

Have a professional check and clean your equipment once a year.

Lighting accounts for about 10% of a home's electric bill. Consider installing compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) for areas where lights are left on for hours at a time.

Remember, you can earn credits on your Piedmont Electric bill of up to \$15 annually for CFLs you buy and install in your home.

Just submit the receipts for your purchase of the bulbs to the Cooperative to receive your CFL rebate.

GreenCo Solutions, of which Piedmont Electric is a member, has a vested interest in a large solar project in Arden, NC.

Co-op Shares Interest in Solar Project

GreenCo Solutions, a green, not-for-profit organization formed by the majority of the state's electric cooperatives, including Piedmont Electric, is participating in a solar project located in Arden, NC, on the roof of CPU2, a product fulfillment company.

CPU2's 224-kilowatt (kW) photovoltaic (PV) array, installed by Chapel Hill's Solar Tech South, went live in December 2009. The PV system now produces electricity from roof-mounted solar panels.

Under a 20-year renewable energy certificate (REC) purchase agreement, GreenCo Solutions will buy all RECs generated by the facility for its 23 electric cooperative members.

The electric cooperatives will use the RECs for compliance with the state's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) which begins in 2010 with a 0.02% solar requirement that increases to 0.20% by 2018.

The PV system will also provide a substantial portion of CPU2's electric power needs.

The partnership with CPU2 and Solar Tech South will increase the production of solar energy in North Carolina and help the state's electric cooperatives meet the solar requirements of the state's REPS.

As a ballpark estimate, if the system generates 300,000 kWhs of energy annually and Piedmont Electric's share is a little more than 3%, that would equal about 9,000 kWhs, or nine RECs annually for the Cooperative.

This solar project is one in a number of renewable energy projects in the electric cooperatives' portfolio.

GreenCo Solutions is a member-owned, not-for-profit organization created in 2008 to help the state's electric cooperatives meet their renewable energy and energy efficiency goals and comply with the state's REPS.

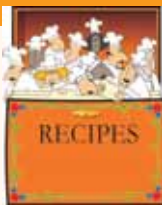
Pass It On...

This month's recipe for "Home Run Peanut Butter Cookies" comes from Linda Carden of Timberlake.

If you have a favorite recipe you want to share with other Piedmont EMC members, please send it to: Pass It On, c/o Piedmont Connection, P.O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, NC 27278, or you may include it with your monthly payment.

If it is printed in the newsletter, you will receive a copy of the Cooperative Council of North Carolina's *Sensational Sweets* cookbook.

Please remember to check all ingredients and instructions carefully.



Home Run Peanut Butter Cookies

- 1 cup peanut butter, smooth or crunchy
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg



Preheat oven to 350°. Combine all ingredients. Mix well and roll into balls.

Place on a cookie sheet. Flatten with a fork dipped in sugar. Bake for 10 minutes.



APRIL RIGHT-OF-WAY

Durham County

Guess Road
Mason Road
Matthews Road
Johnson Mill Road
(and surrounding areas)

Appliance Rebates • (Continued from page 33)

dealers, to participate in the rebate program.

You may receive rebates on more than one appliance, but it must be for different appliances. For example, you may receive rebates on a refrigerator and clothes washing machine, but not on two refrigerators.

The program is not retroactive, so appliances bought before April 22, 2010 will not qualify for rebates.

By replacing older, conventional appliances with the 49,960 Energy Star items it is estimated will be purchased in the program, enough electricity will be saved to power 536 homes for a year.

Natural gas savings would serve 390 homes for a year. The energy savings can be significant. For example, a new Energy Star-rated refrigerator uses half the electricity that the same size refrigerator built before 1995 uses.

Depending on the funds available, a second phase in June 2010 will offer rebates on Energy Star residential gas storage water heaters, tankless gas water heaters, central air conditioners, heat pumps and gas furnaces that replace older items.

These rebates will be mail-ins and can be used with purchases through retailers, contractors or programs offered through utilities.

North Carolina is receiving \$8.8 million in federal funds to help homeowners purchase energy-efficient appliances, from furnaces and room air conditioners to refrigerators and dishwashers.

The funds are part of nearly \$300 million from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act being distributed nationwide by the U.S. Department of Energy.



Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation, 2500 N.C. Highway 86 South, P. O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, N.C. 27278

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*Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

Call BEFORE You Dig: **800.632.4949** or **811**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Cathy J. Johnson, CCC, Editor

