



Piedmont Electric

CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



Hillsborough, N.C.

www.pemc.coop

August 2011

SEER Rating Increases

The SEER rating to qualify for the Cooperative's electric heat pump/air conditioning systems rebate has been increased from 14 SEER to 15 SEER.

The rebate program is \$50 per ton (up to \$200 per system). The new 15 SEER rating also applies to our Energy Efficiency and Renewable Loan Program.

If you are interested in installing a new, energy efficient electric heat pump, contact our Energy Special-



ists at Piedmont Electric who can offer recommendations on the correct size heat pump to meet your needs.

You can also find additional information about the Cooperative's rebate programs on our website, pemc.coop.

CO-OPS RANK HIGH IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

According to data from the American Consumer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), electric cooperative consumer-members are significantly more satisfied with their co-op energy provider than consumers who receive power from either investor-owned or municipally-owned utilities.

The 2011 survey is the first in which the well-regarded ACSI included cooperative electric utilities as a separate category.

The survey included a random sampling of co-op consumer-members nationwide, including members of Piedmont Electric which ranked in the upper half of the co-op group.



Students Get First-Hand Look at Fuel Cell Unit

Students from the Orange County Summer High School Science and Career Camps received a demonstration of the Microcell Fuel Unit at Piedmont Electric's Hillsborough facility. Tyler Eshraghi, left, and Robert Page (not pictured) talked with the students about the science behind the technology.

BRIGHT IDEA GRANTS DUE SOON

Piedmont Electric will again award grants to local educators for innovative teaching projects through the Bright Ideas Grant Program.

September 30, 2011, is the deadline for applications. However, teachers who enter before August 15 will be eligible for a drawing for a \$500 gift card as part of the "Early Bird" deadline.

Last year more than \$19,000 was awarded to teachers in the Cooperative's service area, and since the program began in 1994, the total is more than \$240,000.

Co-sponsored by N.C. Electric Membership Corporation, the grants help support innovative instructional programs which are not funded by traditional means in school budgets.

Applications are available online at ncbrightideas.com, which is also a link on Piedmont's website at pemc.coop. Funds are available

for projects in any discipline from kindergarten to grade 12.

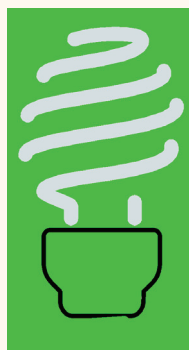
The maximum amount for any grant is \$1,500.

Applications may be submitted in various ways, including postal mail, via email or online at the Bright Ideas web site.

They must either be received at Piedmont Electric's office or post-marked (via email or traditional mail service) no later than September 30.

Faxed applications will not be accepted.

Winning grants will be selected by a panel of independent judges.



BRIGHT IDEAS

Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation CONNECTION



From Your President...

Keeping All of Us Safe

R. G. Brecheisen

President & Chief Executive Officer

We have all seen our share of storms, especially during the hurricane and winter seasons, and my knowledge of the dangers that these storms can bring is the subject of this month's message.

I want to ensure you that when storms hit our area, we rush to your aid as soon as weather conditions allow our line workers to travel and make repairs safely.

The safety of our line workers, members and the public is our top priority. Downed power lines can result when storms occur. If you see a downed power line always assume that the line is energized and dangerous.

Consider any object touching all lines energized as well. Always report downed power lines to Piedmont Electric or local emergency authorities.

Restoring power after a major outage is a big job involving much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line.

Piedmont Electric's main goal is to restore power safely to our members in the shortest time possible. There are specific steps that your cooperative takes when restoring power to ensure elec-

tricity gets restored promptly and safely.

Piedmont Electric's typical restoration process will follow this sequence:

Restoration to transmission lines then substation equipment will occur to restore the electricity to large geographic areas. The next equipment restoration will be to main and local distribution lines which restores electricity to larger number of members. Focus is then centered on individual distribution transformers and individual service lines.

This restoration process restores electricity in a manner that gets electricity to the most number of members as quickly as possible.

We take safety measures during outages to ensure lines are de-energized but even after multiple safety measures are taken our workers' lives remain in your hands. For example, members who use generators when power is out can prove fatal to line workers, family, neighbors and themselves when used improperly.

This is not done intentionally; nevertheless, a generator connect-

ed to a home's wiring or plugged into a regular household outlet can cause back-feeding along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes in contact with them – even if the line seems dead. We urge you to follow these safety guidelines when using generators:

Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use. This can cause back-feeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including line workers making repairs.

Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect emergency generators to your home.

Always plug appliances directly into generators.

Use heavy-duty, outdoor rated extension cords.

Ensure your generator is properly grounded.

Never overload a generator.

Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.

Never run a generator indoors. Make sure the outdoor area is well ventilated and away from doors and windows.

Keep the generator dry and operate it on a dry surface under an open structure.

Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.

Never fuel a generator while it is operating.

Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.

Please follow your coopera-

(Continued on page 23)

By the Numbers...

- 1,886 members have signed up for the use monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com
- 595 members are participating in the FlexPay Program
- 420 members have turned in receipts for 4,190 CFLs, representing a total of 1,437,170 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate
- 28 solar water heater rebates given to members
- 792 electric water heater wraps sold
- 549 residential members on Time-of-Day Rates
- 533 visits to TogetherWeSave.com for a total calculated savings with the home savings calculator tool of \$226,017.51

LEARN HOW TO ESTIMATE APPLIANCES' ENERGY USE

You've had your fridge forever. With the exception of some crumbling parts of the seal, it's in pretty good shape and keeps your food cool. Why worry about budgeting for an upgrade?

Some homeowners forget the impact inefficient appliances have on a home's monthly power bill.

Replacing a refrigerator made before 1993 with a new, Energy Star-rated model could knock between \$65-\$100 off your electricity bill each year.

This leaves consumers with a question when evaluating older appliances: how much energy use is too much?

To estimate the energy use of an appliance, use this formula:

Wattage × Hours used per day × Days used per year ÷ 1,000 = Kilowatt-hour (kWh) used annually

For example:

Standard, large-screen televi-

sion (214 Watts)

$214 \text{ Watts} \times 4 \text{ hours per day} \times 365 \text{ days per year} \div 1000 = 312 \text{ kWh}$

Then calculate the annual cost to use an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by Piedmont Electric's average rate of 10.93 cents per kWh used.

$312 \text{ kWh} \times \$0.1093 = \34.10 per year

In contrast, an Energy Star-rated standard, large-screen TV (151.5 Watts) costs \$24.18 to power annually.

You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance, or on its nameplate. The wattage listed is the maximum power drawn by the appliance.

Because some appliances have a range of settings (i.e. hairdryers), the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time.

Here are examples of the range of wattages for common household appliances:

- Clothes washer: 350–500 Watts
- Clothes dryer: 1800–5000 Watts
- Dishwasher: 1200–2400 Watts (heat drying feature increases energy use)
- Hair dryer: 1200–1875 Watts
- Microwave oven: 750–1100 Watts
- Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet): 725 Watts



Once you calculate how much money you spend to run aging home appliances, compare this to what it would cost to use more efficient models.

Don't want the hassle of adding up the potential savings? Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives' website, TogetherWeSave.com, demonstrates how small changes like replacing an appliance or unplugging electronics lead to big energy savings.

On the website under 'Add Up Your Savings,' you can walk through a typical home's kitchen, living room and other common areas.

Upgrade appliances and make other energy-smart choices in each room. Each time you make a change, you're shown how much money you could save on your annual electric bill!

Visit pemc.coop/energysavings/rebates and dsireusa.org to see rebates offered by your cooperative and government.

Keeping All of Us Safe

(Continued from page 22)

tive's rule—NEVER cut corners when it comes to safety and assume all power lines are energized!

When we work together for safety we all benefit.

R.A. Aschman

If Your Power Goes Out, Call Us...

When your power goes out, call Piedmont Electric's outage reporting number—800.449.2667—to report the outage.

The Cooperative uses your phone number to determine your service location when you use the automated outage reporting system to report a service outage.

If, like some folks—you no longer have a land line and use a cellular phone, please make sure to let the Cooperative know.

Unless we have your correct phone number(s), we may not be able to pinpoint your outage location as quickly.

Please complete and return the form on your monthly billing statement if your telephone number has changed.



What are you waiting for?

Sign up for [MyUsage.com!](http://MyUsage.com)

And while you're at it, check out the free new smart phone app, [TogetherWeSave.com!](http://TogetherWeSave.com)

Lucas Selvidge

Persistence Pays Off for Teen!

Lucas Selvidge is a rising tenth grader at Carolina Friends School who's very serious about reducing his—and his family's—environmental impact.



The Chapel Hill News

In a column in *The Chapel Hill News* (May 1, 2011), Lucas outlined his strategy for achieving his goal.

His first task was to replace the incandescent light bulbs in his home with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) when the originals burned out.

He also convinced his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Selvidge, Jr., of Chapel Hill, to consider at least one major “eco-friendly” installation for their home, such as solar panels, solar water heaters and/or geothermal heating and cooling.

Lucas also persuaded his parents to get a free home energy audit from Piedmont Electric.

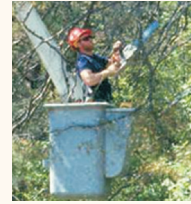
“The audit began to give me hope that my goal was not totally out of the question,” he says.

The eventual result was the family installed a solar water heater.

“I am starting to watch our electric bills in the hope that this project will pay off before all of the polar ice caps have melted,” Lucas says.

If you are interested in a free home energy audit or information about solar water heaters, contact Piedmont Electric.

It worked for Lucas and the Selvidge family.



August Right-of-Way Maintenance

NOTE: Due to sending a right-of-way (ROW) crew to help others in tornado-related restoration efforts, the locations of the June and July ROW areas had to be adjusted.

Person County:

- Mill Creek Road
- Haywood Bailey Road
- Woodsdale Road
- Edwin Robertson Road
- (and surrounding area)

Locations are **subject to change** due to uncontrollable circumstances.

Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

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

R. G. Brecheisen, President & CEO

DIRECTORS:

- Bill R. Barber**, Chairman
- C. Franklin Murphy**, Vice Chairman
- Douglas Simmons**, Secretary
- H. James Kinley**, Treasurer
- Paul L. Bailey, David Poythress, Richard Roberts, Richal Vanhook, Sam T. Woods & Talmadge W. Yancey**

...

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday—Friday

Hillsborough: **919.732.2123** • Caswell County: **336.421.1296**

Roxboro: **336.599.0151** • Elsewhere in North Carolina: **800.222.3107**

To report an outage 24 hours a day: **800.449.2667***

To access account information 24 hours a day: **800.548.2105***

*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

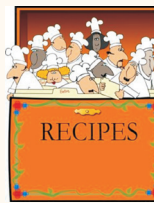
Is There an Electric Car in Your Future?

Please contact the Cooperative if you plan to buy an electric vehicle that will be charged at your home or business served by Piedmont Electric. We need to ensure the distribution transformer and conductors are adequately sized to serve this added load and that no safety issues exist.

Please ‘Pass On’ Your Favorite Recipe

This month’s recipe for “Coconut Custard Pie” comes from Lorraine Burnette of Efland.

If you have a favorite recipe you want to share with other Piedmont Electric 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 a cookbook from the Cooperative Council of N. C. Please remember to check all ingredients and cooking directions.



COCONUT CUSTARD PIE

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1/3 cup butter, melted | 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract |
| 1-1/2 cup sugar | 1 cup coconut |
| 4 large size eggs | 1 deep dish pie crust, lightly browned |
| 3/4 cup milk | |

Melt butter in saucepan. Add sugar and stir. Cool mixture before adding eggs. Add milk and vanilla; mix together thoroughly. Add coconut and pour into pie crust. Bake at 350° for 50-60 minutes until set in the center. Cool before cutting. Refrigerate unused portion.