

# Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

Hillsborough, N.C.

www.pemc.org

June 2010

## Phase II Rebates Begin

Phase II of the North Carolina Energy Efficient Appliance Replacement and Rebate Program launches June 1 with more eligible appliances and a lot less money for rebates.

The state has just \$1 million to hand out. Rebates will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis starting June 1 and continuing until the money runs out.



While the money is limited, the list of products eligible for the rebate has grown to include Energy Star-rated central air conditioning systems, gas furnaces, air-source and ground-source heat pumps and water heaters (gas storage, gas tankless, solar with electric backup and solar with gas backup).

As in the first phase, rebates will be offered for Energy Star-rated refrigerators, freezers, washing machines and dishwashers. Consumers must be replacing an old appliance to claim the rebate.

Only purchases made on or after June 1 will be eligible for the rebate.

Consumers will be able to reserve rebates online beginning June 1. They will then have two weeks after reserving each rebate to mail in the rebate application and required address and proof-of-purchase information to the state.

The state will pay the following rebate amounts: air conditioning systems, \$300; washing machines, \$100; dishwashers, \$75; refrigerators, \$150; freezers, \$75; gas furnaces, \$300; heat pumps, \$300, and water heaters, \$200.



Members had the opportunity to participate in interactive displays at the Annual Meeting, including (above) MyUsage.com daily use monitoring, and the electricity-generating bicycle (right).



## Annual Meeting Provides Interactive Displays, 2009 Review, Future Plans

“Our most notable accomplishment in 2009 was the completion of our Smart Metering program,” CEO R. G. Brecheisen told members attending the Cooperative’s annual meeting.

“The program will serve as the foundation as we work to empower our members to use energy more efficiently with new programs for years to come,” he explained, adding that Piedmont Electric is the first electric utility in the state to fully deploy Smart Metering.

At the core of his message, Brecheisen emphasized the effect of potential legislative action on consumers’ electricity bills.

“Some of the proposals being considered would be very costly, and would ultimately have to be paid for by consumers in the form of higher electric rates,” he said.

“We already have members who are struggling to pay electricity bills today, and if adopted, some of these proposals could potentially cause rates to double in the near-term future.”

Piedmont Electric believes we need an energy policy that recognizes the need for energy efficiency, renewable energy resources and new clean energy from nuclear and clean coal technologies, the CEO said.

He urged members to contact their elected officials to express their concern over potentially costly federal legislation.

An audiovisual presentation, “Together We Save,” gave an overview of the Cooperative’s programs and accomplishments during 2009.

*(Continued on page 24)*



From Your President...

# Getting Our 'Ducks in a Row'...

R. G. Brecheisen

Chief Executive Officer & President

Weather prognosticators are warning this summer may bring a heavy dose of unsettling storms, including the possibility of hurricanes affecting the east coast.

Even if we manage to dodge a catastrophic hurricane, severe weather could still impact our electrical service.

Weather is something Piedmont Electric cannot control. But, we can be prepared in the event Mother Nature decides to crack the whip.

We are very fortunate to be part of a strong group of electric cooperatives nationwide who are ready to send additional materials and personnel to help restore electric service during major outages.

It's a reciprocal agreement in

which Piedmont Electric crews pitch in to help our sister cooperatives in times of need.

While we can't control the weather, we can prepare ahead of time—and we do this year-round through the Cooperative's right-of-way maintenance program.

By trimming or removing trees and underbrush, we can help keep tree limbs from falling on the power lines and knocking out service.

On the following page are tips on how to weather a hurricane, but many may also be used in the event of any widespread outage.

Piedmont Electric also has a major outage plan in place to focus our resources so we can restore power as quickly as possible.

This plan is continually reviewed and updated to make sure we are as prepared as possible to get our member-consumers back in service.

There are also things you can

do to help, including using the automated outage reporting number.

Employees are always on call for those who prefer to speak with a "live" person and to take details of things like trees on the line which may be the cause of your outage.

We hope we will avoid devastating weather, but please know Piedmont Electric is doing everything we can to be prepared just in case.

Your support and understanding, as always, is greatly appreciated.

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It was good to see so many of you at this year's Annual Meeting. For those who were not able to attend, there is a re-cap of the meeting on page 21.

## By the Numbers...

- 1,061 members have signed up for the use monitoring portion of [www.MyUsage.com](http://www.MyUsage.com)
- 380 members are participating in the FlexPay Program
- 339 members have turned in receipts for 3,412 CFLs, representing a total of 1,170,316 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate
- 1,812 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
- 451 electric water heater wraps sold



## 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](mailto:todd.pope@pemc.org).

**Piedmont Electric & ElecTel CCU**

**will be closed**

**Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day. Employees will be on call. Please have a safe, happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!**



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months when air conditioners work hardest, do energy-intensive tasks such as laundry and dish washing during off-peak energy demand hours, usually in the morning or later evening.

# ARE YOU PREPARED FOR HURRICANE SEASON?

Advancements in technology allow us more time to prepare for forecasted hurricanes, but these storms still pose a serious threat—even as far inland as the Piedmont part of the state.

Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends November 30. Use these tips and guidelines to get ready before the season starts.

## Before the Storm

- Discuss a family disaster plan. Identify ahead of time where you will go if you're told to evacuate.

- Locate important papers and documents and have them ready to take with you should you need to evacuate: driver's licenses, Social Security cards, proof of residence, insurance policies, wills, deeds, birth and marriage certificates, tax records and photos of your home (exterior and interior). Store these items in a waterproof container.

- Create an inventory of your personal belongings with videotape, photos or a written list. Make sure this inventory list is also kept in a waterproof container.

- Have a supply of water;

non-perishable food items, a first-aid kit, flashlights, a battery-operated radio, batteries and your prescription medications.

- Be sure to consider the special needs of babies and the elderly and pack the appropriate supplies.

- Call friends, family members, veterinarians or boarding kennels in a safe location to arrange foster care if you and your pets cannot stay together. Most emergency shelters do not admit pets.

- Fill your car with gas as soon as a storm is forecasted; do not wait.

## When a Hurricane Watch Is Issued

- A watch is issued when there is a threat of hurricane conditions within 24-36 hours.

- Follow television or radio hurricane progress reports.

- Review your evacuation plan.

## When a Hurricane Warning Is Issued

- Warnings are issued when hurricane conditions are expected in less than 24 hours.

- Listen constantly to a television or radio for official instructions.

- If you live in a mobile home, check tie-downs and evacuate immediately.



## If Officials Say Evacuation is Necessary

- Leave as soon as possible. Remember, during an evacuation, primary and many secondary roads might be clogged with traffic, so allow ample time to get out.

- Unplug appliances to prevent damage in case of a power surge.

- A light inside the house should be left on to signal when power has been restored.

- Take protective clothing, blankets and sleeping bags.

- Lock up your home and leave.

## After the Storm

- Make sure the storm has completely passed before going outside.

- Stay away from downed power lines and report them to Piedmont Electric.

- If your power is out for an extended period of time, and your emergency situation requires the use of a generator, have a qualified, licensed electrician connect the generator to your home's main electrical supply.

Power from generators can backfeed along power lines and electrocute anyone who comes into contact with them.

Hurricane preparation is essential to minimize the risk of damage and injury to your home and family.

To lessen the potential consequences surrounding hurricane season, start gathering supplies, preparing your home and planning for a possible storm before the hurricane season starts.



Easy-to-use online services • Savings • CDs and IRAs  
 Free checking (no minimum balance) • Money market accounts  
 Visa credit and free debit card • Christmas clubs  
 Free online banking, bill pay and e-statements • Visa gift cards  
 New and pre-owned auto loans • Secured and unsecured loans  
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 Your savings federally insured up to at least \$250,000

We've been serving the employees of Piedmont EMC for many years, now it's time to serve you, the consumers. Join now at [www.electelccu.org](http://www.electelccu.org). It's easy and you'll be glad you did. We look forward to helping you meet your financial needs.



[www.electelccu.org/800-849-5600](http://www.electelccu.org/800-849-5600)



# Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 21)

Three members were elected to serve three-year terms on Piedmont's Board of Directors.

They are:

- District 4: C. Franklin Murphy
- District 6: Talmadge W. Yancey
- District 9: Sam T. Woods



Gail Edwards



Randy Roberts

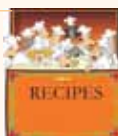
Members also had the opportunity to "test-drive" the Cooperative's new interactive website which allows them to check their daily electricity use.

Many lucky members left with gifts from the prize drawing, including Gail Edwards of Efland, who won a Sylvania 42-inch Energy Star television, and Randy Roberts of Rougemont, who won \$500 cash.

Approximately 1,000 people, including 406 registered members, attended this year's meeting.

## Pass It On...

The recipe column will return next month.



## JUNE RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE

### Durham County

South Lowell Road  
Johnson Mill Road  
Black Horse Run Subdivision  
Fox Run Subdivision  
(and surrounding areas)

## Correction

The photo that appeared in last month's *Connection* of the roaster winner from Hillsborough was not Ms. Sandra Lemons, but Ms. Terry E. Overman. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.



Hannah Allison

Two area students have been selected to represent Piedmont Electric at youth programs this summer.

Hannah Allison will attend the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, DC, June 12-18, and Andrew Garrett will participate in the Roy Williams Touchstone Energy Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill, June 19-23.

Hannah is the daughter of Jackie and Tom Allison of Efland. She is a rising

# Students Selected for Summer Programs



Andrew Garrett

senior at Orange High School in Hillsborough.

Andrew, son of Carol and Bryan Garrett of Timberlake, is a rising sixth grader at Southern Middle School in Roxboro.

Both Hannah and Andrew completed formal applications and were chosen by an independent panel of judges. Their families are members of Piedmont Electric.



Teachers, get a head start on your 2010-2011 Bright Ideas grant applications. Details are on-line at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com) or [www.pemc.org](http://www.pemc.org). This year's deadline is September 20!



# Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

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R. G. Brecheisen, President & CEO

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

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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

