



# CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER MAY 2013



FEATURE ARTICLE

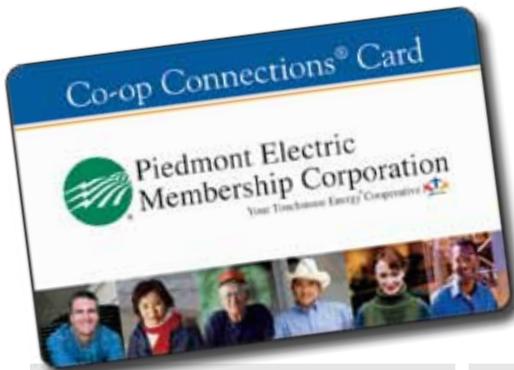
## INVEST IN EFFICIENCY. EARN REWARDS.

Did you know that outdated, inefficient appliances can have a huge impact on your home's monthly electric bill? That's the bad news.

So, what's the good news? When it's time to invest in an upgrade, your cooperative has a variety of programs, rebates and incentives, designed to help you make smart energy-efficient investments in your home that defray the cost of big-ticket items, like a new HVAC system or refrigerator, and helps lower your power bill.

SEE REWARDS PAGE 24

## CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS



### Update

To date, we have 53 Businesses scattered throughout our six-county area. And members have saved over \$5,540.21 on prescriptions through February!

### FEATURED PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES

**SAVE 10%**  
**ROLLING HILLS GARDEN CENTER**  
Roxboro, NC  
ANY REGULARLY PRICED ITEM

**FREE**  
**ORANGE COUNTY POLOCROSSE CLUB**  
Hurdle Mills, NC  
T-SHIRT OR OTHER CLUB MEMORABILIA AFTER SIGN UP OF MONTHLY LESSON

**SAVE 35%**  
**WILKINSON SUPPLY COMPANY**  
Carrboro, NC  
LIST PRICE OF KITCHEN AND BATH PLUMBING FIXTURES

**SAVE 10%**  
**VINTAGE REVIVAL SHOPS**  
Hillsborough, NC  
ANY PURCHASE OF \$25 OR MORE

Visit Piedmont Electric's website, [www.pemc.coop](http://www.pemc.coop), and click on the Co-op Connections® Card for discount details and a complete listing of participating local businesses, national businesses, dentists, chiropractors, vision care and pharmacies. Piedmont Electric welcomes new participating businesses!



## ADVENTURES OF THE HOMESTEAD REDHEAD

"I am a born and raised North Carolina girl. Although my life has been full of adventure, I have never lived more than 60 miles from my birthplace."

See page 6 to read about Piedmont Electric member Laura Conner Mas-sengale's Homestead adventures.

SEE PAGE 6



## KEEPING YOUR KIDS SAFE OUTDOORS

With spring in full swing, and summer on its way, children will be playing outdoors more. May is National Safety Month, so use this opportunity to talk with your kids about a few safety rules. Spring showers bring more than tempting puddles for kids to splash in, they can also leave behind electrical hazards. Flooded areas are never safe spots to wade or play in, and may be in contact with energized electrical equipment or fallen power lines.

SEE KIDS PAGE 22

**PIEDMONT EMC & ELECTEL CCU WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, MAY 27, FOR MEMORIAL DAY.**

Employees will be on call. Please have a safe holiday.



Randy Brecheisen  
President & CEO of Piedmont Electric

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope all of you were able to make it to the Annual Meeting of the Members this year. Because of an early printing deadline, a summary of the meeting will be included in next month's newsletter.

As many of you know, May is Electrical Safety Month. This year, we are focusing on the everyday things that you should keep in mind to keep you and your family safe when dealing with electrical devices.

Page 23 features in depth information about general safety practices both inside and outside the home.

Your safety is our number one priority at Piedmont Electric, which is why I would like to take this opportunity to make particular note of safety around our power equipment, which carries high loads of electricity and can be extremely dangerous if approached incorrectly.

**NEVER** go into an electric substation for any reason. If you happen to lose something into the substation, please call Piedmont Electric to come and retrieve it for you. Exposure to this

extremely high voltage equipment can be deadly.

Downed power lines can still carry voltage, even if there are no visible signs of electricity in the lines. To avoid injury please stay away from the area and call 911 immediately. Be sure to alert others in the area to the downed line as well.

## Your safety is our number one priority at Piedmont Electric

Piedmont Electric partners with the "Call Before You Dig" program to ensure safe, uninterrupted service. Dial 811 before any digging project and workers will come mark utility lines on your property. This free service can prevent injury, death, and loss of power to your home.

For more information on our safety and efficiency programs please visit [www.pemc.coop](http://www.pemc.coop).



Keep your children safe by following these rules.

#### KIDS

FROM PAGE 21

##### Never climb trees near power lines.

Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.

##### Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas

like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it.

##### Never climb a utility pole or tower.

The electricity carried through this equipment is extremely high voltage and could kill you.

##### Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment.

These are often green metal "box" transformers on cement pads. It is a good idea to stay away from these underground transformers.

##### Never go into an electric substation for any reason.

Electric substations contain high voltage equipment, which can be deadly. **NEVER** rescue a pet or retrieve a ball or toy that goes inside. Call Piedmont Electric instead.

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, nearly 400 people in the US are electrocuted each year. As part of National Safety Month, take time to look for possible electrical hazards around your home, workplace and outdoor areas.

### Inside

- When using appliances in the bathroom, such as hair dryers or curling irons, be sure that no water is near and that the item is unplugged as soon as it is no longer being used. Also ensure the outlets in your bathroom are equipped with a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which monitors electricity flowing in a circuit and trips the circuit if there's an imbalance.
- Unplug all kitchen appliances when not in use, such as the toaster and coffee maker, and store them in a safe and level place to prevent them from being knocked over.
- When unplugging anything from an outlet, be sure to pull by the plug instead of the cord and also replace any electrical cords that are fraying or cracking and regularly check cords for damage.
- Put outlet covers into outlets not being used to prevent curious children from trying to put fingers or other objects into the outlets.
- Never overload an electrical outlet. Stressing the system can create a fire hazard. When too much current is drawn from the circuit or more than one outlet is wired to a single circuit, the outlet could potentially catch fire.
- When replacing light bulbs, check what wattage is needed on the label inside the light fixture or lamp. Additionally, be sure that lamps are sitting away from curtains or other materials that could easily catch fire and that they are placed on stable surfaces.

### Outside

- If there is a downed power line nearby, leave the area immediately and call 911. If others are around, let them know that they need to stay away.
- "Call Before You Dig." Dial 811 before starting a digging project, and workers will be sent to your home to mark utility lines in your yard. This service is free, and it has the potential to save your life.
- Never use electrical equipment near any wet areas, such as pools or ponds.

## CHARGES ARE SET FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY & ENERGY EFFICIENCY RATES

Changes in the riders are due to general costs for purchases and programs being different than forecast and requiring a true-up to reflect actual costs.

### NC RENEWABLE ENERGY

The following NC Renewable Energy Rider charges are effective May 1, 2013, and will be in effect for 12 months.

	New Charges	Replaces
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	\$0.36/monthly	\$0.35/monthly
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	\$4.45/monthly	\$4.03/monthly
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>	\$29.64/monthly	\$27.69/monthly

### NC ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The following NC Energy Efficiency Rider charges are effective May 1, 2013, and will be in effect for 12 months.

	New Charges	Replaces
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	0.0825¢/kWh	0.0808¢/kWh
<b>COMMERCIAL &amp; INDUSTRIAL</b>	0.0171¢/kWh	0.0106¢/kWh

## BY THE NUMBERS

**2,185 MEMBERS** ↑ 29 MEMBERS  
have signed up for the use-monitoring portion of [www.MyUsage.com](http://www.MyUsage.com)

**849 MEMBERS** ↑ 2 MEMBERS  
are participating in the FlexPay Program

**492 MEMBERS** ↑ 15 MEMBERS  
have turned in receipts for 4,598 CFLs, representing a total of 1,577,114 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate

**38 MEMBERS**  
received solar water heater rebates

**910 MEMBERS** ↑ 1 MEMBER  
bought electric water heater wrap kits

**585 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS** ↑ 2 MEMBERS  
on Time-of-Day Rates

**945 VISITS** ↑ 6 VISITS  
to TogetherWeSave.com for a total calculated savings with the home savings calculator tool of \$345,686.51

**534 MEMBERS** ↑ 18 MEMBERS  
have signed up to participate in the "Beat the Peak" program

**1,294 MEMBERS** ↑ 57 MEMBERS  
are participating in Project Helping Hand

## THIS MONTH'S RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY

### CASWELL COUNTY

- Milesville Rd.
- Kerrs Chapel Rd.
- Stoney Creek Mtn Rd.
- Byrd Sawmill Rd.
- and surrounding areas

Locations SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to uncontrollable circumstances

## REWARDS

FROM PAGE 21

### PEMC's Energy Efficiency Loan Program

PEMC members can take advantage of this special loan program to finance a variety of energy efficient upgrades, like a new central A/C system or electric heat pump. Approved members may borrow up to \$10,000 for seven years at 5% interest. For more information, call 1.800.222.3107.

### PEMC's Free Home Energy and HVAC Audits

We have experienced Energy Specialists who can perform an energy analysis on your home or HVAC system and make suggestions for improvement. To schedule your free home energy analysis, call 1.800.222.3107.

### Up to \$500 in Personal Tax Credits

The American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 renewed this tax credit, which will expire on December 31, 2013. The credit applies to energy efficiency improvements in existing homes and to the purchase of high-efficiency heating, cooling, and water heating equipment. For more information visit [www.energystar.gov/taxcredits](http://www.energystar.gov/taxcredits).

Visit [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com) to learn more ways to save. Check out the potential savings below!

WHAT YOU CAN UPGRADE	ANNUAL SAVINGS
<p><b>REFRIGERATOR</b> Have an old refrigerator? Need an upgrade? Choose an ENERGY STAR certified refrigerator. They use about 15% less energy than other models, which helps you save on your energy bill.</p>	<p><b>\$100</b> Estimated savings if you upgrade to an ENERGY STAR certified refrigerator.</p>
<p><b>WASHING MACHINE</b> ENERGY STAR certified washers use about 20% less energy and 35% less water than other models. They also have a larger tub capacity allowing you to wash fewer loads to clean the same amount of laundry.</p>	<p><b>\$140</b> Estimated savings if you upgrade your washing machine to an ENERGY STAR certified washer.</p>
<p><b>HVAC SYSTEM</b> HVAC systems use about 40% of your energy. ENERGY STAR certified HVAC systems are 15% more efficient than other models. This will help increase comfort in your home and decrease expenses.</p>	<p><b>\$408</b> Estimated savings if you replace your HVAC system with an ENERGY STAR HVAC system.</p>
<p><b>DISHWASHER</b> The average American family will generate about 150 loads of dishes per year. Older dishwashers use 10 to 15 gallons of water per load. ENERGY STAR certified dishwashers use less than 5.5 gallons per load.</p>	<p><b>\$30</b> Estimated savings if you upgrade an old dishwasher to an ENERGY STAR certified dishwasher.</p>

**\$678 ESTIMATED YEARLY SAVINGS**

## PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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President and CEO

### DIRECTORS

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David Poythress, Richard Roberts,  
& Talmadge W. Yancey

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8am–5pm  
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 pay account and access account  
information by phone 24 hours a day  
877.999.3394\*

\*Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

Call BEFORE you dig  
800.632.4949 or 811

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL US...

**800-449-2667**

Our automated outage reporting system uses your phone number to determine your service location. That's why it's important to update the number connected to your account. If your number has changed, or if you no longer have a land line, let us know by completing the form that comes in your monthly billing statement or call 800-222-3107.