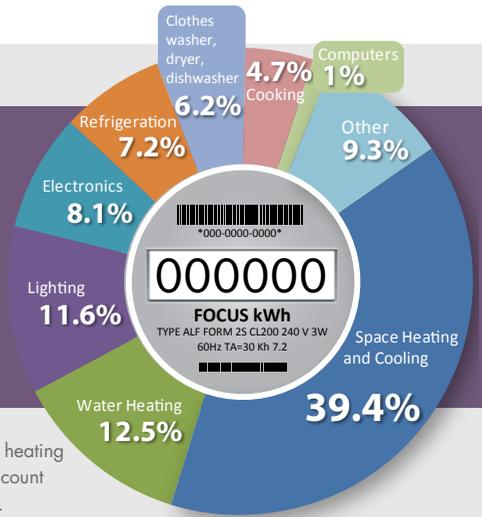




FEATURE ARTICLE

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR HEATING DOLLARS

According to the US Dept of Energy, your heating system and your water heater typically account for more than half of your electricity costs.



February often brings some of the coldest days of winter. With your heating system working overtime, it is important that you make smart decisions to avoid a surprisingly high electric bill!

Understand your heating costs.

Piedmont Electric offers a number of online tools to help you better understand your energy usage. Our Heating Calculator allows you to compare how different heating methods effect your yearly budget and also helps you visualize how turning down the heat and making your home air tight can save money.

We also offer a Space Heater Calculator to visualize monthly space heating costs.

Understand your usage.

Piedmont Electric's new online account management tool, SmartHub, allows you to monitor your usage on a daily basis – showing in real-time how much energy you are using. You can use this data to decide how to cut back on usage or be aware of upcoming higher energy bills.

Service your heating system.

Heating systems that go without servicing become increasingly less efficient. Change your air filters monthly to prevent your system from unnecessary damage, increase your system's efficiency and ensure cleaner air for your home. Don't forget to have your system completely inspected to ensure it is running as efficiently as possible. Gas burning systems require annual service inspections.

Notice to members with gas heating.

Gas heating systems can build up dirt and soot, which can lead to serious safety hazards, like carbon monoxide or a house fire. So be sure to have your gas system cleaned and inspected every year. You may also consider upgrading your gas system to electric heat, which is a safer, less expensive heating option. See page 27 for information on available HVAC/Heat Pump rebates.

APR 17

Piedmont EMC Annual Meeting

Enjoy local music and vote for three board member positions! Registration begins at 6pm and business meeting begins at 8pm.

CHECK OUT THIS MONTH'S COVERWRAP

Piedmont EMC puts the power to save money in your hands! Return the completed postcard on the front cover and take the first step toward lowering your electric bill!



SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

Applications for PEMC's College Scholarships, Rural Electric Youth Tour and Touchstone Energy Basketball Camps are due **March 31, 2015**

APPLY AT

www.pemc.coop/community/scholarships

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As many of you know, being a member of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation means you are more than just a customer, you are also a member-owner of this not-for-profit electric cooperative. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our goal is not to make a profit, but rather to provide you the most affordable energy possible.

Piedmont EMC does not produce any of the power we sell, we purchase power from the investor-owned utility, Duke Energy. We also build and maintain the distribution lines, substations, transformers and other equipment that connects you to the wholesale power grid, which keeps your power on.

The majority of your energy bill is determined by the amount we are charged by our energy suppliers each year. We continually promote programs like "Load Management," "Beat the Peak" and "Time-of-Day Rates" to help us lower our wholesale power costs by reducing the peak demand charges associated with wholesale power.

We were incredibly successful with these load management programs

Over the last two years, we saved \$3 million in wholesale power costs by holding down our summer peak.



R.G. Brecheisen
President & CEO of Piedmont Electric

over the last two years, and saved over \$3 million in wholesale power costs. We used less power as a cooperative during the summer peaks, and these savings are given back to you – our members – as a reduction in the power cost adjustment on your bill statement.

Our cooperative history is marked by story after story of members working together to achieve one common goal. Piedmont EMC's core mission is to continue to serve as a conduit for members who work together to lower their energy costs and support our community as a whole.

Remember, every time you flip the switch or change your thermostat settings, you make a decision that

affects the final cost of you and your neighbor's electric bills.

I would like to thank all the members currently participating in our load management programs who have demonstrated that when we work together, we can see real savings. For those members not enrolled, I encourage you to consider signing up for one of our load management programs using the postcard on the cover of this issue of *Carolina Country*, so we can continue to make our cooperative strong and keep electricity costs as low as possible.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS

RECENTLY ADDED BUSINESSES



HUSHPUPIES RESTAURANT

Yanceyville, NC

Free tea with purchase of meal.

Visit Piedmont EMC's website, www.pemc.coop, and click on the Co-op Connections® Card for discount details and a complete list of participating local businesses, national businesses, dentists, chiropractors, vision care and pharmacies.

SAVE 10%

SOUTHERN TREASURES CONSIGNMENT AND ANTIQUES

Roxboro, NC

10% off entire purchase.

SAVE 10%

CIAO PIZZA

Mebane, NC

10% off total bill, excludes alcoholic beverages.

FREE

YOUNIQUE COSMETICS

Bahama, NC

Free products and half priced items when you order on-line or book a party with your local distributor.



FREE

ELECTEL COOPERATIVE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Hillsborough, NC

Free box of checks with new checking account. Offer valid at Caswell, Hillsborough and Roxboro offices.



HEAT PUMP REBATES

Rebates are available to consumers who install an electric heat pump with a SEER of 15 or higher. The rebate equals \$50 per ton, up to \$200 per system.



FREE HOME ENERGY AUDIT

A free home energy analysis is available to all consumers. The analysis is performed by an experienced Energy Specialist who can make suggestions for home comfort improvements. The energy analysis includes a check of the home's insulation amounts, including heat loss around windows and exterior doors.

WINTER CHILL CAUSING HIGHER BILLS?

High energy bills are often associated with cold winter days and hot summers. You've likely noticed that heating and cooling are often the biggest expenses when it comes to your energy bills. Piedmont EMC offers loans and rebates to help our members install higher efficiency equipment resulting in lower monthly energy costs.



MISCELLANEOUS

Other suggestions for energy-saving measures to help you better manage your home's energy costs include: installing an electric heat pump, a new solar or heat pump water heater, solar panels, or sealing the crawlspace under your home.



ENERGY EFFICIENT HVAC SYSTEM

Installing a new, energy efficient HVAC system is the most effective way to reduce your energy bills, as electricity continues to be a less expensive way to heat your home. Piedmont EMC has North Carolina-licensed HVAC technicians who can offer free advice and technical assistance about the operation or installation of your heating and cooling systems. They can even help you choose a new heating system!

Piedmont EMC is proud to be a part of the solution by helping our valued members save money throughout the year. To schedule your free home energy analysis call 1.800.222.3107.

BY THE NUMBERS

6,153 MEMBERS ↑ 14 MEMBERS
are participating in the A/C Load Control Program

4687 MEMBERS ↑ 1 MEMBER
are participating in the Electric Water Heater Load Control Program

1015 MEMBERS ↑ 6 MEMBERS
are participating in the FlexPay Program

27 MEMBERS ↑ 7 MEMBERS
have turned in receipts for 173 LED bulbs, representing a total of 101,378 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate

43 MEMBERS
received solar water heater rebates

940 MEMBERS
have installed electric water heater wrap kits

613 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS ↑ 3 MEMBERS
have signed up for Time-of-Day Rates

1,035 VISITS ↑ 13 VISITS
made to TogetherWeSave.com, where you can learn more about the power of your electric cooperative membership

648 MEMBERS ↑ 24 MEMBERS
have signed up to participate in the "Beat the Peak" program

1,353 MEMBERS
are participating in Project Helping Hand

THIS MONTH'S RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY

ORANGE COUNTY

- Old Fayetteville Road
- Jones Ferry Road
- Old School Road
- Moonridge Road
- Damascus Church Road
- Bowden Road

(and surrounding areas)

Locations are SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to uncontrollable circumstances.

STAY SAFE IN WINTER STORMS



SNOW AND ICE ARE AN INEVITABLE PART OF THE WINTER SEASON.

Snow can bring fun to our families and neighbors, but it can also lead to downed power lines and outages – which can become a danger for our loved ones.

Remember the following tips to stay safe and warm should you find yourself in a severe winter event...

Never touch a fallen power line, and assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. If you see any downed power lines, call Piedmont Electric immediately at **1.800.222.3107**

Take extreme caution when using alternative heating sources, such as a fireplace, propane space heater or gas stove, and don't leave the flames unattended. Also, never use a gas or charcoal grill inside the home, or charcoal briquettes in the fireplace.

Follow all manufacturer's directions if you plan to use a portable generator to power your home during an outage. Never use the generator inside an enclosed space like an attached garage, as the carbon monoxide it produces is deadly. Also, never connect generators directly to power lines. The reverse flow of electricity can electrocute an unsuspecting line worker.

Have at least one phone in the house not dependant on electricity, to call 911 in case of emergency.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call

(866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the requested information in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to the USDA by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.

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Caswell County 336.421.1296
Roxboro 336.599.0151
Elsewhere in North Carolina
800.222.3107

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 calling 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 811 BEFORE you dig
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative