



# CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER JULY 2013



At the annual meeting this April, PEMC debuted Piedmont Electric’s Powered Automobile, or PEPA (pronounced “pep-pa”). This 2013 Ford C-MAX Energi Plug-In hybrid is a part of a new class of vehicle known as a “hybrid plus.” These cars are designed to deliver maximum efficiency by combining a state-of-the-art rechargeable plug-in battery and electric motor with a gasoline engine. The steady rise in gas prices has contributed to the popularity of plug-in electric vehicles.

SEE PEPA PAGE 20

## CLOSE THOSE BLINDS! (AND SAVE SOME MONEY)

It may sound simple, but one easy way to cut some costs on your energy bill this summer is to close your blinds on hot days.

Completely closed and lowered blinds can reduce heat gain by almost 45%, keeping the heat out of your home and your living areas comfortable.

Interior blinds, unlike shades or other window coverings, have adjustable slats to help control light and ventilation. These blinds can be used to block sunlight, or even reflect direct sunlight into the light-colored ceiling of the room (which will diffuse the light with little heat or glare).

Keeping your blinds closed during the day, and following other solutions from [www.togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com), can have a big effect on your co-op. Remember that



your power usage during the summer peak times (weekdays 1pm–6pm) influence the overall cost of power. Saving energy during the hottest parts of the day goes a long way towards saving you – and your co-op – money.

For more information on everyday solutions for energy savings, take our energy-saving home tour at <http://energysavings.togetherwesave.com> to add up your savings.



## GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE IN SEPTEMBER, PRIZES FOR EARLY APPLICANTS

Piedmont EMC and other North Carolina electric cooperatives have allocated over \$660,000 in Bright Ideas grant funding to educators for the 2013–2014 school year. These grants, awarded to North Carolina’s K–12 educators with innovative classroom projects, will benefit more than 100,000 students each year.

The grant application opened on April 1 to teachers, principals and school counselors, and closes September 30, 2013. Educators may be awarded up to \$1,500 for their classroom or school.

This year, early-bird applicants who submit by August 16 will be entered into a drawing to win a \$500 Visa gift card. For more information about the program, including applications, visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

## TIP OF THE MONTH

If your home has a ceiling fan, turn it on during the hot summer days. Running a ceiling fan in a room will allow you to raise the temperature of your thermostat four degrees without any change in comfort. Remember that fans cool people – not rooms, so turn it off when you leave.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

**Piedmont EMC & ElecTel CCU will be closed Thursday, July 4, for Independence Day.**

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



R.G. Brecheisen  
President & CEO of Piedmont Electric

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At Piedmont Electric, we are constantly working to provide the best possible programs to save our members money.

Wholesale power bills represent about 60% of our costs. Almost half of that bill comes from the "demand charge," which is determined by the amount of electricity we use during summer peaks experienced by our supplier.

The fact that about half of our bill comes from these demand charges gives us the opportunity to save money for our members. By controlling the load of electricity we carry during the supplier's peaks, we can reduce our power bill, which reduces your power bill.

#### Load Control Programs

We pay our members to let us put a load control device on their AC units and water heater.

#### Beat-The-Peak

This program provides text message alerts before peak times, and encourages our members to use as little

electricity as possible. The more people active in this program, the less power will be used and ultimately the lower your monthly bill will be.

#### Volt/VAR Control

During peak hours, we reduce the voltage on select circuits, to send less energy through our lines without impacting reliability or service quality.

#### Stand-by Generators

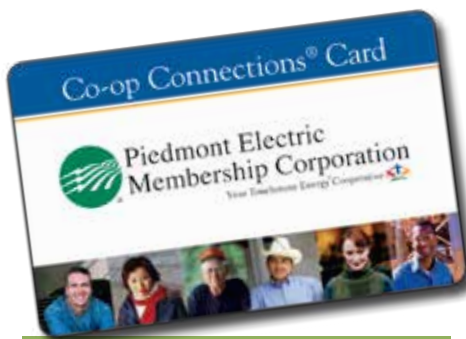
During peak times, we run our standby generators, so we purchase less energy.

To enroll in our Load Control or Beat the Peak programs, call us at 800.222.3107 or visit our website at [www.pemc.coop](http://www.pemc.coop).

**"We are constantly working to provide the best possible programs that save our members money"**

## CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS

### FEATURED PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES



Piedmont Electric Members have saved a total of **\$9,580.05** in Rx purchases since October 2012!

**SAVE 10%**  
**JIMMY'S FAMOUS HOT DOGS**  
Durham & Roxboro, NC  
MONDAY AND TUESDAY  
FROM 3 – 8 PM

**FREE**  
**OPTIMA ASSET MANAGEMENT, LLC**  
Hillsborough, NC  
ONE HOUR INITIAL CONSULTATION WITH A CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER

**SAVE 10%**  
**CAROLINA CORE PILATES**  
Carrboro, NC  
ON PILATES SESSIONS (IN-STUDIO)

**SAVE 20%**  
**GIFT TREE**  
National  
AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SPECIAL OFFERS

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 list of participating local businesses, national businesses, dentists, chiropractors, vision care and pharmacies.

Don't see your favorite business here? Tell them to contact us at 800.222.3107 or [pemcinfo@pemc.coop](mailto:pemcinfo@pemc.coop), subject "Co-op Connections" to become a part of this exciting new member program!

## PLAY-IT-SAFE: POOL AND ELECTRICAL SAFETY



Avoid the pool and stay inside before, during and after thunderstorms.

The heat of summer brings long days, cool drinks and lots of time spent by the swimming pool. While kids and adults of all ages enjoy playing and splashing in the water, pools can present many dangers. In the past 13 years, there have been 60 deaths and nearly 50 incidents of serious shock due to electrical hazards in and around swimming pools, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Electrocutation is a potential threat, but you can prevent a hazardous situation by taking a few cautious steps.

### Follow these tips to keep your family safe this summer:

- Know the location of all electrical switches for pool equipment and lights, in case they need to be shut off in an emergency.
- If you have a backyard pool, hire a licensed electrician to check that your pool's wiring is up to code and poses no safety hazards.
- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) should be installed on all outlets that power outdoor equipment, including pools. GFCIs detect any imbalance in the flow of electricity and will immediately turn off power if such an imbalance is detected.
- Refrain from using cord-connected appliances around the pool; use battery-operated appliances instead.
- Keep all electrical appliances and equipment at least five feet from the pool, as required by the National Electrical Code. If the appliance happens to fall or be pulled into the water, unplug it from the power source before reaching for it.
- If you have a small plastic or inflatable kiddie pool, be sure that overhead electrical lines do not pass over the pool. Keep the pool at least 25 feet away from power lines.
- Post an emergency plan within clear view of anyone using the pool. The plan should include basic pool emergency guidance and information about what to do in the event of electrical shock.

Whether you and your kids will be splashing in a small plastic pool or heading out to the neighborhood pool, be sure to follow these precautions in order to avoid electrocution. Combining electricity and water can be extremely dangerous and potentially life-threatening. If someone in the water is experiencing an electrical shock, immediately turn off the power and then call 9-1-1.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**2,220 MEMBERS** ↑ 21 MEMBERS  
have signed up for the use-monitoring portion of [www.MyUsage.com](http://www.MyUsage.com)

**887 MEMBERS** ↑ 25 MEMBERS  
are participating in the FlexPay Program

**498 MEMBERS** ↑ 4 MEMBERS  
have turned in receipts for 4,644 CFLs, representing a total of 1,592,892 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate

**40 MEMBERS** ↑ 2 MEMBERS  
received solar water heater rebates

**916 MEMBERS** ↑ 3 MEMBERS  
bought electric water heater wrap kits

**592 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS** ↑ 1 MEMBER  
have signed up for Time-of-Day Rates

**960 VISITS** ↑ 6 VISITS  
to [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com), for a total calculated savings with the home savings calculator tool of \$352,698.51

**538 MEMBERS** ↑ 4 MEMBERS  
have signed up to participate in the "Beat the Peak" program

**1,350 MEMBERS**  
are participating in Project Helping Hand

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

### ORANGE COUNTY

- Mill Creek Road
- Harmony Church Road
- Lonesome Road
- Allison Road

### DURHAM COUNTY

- Craig Rd.

(and surrounding areas)

Locations are SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to uncontrollable circumstances.



## COOK GREEN, SAVE GREEN

Summer is the perfect time of year to cook for your friends and family. Use these four tips to keep the dinner party from breaking your power budget.

### Cook Outdoors

Cooking on a grill or solar cooker not only keeps you from using extra electricity, but also reduces the load on your air conditioner.

### Go Ceramic

Glass and ceramic oven ware can cook food in the same amount of time as the metal variety, but at an oven temperature 25 degrees lower.

### Alternative Ovens

Toaster ovens, convection ovens, and slow cookers use less energy than your conventional stove top or oven. Use these products when cooking smaller meals for the greatest benefit.

### Residual Heat

Turn the stove or oven off before the cooking is done to use less energy. An electric burner can continue cooking for two minutes after it is turned off, since it remains hot. Ovens can be turned off up to 20 minutes before the cooking is done.

## PEPA

FROM PAGE 17

PEPA's slogan, displayed on the side of the car, reads "Plug In. Save Money. Charge Forward." It is in that spirit that PEMC hopes to use PEPA to show members that electric cars can make both environmental and economical sense.

PEPA is currently showing 62 MPGe (the equivalent measure of gas fuel efficiency for electric mode operation), which is slightly lower than advertised by Ford. However, during this period, she was running on gasoline while our charging station was being installed. We estimate that we will save more than \$4.00 per day with this hybrid plug-in, taking into account the driving specifics for this vehicle.

You can see how different models of electric cars will help your family save money by visiting our Electric Vehicle Calculator at [www.pemc.coop](http://www.pemc.coop).

Electric cars feature a plug-in capability that allows the driver to charge the battery using a standard 120-volt plug in or a 240-volt charging station, which are becoming more and more common in cities and towns across the country.

If you plan to purchase an electric vehicle, please contact us. We will verify that your transformer is adequately sized, and we will discuss rate options to ensure that your vehicle charges smoothly when you plug in at home.

For more updates on PEPA's progress, be sure to check Piedmont Electric's monthly Connection.

## PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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President and CEO

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### 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.