



Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

Hillsborough, N.C.

www.pemc.org

October 2010



Please Drop By...

We hope you will drop by your local Piedmont Electric office on Wednesday, October 20, as we salute our member-consumers during Co-op Month.

There will be light refreshments available, and drawings for an electric cooker and cookbooks. Each member will also receive a free compact fluorescent light.

And, employees will be available to answer your questions about any of the variety of programs and services we offer.

TAX 'HOLIDAY' SET FOR NOVEMBER 5-7

The next Energy Star-qualified tax holiday weekend will be Friday, November 5, through Sunday, November 7.

If you plan—or need—to buy a new appliance soon, this is a good time to buy an energy efficient model, and avoid paying N.C. sales tax on your purchase.

The qualified products include:

- Clothes washers
- Freezers and refrigerators
- Central air conditioners and room air conditioners
- Air-source heat pumps and geothermal heat pumps
- Ceiling fans
- Dehumidifiers
- Programmable thermostats

It's Time to 'Winterize' Your Home

Homeowners everywhere are looking to find ways to manage their energy use. The best way is to improve the efficiency of your home, and the time to do it is during the milder months of the year, like the Fall and Spring. But, what should you do first?

Your choice of energy improvement projects should be based upon the type and condition of your home. Consider these questions as you craft a personal energy plan:

- **What is the condition of the exterior of your home?** Repair any broken windows, loose siding or missing trim before you do anything else. You'll spend extra money on energy each month if outdoor air is whistling through your home.

Don't worry about caulking small holes and cracks until the major projects are completed.

Also, remember that you can buy an electric water heater wrap kit from Piedmont Electric to help lower your water heating costs.

- **How much insulation do you have in your attic?** Attic insulation keeps your home warm in winter and cool in summer.

More insulation is always better. You need at least 10 to 12 inches of R-30 insulation in the attic.

- **Has your heating system been serviced lately?** These hard-working appliances are the largest consumers

of energy in most homes.

Periodic service can improve their efficiency and extend their lifespans. If you hire a professional technician, ask about simple maintenance tasks you can perform yourself.



After having the heating system serviced, you also need to clean or replace the system's filters monthly.

- **How many old-fashioned incandescent lights do you have?**

These traditional bulbs use three times more electricity than modern compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs).

Buy and install CFLs in any light fixtures you use more than a few hours a day. As an added bonus, you can receive a credit of up to \$15 annually on your electric bill from Piedmont Electric!

- **How old is your refrigerator?** The newest refrigerators take advantage of technology that cuts their consumption to one-quarter that of older units.

Shop for an ENERGY STAR® rated refrigerator—as well as other appliances—to get the most efficient models. Buy a smaller refrigerator than you currently have for added savings.

Best of all, you can take advantage of the state's "tax holiday" during the weekend of November 5-7!



From Your President...

The Power of Membership

R. G. Brecheisen

Chief Executive Officer & President

With October recognized nationwide as Co-op Month, now is a good time to be a member of an electric cooperative.

Not only are co-ops locally owned and controlled—by you, our members—they are locally run to serve your needs.

While many consumers pay power bills to companies who answer to far-away stockholders who demand a profit every quarter, local members call the shots at co-ops like Piedmont Electric.

We aren't under pressure to keep rates high enough to generate big profits. Instead, we try to keep your bill as low as possible while providing high-quality service.

Co-ops invest money in excess of operating costs back into the

business locally or return the excess (known as margins) to you in the form of capital credits.

And unlike the boards of directors of investor-owned utilities who keep an eye on generating profits for stockholders, your cooperative's directors have only one thing in mind: keeping costs affordable in our local community while providing safe and reliable service.

That's why you elect them. And that's what's so great about cooperatives.

You may know the history of the electric cooperative movement, how seven decades ago rural residents banded together to bring the conveniences of electricity to their communities when investor-owned utilities would not extend service.

The associations they formed, on the same democratic principles as this great nation, are as strong and relevant today as they were back then.

But co-ops are not just products of a proud past.

These days, Americans from all walks of life have come to recognize the co-op approach—members working together to achieve price and service benefits—can work for other needs just as effectively as it delivered affordable power to rural Americans.

The seven principles upon which

electric co-ops were founded are as meaningful today as they were when electric co-ops began in the 1930s.

Leadership at Piedmont Electric shares the same concerns as you, our members. We are accessible. You can give us a call or send us an e-mail and know someone here is listening.

And at our annual meeting in April, you can visit with us in person and share insights on how you want your business operated.

In these days of economic turmoil,

folks who receive electricity from co-ops are lucky. Directors and employees at Piedmont Electric share the same values and have the same pride of place as you do because it is our community, too.

We act like neighbors because we are neighbors. That's the cooperative difference.

Seven Co-op Principles

- Voluntary & Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy & Independence
- Cooperation among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community
- Education, Training & Communication

Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation CONNECTION



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.



October Right-of-Way Maintenance

Caswell County

Gunn Poole Road

Highway 119

Burton Chapel Road

Rascoe Dameron Road

Fitch Road

(and surrounding areas)

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR OLDER ADULTS

Last year, more than one million people 65 years and older were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with accidents at home.

Since most of these episodes resulted from a lack of maintenance, walk through your home and use the following checklist to spot possible safety hazards.

If you notice a potential problem, arrange for it to be fixed immediately to prevent accident or injury.

The following suggestions can help you stay safe in the home.

❖ **Kitchen:** Make sure your appliances carry an Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) seal, which means the item was tested and found safe to use.

Check electrical cords for fraying or cracking; step stools for splitting or cracking; and throw rugs for tripping hazards like bumps and turned-up corners.

❖ **Living room:** Check rugs and runners, electrical cords, lamps and other lighting. Inspect the fireplace and chimney for fire hazards, and make sure all passageways are clear.

❖ **Bath-room:** Make sure small appliances are in safe operating condition. Check the bathtub, shower, rugs and mats for slipping hazards and inspect cabinets for safe storage of medications.

❖ **Bedrooms:** Examine rugs, runners, electrical and telephone cords, and make sure the area around the bed is clear of items that could cause you to trip.

❖ **Basement/garage/workshop:** Make sure all power tools are in safe operating condition. Check fuse and breaker boxes for possible malfunction and shock and fire hazards.

Inspect extension cords and cords on tools and lawn and garden supplies. Check for proper ventilation and make sure flammable liquids are stored properly.

❖ **Stairs:** Make sure there's proper lighting on and around stairways. Examine handrails and steps for possible defects or weaknesses, and test stair coverings for possible tripping hazards.



Make sure all appliances and their cords are safe to use to avoid the potential for fire.

Time's Running Out...

DECEMBER
31

...to take advantage of federal Energy Efficiency Tax Credits!

Incentives provided by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to help you make energy efficiency improvements to your existing home expire December 31, 2010. Don't miss your chance to save!

You can receive a tax credit for 30% of the cost of materials for qualifying improvements—up to \$1,500 over 2009 and 2010.

For a full list of qualified improvements, visit:
www.energystar.gov/taxcredits

Small Change Changes Lives

Even in difficult economic times, we still want to help others.

Consider giving to *Project Helping Hand* by signing up to have your electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar each month.

Or, you may choose to make a one-time donation or have a set amount added to your monthly electric bill. It's your choice, and it's completely voluntary.

Even if it is only pennies a month, pennies make dollars, and those dollars can help other members who may be in crisis situations right here in your community.

To start contributing your extra pennies to *Project Helping Hand*, please contact Piedmont Electric at 800.222.3107 to speak with a mem-



ber services representative who can help get things started.

With the holidays fast approaching, Piedmont Electric will also be reaching out to those less fortunate through a food and toy drive.

Beginning late next month, there will be drop off boxes located at each of the Cooperative's offices for those who want to help spread the joy of the holiday season.

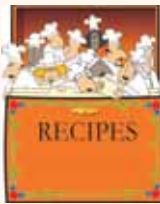




Personality Day

At the Annual Roxboro Chamber of Commerce "Personality Day," Piedmont Electric employees took the opportunity to ask visitors to contact their elected officials about the proposed energy legislation. LEFT: NC Representative Winkie Wilkins talks with employee Patsy Brann, left, and another booth visitor. RIGHT: Booth visitors complete "Our Energy, Our Future" cards to send to Washington.

Pass It On...



This month's recipe for "Chicken Casserole" comes from Jerry Ann Gregory 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 the Co-operative Council of North Carolina's Sensational Sweets cookbook.

Please remember to check all ingredients and cooking directions.

Chicken Casserole

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- 2 cups cooked chicken, diced
- 1 cup cooked rice
- 2 cups spaghetti sauce

Saute onion and green pepper in oil. Add chicken, rice and spaghetti sauce. Pour into greased casserole and back for 45 minutes at 350°.

By the Numbers...

- 1,236 members have signed up for the use monitoring portion of www.MyUsage.com
- 465 members are participating in the FlexPay Program
- 366 members have turned in receipts for 3,633 CFLs, representing a total of 1,246,119 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate
- 24 solar water heater rebates given to members
- 475 electric water heater wraps sold
- 527 residential members on Time-of-Day Rates



Piedmont Electric CONNECTION

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

R. G. Brecheisen, President & CEO

DIRECTORS:

Richard C. Roberts, Chairman **C. Franklin Murphy**, Vice Chairman
J. Douglas Simmons, Secretary **H. James Kinley**, Treasurer
Paul L. Bailey, **Bill R. Barber**, **David Poythress**, **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