



FEATURE ARTICLE

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC LOANS FUNDS FOR ORANGE RURAL FIRE TRUCK

Piedmont Electric continues our success in our Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program with a \$360,000 zero-interest loan to the Orange Rural Fire Department in Hillsborough, NC. The funds are available as part of a partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which provides zero-interest loans and grants to local electric cooperatives. The money is then loaned to local businesses for projects that support local areas.

The new fire truck will serve as a first response unit for all fire, rescue and wreck calls that occur within the Orange Rural Fire district, and the savings on interest alone will allow for

the creation of three new positions in fire protection in the field. Once repaid, the funds loaned by Piedmont EMC will be added to a revolving loan fund, which will be re-loaned to assist with future projects in our service area.

Piedmont Electric is especially proud to announce that our REDLG program awarded three loans from October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014. This was the highest number of grants awarded in the nation by the USDA for the fiscal year of 2014. These loans have contributed to the safety and economic stability of our community, and with more loans scheduled to be approved in the next few months, we hope to continue supporting our communities with these loans for years to come.

BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT WINNERS



BRIGHT IDEAS

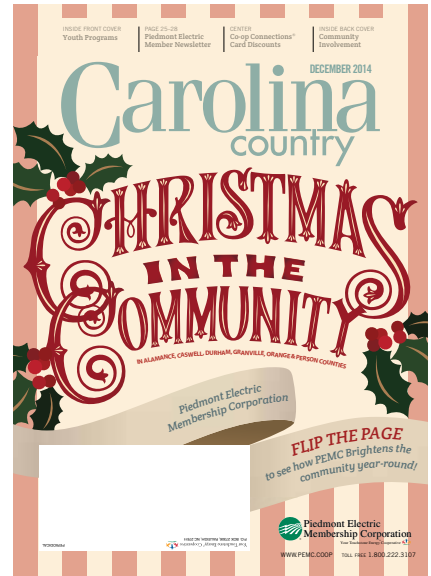
Piedmont Electric is awarding 24 Bright Ideas Grants to teachers in our communities. Each year, NC electric cooperatives allocate more than \$660,000 in Bright Ideas grant funding. This year, more than \$24,900 of the funds will go to teachers in Piedmont EMC's area.

Over 3,000 students across Piedmont Electric's six counties will benefit from the approved projects for the 2014-2015 school year. For more information, including a list of award recipients, be sure to read next month's issue of the Connection newsletter.

**DEC
24-25**

**Piedmont EMC
will be closed for
Christmas.**

Employees will be on call.
Enjoy your holiday!



CHECK OUT THE NEW COVER WRAP
to see how PEMC helps our community year-round!

Read about how our co-op day went in the
CO-OP DAY RECAP
PAGE 3

PEPA is retiring
CAPITAL CREDITS
PAGE 4

Piedmont EMC's
**ANNUAL FOOD & TOY
DRIVE DEADLINE IS
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12!**

Visit www.pemc.coop for more details!

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Each December, I use this column to reflect on the year Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation has had as a business and measure the impact we have had on the most important part of our cooperative, our members. This year, I'm proud to say that our commitment to the community was as strong as ever, as we rolled out a number of initiatives to improve the safety for our members and community, provide youth and educational opportunities, save money for our members and help economic development efforts for our service area.

In February, Piedmont Electric launched our new website, complete with new "emergency pages" that give members easier access to the information they need during emergency situations. A few days later, one of the worst ice storms this cooperative has experienced swept through our service area, but thanks to our new website and Facebook posts; members, news outlets and local officials were kept informed about restoration efforts.

In 2015, Piedmont Electric will continue to evaluate new ways to communicate with our members during emergencies. We will also continue to work with local officials to make our emergency restoration response as efficient as possible.

Our commitment to our schools and youth was unwavering throughout 2014. Piedmont Electric awarded 24 grants geared toward hands-on learning experiences to local teachers, totaling more than \$24,900, awarded six \$1,500 college scholarships, sent three middle school students to basketball camps and one high school student to Washington, DC, to meet our elected officials. Our cooperative also provided classroom safety demonstrations, school sponsorships, Earth Day Art Contests and career days at local schools. We also hosted a field



R.G. Brecheisen
President & CEO of Piedmont EMC

Thank you for being a member of PEMC.

trip for Duke University engineering students and a Duke University graduate student is determining the cost feasibility of a future solar battery project as part of his thesis. Piedmont Electric also launched a six-week high school Lineman Internship program this past summer. Our intern had the unique opportunity to work with our linemen out in the field and gain hands-on experience.

Over recent years, economic development has lagged in rural areas; however, thanks to Piedmont Electric's commitment to community, our cooperative has been awarded the most grants by the USDA for our Revolving Community Loan Program for Fiscal Year 2014. Through this program, your cooperative has made zero-interest loans to one school and four fire stations this year alone, improving the quality of life in our

communities and helping to develop economic opportunities.

This year, I have been most proud of the way our members stepped up to reduce our peak by enrolling in our Energy Savings programs, such as Load Control, Time-of-Day Rates and Beat the Peak. By working together in the true cooperative spirit, we saved almost \$2 million in wholesale power costs!

Thank you for being a member of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation! We couldn't be nearly as successful as we are today without the help of each and every one of our members. I cannot wait to see what great things we accomplish in 2015.

We thank you for allowing us to serve you and we wish you a wonderful holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year!

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS



BEYOND MEASURE BARBERING INSTITUTE
Mebane

Free haircut with first visit. \$5 haircuts or 20% off subsequent services.

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 and national businesses, dentists, chiropractors, vision care and pharmacies.



SAVE 15%

THE HAMPTON INN
Chapel Hill
HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
Chapel Hill

THE QUALITY INN
Chapel Hill
THE HAMPTON INN
Carboro

15% discount off the first night's reservation.

FREE

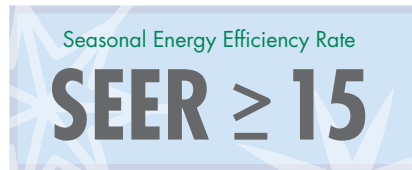
AMAZING GRACE SALON AND SPA CENTER
Hillsborough

Free 'mini' day spa services on the first Saturday of every month.

ENERGY EFFICIENT WAYS TO HEAT YOUR HOME

Switch to an electric heat pump this winter to save on heating costs. Electric heat pumps not only keep your home toasty during the colder months, but also help cool your home in the summer – all at a lower cost than gas heat.

Rebates and loans are available to members who install an energy efficient electric heat pump with a SEER, or Seasonal Energy Efficiency



Rate, of 15 or higher. The rebate equals \$50 per ton, up to \$200 per system.

HVAC technical advice is also available, at no extra cost, to help you find the perfect system for your home.

For more information visit pemc.coop and click 'Save Energy and Money'.

CO-OP DAY RECAP



In honor of Co-op Month, celebrated each October, Piedmont Electric hosted a Co-op Day for members on Wednesday, October 22, at our three offices. Members enjoyed snacks, refreshments, a grand prize drawing and a spin on the prize wheel for the chance to win LED light bulbs, water heater wraps or several other prizes.



Seventy-five members won a 2-Pack of LED lights and three members won the Grand Prize of a flavor-searing grill. Overall, the day was a success and a great opportunity for members to celebrate their membership!

Our Lucky Winners...



William Jefferson
Caswell County



Sandra Stanfield
Roxboro



Judy Close
Chapel Hill

BY THE NUMBERS

6,139 MEMBERS ↑ 6 MEMBERS
are participating in the A/C Load Control Program

4,686 MEMBERS ↑ 7 MEMBERS
are participating in the Electric Water Heater Load Control Program

1,009 MEMBERS ↑ 13 MEMBERS
are participating in the FlexPay Program

20 MEMBERS ↑ 10 MEMBERS
have turned in receipts for 146 LED bulbs, representing a total of 85,556 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate

43 MEMBERS
received solar water heater rebates

940 MEMBERS ↑ 10 MEMBERS
have installed electric water heater wrap kits

610 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS ↑ 2 MEMBERS
have signed up for Time-of-Day Rates

1,029 VISITS ↑ 7 VISITS
made to TogetherWeSave.com, where you can learn more about the power of your electric cooperative membership

624 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

- Oak Grove Church Rd.
- Mebane Oaks Rd.
- Jones Rd.
- Jim Minor Rd.
- Turner Rd.
- Nicks Rd.
- Pollard Acres Subdivision

(and surrounding areas)

Locations are SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to uncontrollable circumstances.



Is your family ready for an **ELECTRIC VEHICLE?**

Piedmont EMC has tools to help you make the best decision. Visit pemc.coop/save-energy-money and click "calculators and apps" to use our Electric Vehicle Calculator, and see how much you can save in fuel costs by switching to a hybrid or electric vehicle!

OFFICIAL NOTICE

CAPITAL CREDITS RETIREMENT

If you were a member of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation in 1986, you will soon receive your share of capital credits for that year.

One of the major benefits of being a member of Piedmont EMC is that you are returned any money that is left over after all of our bills have been paid.

The amount of these funds you receive is based on the amount you paid for the electricity consumed during the year of the retirement.

General retirement checks will be mailed to eligible members with owed retirements of \$20 or higher. Those who have capital credit accounts less than \$20 will see a credit on their energy bill. Inactive accounts will receive a check providing there is a current mailing address on file. Inactive members with less than \$20

in their capital credits account will have their payments held until the \$20 minimum is met in a future year.

The 2014 general retirement of capital credits will involve retiring approximately \$900,000 this year. In addition, over \$216,000 was returned to the estates of deceased members this year.

Your cooperative membership entitles you to this capital credit retirement whenever Piedmont EMC is financially able to approve these refunds and receives approval by the board of directors. Until a specific year is "retired" the funds are used for maintenance of the electrical grid, and to allow Piedmont EMC to meet the financial requirements of our lenders. Piedmont Electric has returned over \$19 million in Capital Credits to members since 1975.

NOTE If you change electric providers please be sure to leave a forwarding address and other contact information so we can reach you concerning your future Capital Credit disbursements. Any questions regarding Capital Credits, call 1.800.222.3107.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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2500 NC Highway 86 South
PO Drawer 1179
Hillsborough, NC 27278

R.G. Brecheisen
President and CEO

DIRECTORS

Bill R. Barber, Chairman
Paul L. Bailey, Vice Chairman
Sam T. Woods, Secretary
Richal Vanhook, Treasurer
J. Randy Kinley, Stephen C. Long,
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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

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