



FEATURE ARTICLE

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC AWARDS LOANS

Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation has long been committed to helping our members stay safe when interacting with electricity in their daily lives. Recently, the cooperative has continued to strengthen the safety of the communities we serve by providing zero-interest Rural Economic Development Loans to local emergency response teams.

The Revolving Loan program is a partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that allows Piedmont Electric to request funds for programs that help support economic growth in rural areas. Organizations across the country are allowed to apply for these funds, which are used to build schools, develop business parks and support other endeavors in the community. Piedmont Electric's Revolving Loan program has received numerous requests to help emergency response programs (such as fire departments and EMS teams) secure the capital they need to purchase new equipment, update infrastructure and hire additional staff.

The focus on emergency services is uniquely beneficial to the communities this cooperative serves. The Revolving Loan program helps emergency responders better protect their citizens by improving their equipment, often while saving enough in interest to purchase extra equipment and in a few instances, hire additional staff. As an auxiliary benefit, improved emergency

response directly influences the rates local residences and businesses have to pay for insurance, which can be a big selling point when trying to attract new investments to our area.

One of the more recent loans went to the Eno Fire Department, to help them buy a new Elliptical Water Tanker. This \$285,000 water tanker will allow the Eno Fire Department (pictured above) to transport water reliably to rural areas where fire hydrants are less common. It is also the standard model used by surrounding fire departments, making it easier to help surrounding areas and receive help from other fire departments, if needed.

The Revolving Loan program has been extremely successful for Piedmont Electric's service area. In 2014, Piedmont Electric awarded more loan funds, in both total number of loans and total dollar amount, than any other participating organization in the country. A portion of the funds, once repaid, will be re-loaned to other businesses that support growth in our community.

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT
7

Piedmont Electric will be closed for Labor Day.

Operations crews will be on call.

August is a

PEAK MONTH

Watch for alerts to limit power usage during peak times, to save money for your co-op!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members can help control rising energy costs with various co-op programs and apps.

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PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY

Follow our tips to keep you and your family safe.

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ENERGY CALCULATORS & APPS

Take control of your usage and lower your monthly bill.

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2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to our youth scholarship winners!

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SIGN UP FOR THE CONNECTION'S DIGITAL VERSION!



Our newsletter is now available on iPads and Android tablets. Learn more at www.pemc.coop

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer heat is in full swing and for many of our members trying to stay cool means running the air conditioner longer and using more electricity. Every year around this time, we get this question: "What can I do to lower my electric bill?" Fortunately, Piedmont Electric is your trusted energy advisor, and we are here to help you determine ways to lower your energy consumption and ultimately help lower your electric bill. We provide numerous programs, calculators and apps to help you make informed energy decisions.

All members should take advantage of one of this cooperative's most powerful tools: free home energy audits. Getting your home audited is an important first step in developing an energy-saving strategy. After requesting an audit, one of our experienced Energy Specialists will come to your home and identify areas of heat loss and unnecessary energy consumption, as well as offer cost-saving suggestions for fixing issues.

Once you know more about your home, it is important to learn more about how your family consumes



R.G. Brecheisen
President & CEO of Piedmont EMC

We Can Help You Determine Your Energy-Saving Strategy

energy. Piedmont Electric provides a number of calculators and applications that can guide you through your monthly energy bill and can help you discover new ways to save. One of our newest applications is SmartHub, where members can pay their bill, manage their account and see daily electric usage information. This data, along with the "Analyze My Bill" tool on our website can help you formulate a better picture of how your household uses electricity. Be sure

to see page 23 for a complete listing of our money and energy-saving calculators on www.pemc.coop.

At Piedmont Electric, we're always working to help make electricity more affordable. That's why we do our best to ensure that each of you are informed about the available tools that can help us all save on our energy bills. We truly believe that the more we work together, the more we'll save.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS



Sandra Buchanan of Timberlake, NC, won a \$25 Visa gift card just by submitting her receipt from Rolling Hills Garden Center in Roxboro to Piedmont EMC.

You too can be a winner – submit your receipt from a local Co-op Connections® business by September 30, 2015, for a chance to win a \$25 Visa Gift Card. One winner will be chosen. For contest details, call 800.222.3107 or visit www.pemc.coop.

SAVE 10%

BROOKLAND EATS
Roxboro, NC
10% OFF ENTIRE BILL, (EXCLUDES ALCOHOL).

SAVE 10%

LA COCINA #4
Roxboro, NC
10% OFF TOTAL BILL, (EXCLUDES ALCOHOL AND OTHER DISCOUNTS).

SAVE 10%

CIAO PIZZA
Mebane, NC
10% OFF TOTAL BILL, (EXCLUDES ALCOHOL).



SAVE 15%

SILPADA JEWELRY
Hillsborough, NC
15% OFF ENTIRE ORDER.

BOGO

SUNSHINE LAVENDER FARM
Hurdle Mills, NC
FREE SACHET WITH ANY ONLINE PURCHASE.



Never use a generator indoors even with the windows open, and never in an attached garage.

Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home, and test the batteries at least once a month.

USE PORTABLE GENERATORS SAFELY

Portable generators can be a big help when the power is out for a long time. However, if they are not used properly, generators can pose serious safety threats, including death, due to the toxic carbon monoxide fumes they produce. Be sure to operate the generator outdoors away from your home.



To avoid the risk of shock, use your generator only on a dry surface where rain or snow can't leak underneath.

Follow the manufacturer's directions for installation and operation.



Use heavy duty, outdoor use extension cords when plugging your appliances into a generator.

Never plug a generator into a wall outlet in your home, as this can energize power lines that are thought to be dead.

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS OF CO POISONING: The most common symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. Exposure can lead to loss of consciousness and death. If a carbon monoxide detector goes off in your house, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel give further instruction.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

Calculators and Apps Give You the Power to Save

Your cooperative provides easy-to-use tools that track your energy consumption to help you make informed energy decisions.

Analyze My Bill uses your account number, historical bill data, local weather and utility rates to analyze your energy usage.

Home Energy Calculator analyzes energy usage based on facts about your house if you do not have your account number.

Heating Calculator compares the estimated costs of your current heating system to other heating options.



The Electric Vehicle Calculator is one of the many tools available at www.pemc.coop.

Appliance Calculator shows the energy costs associated with the appliances in your home.

Electric Vehicle Calculator explores electric vehicle options, the effects on gas costs, and the impact of carbon dioxide.

Rate Calculator allows you to compare and explore all of the different rate structures that are available.

You can use all of our calculators and applications at pemc.coop/save-energy-money/web-tools-and-apps and check your daily energy usage on SmartHub at www.pemc.smarthub.coop

BY THE NUMBERS

6,166 MEMBERS ↑ 5 MEMBERS are participating in the A/C Load Control Program

4,684 MEMBERS ↑ 3 MEMBERS are participating in the Electric Water Heater Load Control Program

1066 MEMBERS ↑ 14 MEMBERS are participating in the PrePay Program

59 MEMBERS ↑ 22 MEMBERS have turned in receipts for 322 LED bulbs, representing a total of 188,692 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate

657 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS ↑ 21 MEMBERS have signed up for Time-of-Day Rates

583 MEMBERS have signed up to participate in the "Beat the Peak" program

1,351 MEMBERS are participating in Project Helping Hand

203 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS received a FREE home energy analysis this year by an experienced PEMC Energy Specialist who can make suggestions for home comfort and energy efficiency improvements

13,369 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS have signed up to use SmartHub to pay their bill and manage their energy use

THIS MONTH'S RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY

ORANGE COUNTY

- Oakdale Drive
 - Ode Turner Road
 - Davis Road
 - Dodsons Cross Road
- (and surrounding areas)

PERSON COUNTY

- Hicks-Yarboro Road
 - Cedar Grove Church Road
 - Hugh Woods Road
 - Jack Brann Road
- (and surrounding areas)

Locations are SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to uncontrollable circumstances.

2015 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to the following six local high school seniors who were awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to the school they will attend in the fall!



Molly Nicole Monsees
Northern High School, Durham County

Daughter of Kelly and Michael Monsees of Rougemont. Molly plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill.



Alex Shaw
Roxboro Community School, Person County

Son of Bridget and Kendall Shaw of Timberlake. Alex plans to attend UNC-Wilmington.



William Hamilton
Carrboro High School, Orange County

Son of Mary and Brad Hamilton of Chapel Hill. Will plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill.



Danielle Russell
Person Senior High School, Person County

Daughter of Cindy and Dannie Russell of Timberlake. Danielle plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill.



Eli S. Lockwood
Orange High School, Orange County

Son of Jayne Stuart and Stephen Lockwood of Hillsborough. Eli plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill.



Kirby Lau
Cedar Ridge High School, Orange County

Daughter of Lisa and John Lau. Kirby plans to attend North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.

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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