



FEATURE ARTICLE

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR ENERGY SAVINGS

The holiday season is upon us, and for many members of Piedmont Electric, that means gift giving, decorations and (combined with colder weather) a higher energy bill in January. Luckily, there are a number of products on the market that not only make fantastic gifts, but can also help you and your family better control your energy bill! Below is a list of our favorites to make your holiday shopping as easy, and energy efficient, as possible:

Solar USB Chargers

Solar chargers are cool gadgets that can charge everything from cell phones to tablets. Take this opportunity to slip one in a stocking, and use it to teach the receiver about solar and other forms of renewable energy.

Blankets

Get your entire family a micro fleece blanket for cold winter mornings. With a variety of designs available (including sports logos and pop culture icons) you're sure to be able to find one to fit everyone's interests! Plus, with the whole family wrapped up, you can turn down the heat and save some energy!

LED Bulbs

Maybe not the most exciting gift you've ever given, but if you're looking to round off your giving this year with a stocking-stuffer that can create real energy savings, look

no further than LED bulbs. Most hardware stores sell LED bulbs for under \$10. Plus Piedmont Electric's residential lighting program offers \$1 per LED light bulb purchase, up to \$15 per year, per member with a receipt.

BONUS:

Energy-Efficient Power Strips

Take care of yourself this holiday season too! Your entertainment system and decorations will run up your electric bill. A power strip with auto shut-off technology makes sure that your electronics don't consume more energy than you expect. Even without this feature, turning off your power strips can save around \$100 a year on your power bill!

For more information about energy saving products, visit EnergyStar.com or pemc.coop.

IMPORTANT DATES

DEC
11

Annual Food and Toy Drive

Last day to make any toy or cash donations.

DEC
22

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Roxboro Office
1:00–5:30PM

DEC
24–25

Christmas

Our offices will be closed for the holiday.

JAN
01

New Year's Day

Our offices will be closed for the holiday.

JAN
01

Youth Tour Application Due

Apply for this once in a lifetime opportunity!

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Reflecting on this successful year.

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SIGN UP FOR THE CONNECTION'S DIGITAL VERSION!



Carolina Country and our newsletter are available on iPads and Android tablets. Visit the App or Play store from your tablet to download the Carolina Country app today.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Each December, as the year comes to a close, I take time to reflect on our cooperative and the strides we have made as an organization to ensure safe, reliable and affordable electric service and continued excellence in customer service. This year, Piedmont Electric's focus has been set firmly on improving our connection with each and every one of our members who make up this electric cooperative.

Every year, we survey a percentage of our membership, so we can better understand the needs of our members and identify areas for improvement. This year, we took it a step further and ran an electronic focus group with a random sampling of our members. This focus group allowed electronic conversations not only between the cooperative and participating members, but also between the participants. From this process, we have gained invaluable information about the needs of members from across our cooperative.

We have already begun to implement new programs based on your suggestions. Our social media presence is growing and is now equipped to provide up-to-date



R.G. Brecheisen
President & CEO of Piedmont EMC

Reflecting on this successful year.

information during major outages, so our members can stay informed on restoration progress if the power goes out. We also continue to provide our members more information about their electric usage through the SmartHub system, calculators and applications on our website, pemc.coop.

Overall, Piedmont Electric had a successful financial year and therefore, we are able to retire capital credits to members who were active in 1987 (see page 20). So why doesn't everybody get a capital credits retirement check each year? Every year, margins are allocated to the account of each member. That money allocated to each member's account is used as "working capital" to ensure that the cooperative doesn't have to take on additional debt to maintain and upgrade your power

distribution system. This "working capital" reduces the need for your co-op to borrow money, which keeps your electric rates as low as possible. In keeping with the seven guiding cooperative principles, we do retire capital credits from previous years if financial conditions allow the board of directors to approve. If we were to retire capital credits to every member, every year, your electric rates would increase, which is contrary to our goal of keeping rates as low as possible.

We look forward to exploring even more ways to better serve you in the coming year. I hope each of you has a safe holiday season and a happy new year. Thank you for your continued support of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation.

PIEDMONT EMC ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF LONG-TIME BOARD MEMBER



After 42 years, Piedmont Electric Board Member, Richard C. Roberts, announced his retirement this past August, 2015.

Mr. Roberts

first began his tenure on the board of directors for district 8 in 1973. Mr. Roberts brought with him a knowledge of the cooperative business thanks to the legacy of his father, Mr. Clyde Roberts of Hillsborough, NC, a founding board member of Piedmont Electric. Mr. Roberts served on the board during a pivotal time

in our history as the co-op began to embrace new technologies and venues that would help us lead the cooperative nation into the future.

Mr. Roberts also served with distinction as chairman of the board of directors for Piedmont from 1987 until 2011. During those years of service, Mr. Roberts provided exemplary leadership as chairman of the board, fostering growth and encouraging change, which has made a lasting impact on Piedmont Electric. In addition to his duties as chairman, Mr. Roberts remained a dedicated family man, an active member in his church, community and family farm,

Little River Farm in Hillsborough, NC. Mr. Roberts was also a retired veteran of the United States Army.

Upon his retirement from the board, Mr. Roberts was appointed to the title of director emeritus, effective as of August 18, 2015. The board of directors wants to recognize Mr. Robert's considerable contributions to Piedmont Electric, and desires to maintain a continuing relationship with him, so the information and knowledge he has acquired will benefit the cooperative. We thank Mr. Roberts for his strong and thoughtful leadership over the years and his dedicated service to this cooperative.

HOLIDAY ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

It's the holiday season – the most wonderful time of the year! It can also be the most stressful and potentially dangerous, particularly when it comes to keeping your family safe through parties, presents, travel and meals. Follow these tips to protect your family this holiday season.

1

Inspect your seasonal decorations for brittle or damaged wiring...

2

...worn switches and corroded metal parts...

3

...broken legs, unstable bases and other tipping hazards.

4

Don't tamper with safety devices. Fuses, switches and other safety features are designed to keep you safe. Remember, if your plugs won't fit together, it means they weren't designed to work together.

5

Look for power lines. For outdoor decorations, make sure you look up before getting started. Identify power lines and make sure you aren't anywhere close to the power lines or the ladder while decorating.

6

Consider traffic-prone areas in your home. Sometimes in the hustle of the holiday season, we forget to think about how children and pets will interact with our decorations. Make sure you think about areas where your children and pets spend a lot of time, to ensure that you don't inadvertently create a disaster area.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS



FOR THE MOMENT EVENT SERVICES

Chapel Hill, NC

For the Moment Catering & Event Services mission is to prepare every dish with love that will reflect care and appreciation for customer satisfaction. When you use your Co-op Connections® Card, you can receive 10% off event services with a signed contract.

Visit Piedmont EMC's website, 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 centers and pharmacies.

SAVE 25%

GIFTCARDS.COM

National

UP TO 25% OFF MERCHANT GIFT CARDS ON DISCOUNTED GIFT CARDS FROM BIG NAME RETAILERS.

SAVE 15%

GIFTTREE.COM

National

15% OFF GIFT BASKETS, FLOWERS AND PERSONALIZED GIFTS AT GIFTTREE.COM.

As a member of Co-op Connections, you will receive an additional 20% off the "Best Available Rate" at participating locations every time you travel. Use special discount ID number 1000004709 at the time of booking to receive discount.



NEW BUSINESSES

SAVE 25%

VECTOR SECURITY

Serving PEMC Territory

**FREE HOME AUTOMATION WITH ENERGY MANAGEMENT
10% OFF MONITORING
25% OFF EQUIPMENT**

SAVE 5%

THE WATER GURU

Serving PEMC Territory

MECHANICAL SOLUTIONS FOR WATER OF ALL USES – 5% OFF TOTAL PURCHASE OF ANY PACKAGE



A VALUABLE BENEFIT for Members of Piedmont Electric

2015 CAPITAL CREDITS RETIREMENT

If you were a member of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation in 1987, 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 2015 general retirement of capital credits will involve retiring approximately \$1,270,000 this year. In addition, over \$200,000 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 \$21 million dollars 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. For any questions regarding capital credits, call 1.800.222.3107.

NEW COOPERATIVE SOLAR PROJECT

Piedmont EMC's Roxboro branch office is installing a 200kW solar field on one acre of land adjacent to the office to help power the office. Any excess generation of energy will be placed back on our electric grid. Installation began in October, 2015. Piedmont EMC also has plans to install a 300kW solar field at the Caswell branch office soon. Stay tuned for more project updates on our social media, website and future newsletters.



PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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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

Piedmont Electric is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.