

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER

**JULY 2015** 







The Jones and Smith families have one thing in common. They are both trying to save energy and money on their July electric bill. Fortunately for these families, they have access to Piedmont Electric's SmartHub, a free online tool that provides a safe and secure environment for members to make bill payments, update account information and monitor daily energy usage. There's just one problem – only one family has utilized SmartHub to take control of their energy usage and lower their monthly electric bill.

#### USE SMARTHUB TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR MONTHLY BILL

At Piedmont Electric, we empower our members to lower your monthly electric bill by providing information and tools to monitor your usage and make informed decisions about how and when you use energy. Let's take a look at how utilizing SmartHub and other tools can help you save energy and money.

Meet the Smith family, they use SmartHub to pay their bill, but haven't looked into the detailed usage information it provides. They think they've cut down on some of their energy usage throughout the month, but they aren't sure, so it feels like a guessing game. When the Smith family gets their July bill, they are disappointed that it's significantly

higher than a normal bill. They could have saved energy and money if they tracked their energy usage on SmartHub throughout the month.

Meet the Jones family, who decided to take control of their energy usage by logging into SmartHub, a free member benefit, to monitor their daily energy usage. In doing this, they can make adjustments to their consumption and directly see the effects the next day. Daily use monitoring can also alert them to problems with their A/C and other equipment.

Utilize SmartHub to take control of your energy usage and avoid a surprisingly high bill at pemc.smarthub.coop.



SmartHub not only provides daily usage information. You can also compare past bills side-by-side and use the Average Usage tool to see usage over a given time period. Use this information to take action and help you save energy and money on your bill.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**



Piedmont Electric will be closed to observe Independence Day

Operations crews will be on call.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What does the utility of the future look like for Piedmont Electric and our industry?

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#### **GEOTHERMAL ENERGY**

Take advantage of tax credits and save energy with this renewable resource.

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#### **DIGITAL NEWSLETTER**

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

# THANK YOU For helping Piedmont Flectric

# Beat the Peak! Piedmont Electric members

banded together last year to save \$2 million in wholesale power costs using our Load Management Suite of programs! These savings helped us lower the rates we are charged for electricity and saved the entire cooperative money! As a result, you will see a credit on your bill as a Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA). If you have any questions about this credit, contact our customer support team by calling 800.222.3107.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The electric industry is often compared with the telecom industry, which faced huge challenges as political circumstances and new technologies, like the Internet and cellular devices, changed the landscape of their business. Just like the telecom industry had to adapt to survive, so too will electric utilities need to adapt to new methods of energy generation, distribution and consumption in the coming years. In this way we will become the utility of the future.

Technology improves and changes quickly, so it can be hard to predict the exact operations of the cooperative 10 to 20 years down the road. We do, however, monitor the development of our industry to stay on top of trends that could become game changers for electric utilities. This allows us to adjust and adapt our progression to the utility of the future.

Renewable energy connected to Piedmont Electric's distribution system like solar, wind and biomass are incredibly popular in today's energy landscape, and we believe that we will see growth in this sector in the future. Solar power and batteries are



# **Electric utilities adapt** to new methods of energy generation

front-runners in member-generated energy. This type of distributive generation, located on the utility distribution system, is very different from historical electrical utility models where electricity is flowing in one direction from one source.

Beyond energy generation, distribution and consumption of energy will also be radically different a decade from today. As we all become more interconnected with smart phones and online applications, it will be more important than ever for Piedmont Electric to offer resources that allow our members to invest in systems that control their energy consumption from a variety of devices. As the power grid becomes more connected,



R.G. Brecheisen President & CEO of Piedmont Electric

it will also be important to secure our network from hackers and others with malicious intent.

Piedmont Electric predicts a higher reliance on the electric utility of the future. With the rise of information technology and the adoption of electric vehicles, having a stable and reliable electric grid is even more essential to our members. We are committed to allowing this cooperative to grow and adapt to meet your needs, without sacrificing the democratic control and impact to the community that have been so successful. Rest assured, the utility of the future will stand cooperative strong.

## CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS



**HUSHPUPPIES RESTAURANT** Yanceyville, NC FREE TEA WITH PURCHASE OF A MEAL.

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.



**TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES** Chapel Hill, NC 10% OFF ENTIRE PURCHASE.



**APPLE ELECTRONICS** & SECURITY\* Hillsborough, NC 15% OFF INSTALLED HOME SECURITY SYSTEM.



ITALIAN RESTAURANT Alamance, NC 10% OFF ENTIRE BILL (EXCLUDES ALCOHOL).

**ROMA'S PIZZA AND** 



**SAVE 10%** 

HOOF BEAT FARM Hillsborough, NC 10% OFF A GRASS FED BEEF ITEM ON SATURDAYS.



**BURGER KING** Roxboro, NC BUY ONE WHOPPER, **GET ONE FREE.** 

#### PIEDMONT ELECTRIC AWARDS RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS TO TWO LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Piedmont Electric's Revolving Community Loan program, in partnership with the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program, helps provide zero-interest loans to local businesses. By partnering with local businesses and government entities with REDLG loans, Piedmont Electric helps to improve quality of life for all, which makes our communities stronger. Once loans are repaid, funds go into Piedmont Electric's Revolving Loan Fund and are re-loaned to assist with future projects in the Piedmont Electric service area.

ENO FIRE DEPARTMENT: \$285,000 LOAN



The new Elliptical Tanker will be used to carry 1,800 gallons of water to fire scenes outside of Hillsborough's city limits. The tanker will provide fire suppression, medical first responder and Haz-Mat services to the Hillsborough area in Orange County, NC.

Pictured (L to R) David Davis (Eno Fire Dept. Board member), Wayne Paschall (Eno Fire Dept. Board President), Ralph MacDonnell (Asst. Fire Chief), Earl McKee (Chairman Orange County Commissioners), Daylon Hayes (Deputy Fire Chief), Danny Dennis (Eno Fire Dept. Treasurer), Shawn Garrard (Fireman), Susan Cashion (PEMC), Steve Long (PEMC), Renee Price (Orange County Commissioner), Sam Woods (PEMC), Richal Vanhook (PEMC), Lee O'Dell (Fireman) and David Poythress (PEMC).

Not Pictured Keith Hayes (Eno Fire Dept. Chief) and Rachel Hawkins (PEMC).

MORIAH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT: \$250,000 LOAN



The new truck will be used to improve the reliability of emergency response of the Moriah Volunteer Fire Department, which responds to approximately 300 calls per year to Person County and a small portion of Durham County.

Front Row (L to R) Steve Summey (PEMC), Rachel Hawkins (PEMC), Derrick Sims (Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce Chairman), Bruce Lynch (MVF&R Fire Chief), Carolyn Simmons (MVF&R Board President), Paul Bailey (PEMC), Patsy Brann (PEMC), Susan Cashion (PEMC) and Randy Brecheisen (PEMC).

Back Row (L to R) David Poythress (PEMC), Roger Whitt (MVF&R Assistant Fire Chief), Will Whitt (MVF&R Fireman), Cy Vernon (PEMC), Sam Woods (PEMC), Steve Long (PEMC), Jimmy Clayton (Person County Commissioner Chairman) and Bill Barber (PEMC).

JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER OVERVIEW

# RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY

Right-of-Way Activity is a proactive measure to keep the power lines clear of vegetation, keeping our power reliable and our members safe.

> Locations are SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to weather and other uncontrollable circumstances.

#### **ORANGE COUNTY**

- Dimmocks Mill Road
- Moorefield Loop Road
- Grady Brown School Road
- (and surrounding areas)

#### **PERSON COUNTY**

- City Lake Road
- Halifax Road
- Allensville Road
- Mountain Road
- (and surrounding areas)

#### **August**

#### **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)

#### **September**

### **ORANGE COUNTY**

- Ben Johnson Road
- Brookhollow Road
- Lebanon Road
- · High Rock Road
- Mill Creek Road (and surrounding areas)

#### PERSON COUNTY

- Mt. Harmony Church Road
- Oxford Road
- Pixley-Pritchard Road
- Tingen Mine Road
- Thomas Store Road (and surrounding areas)

- Orange Grove Road

- Ruff Davis Road



Geothermal Heat Pump

Geothermal Loop Installation

#### AN UPDATE ON GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

If you're thinking of switching to a more energy efficient heating and cooling system, there's still time to take advantage of the geothermal federal and state tax credits.

ON AVERAGE,

resulting in a

GEOTHERMAL SYSTEMS USE

less electricity than conventional heating or cooling systems,

monthly bill

#### What makes Geothermal different?

Geothermal systems use the ground or ground water as a thermal energy source to heat a residence, or as a thermal energy sink to cool it. Instead of creating heat, geothermal systems transfer it, making it a far

more efficient system than an air to air HVAC unit. On average, geothermal systems use 25–50% less electricity than conventional heating or cooling systems, resulting in a

lower monthly bill. Geothermal systems are not only energy efficient; they're environmentally friendly as well, as they do not emit carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, or other greenhouse gasses that contribute to air pollution.

### How to Qualify for the Tax Credits

Currently, there is both a federal and a state tax credit available to those who have a geothermal system installed at a new or existing residence.

To qualify for the 30% federal tax credit, the geothermal system must meet the Energy

Star program requirements that are in effect at the time of installation, and it must be installed on or before December 31, 2016. North Carolina offers up to a 35% tax credit, with a maximum of \$8,400

for geothermal equipment installation. The geothermal system must be installed on or before December 31, 2015, and meet state regulations.

If you are interested in learning more about geothermal energy, contact a Piedmont Electric Energy Specialist at 800.222.3107.

#### PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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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