



Beat the Peak

FEATURE ARTICLE

How does Piedmont EMC get electricity?

Piedmont Electric is a distributor of electricity. That means we don't produce any of the energy we provide our members. Instead, we purchase it from wholesale power companies, like Duke Energy, at our substations, and maintain the distribution lines that carry the electricity to our members' homes.

What are peak hours?

If you think of the electricity grid as a highway system, with the cars on the road representing the demand for electricity. Winter mornings and summer afternoons are a bit like rush-hour traffic. Just as there are more cars on the road during rush hour, there are more people using electricity during Peak Hours. Peak Hours are the periods of highest energy demand.

Piedmont EMC pays more for electricity during Peak Hours. So, by reducing your electricity use during these times, you can help Piedmont EMC keep costs down, which will keep rates lower for all PEMC customers.

When are peak demand periods?

For Piedmont Electric, peak summer demand usually falls on hot summer days between 1-7PM.

How can individual members help?

Our members can help us lower the amount of energy we use as a cooperative on peak demand days. We offer a number of programs, known as the "Energy Savings Suite," which are designed to help our members

lower their usage during peak periods and help the cooperative as a whole save money, which saves you money as well!

Last year we saved over \$3 million in wholesale power through the use of these programs, which was returned to our members as a credit on their bill. We want to be equally as successful this year, so we are encouraging our members to sign up for these programs at pemc.coop/save-energy-money.

How do Energy Savings Suite programs work?

The Energy Savings Suite is made up of three programs designed to lower demand during peak times:

- 1. Beat the Peak:** members are sent a text message/email alert asking them to voluntarily turn down their A/C units and conserve electricity during specified times.
- 2. Load Management:** switches are installed on the member's A/C unit and electric water heater. These devices are cycled down during peak periods to reduce the peak
- 3. Time-of-Day Rates:** provide lower rates during off-peak hours and higher rates during on-peak hours to encourage off-peak energy usage. Members on T-O-D rates save money by controlling when they use electricity.

Join your friends and neighbors by enrolling in the Energy Savings Suite today!

IMPORTANT DATES

JUL 3

Piedmont Electric will be closed to observe Independence Day

Operations crews will be on call.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Take advantage of Piedmont Electric's online tools and services

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Prepare yourself for hurricane season

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THE RIGHT TREE FOR THE RIGHT PLACE

Learn how planting in the right place provides many benefits for you and your family

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TIP OF THE MONTH

Power Down, Stay Cool

By turning your thermostat up 10° to 15° for 8 hours, you can save 5% to 15% a year on your cooling bill — a savings of as much as 1% for each degree if the setback period is eight hours long.

Source: Dept. of Energy

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In April, we hosted one of the most important Piedmont Electric events of the year, our annual meeting. I'd like to take a moment to thank each of you for attending the meeting. It is during this time of year that you democratically elect the board of directors and set the tone for the cooperative as a whole. We appreciate your participation, and I look forward to updating you on the progress of our cooperative throughout the year.

Each year, the annual meeting underlines the fact that our members are the owners of our cooperative utility. This structure means that your well-being is of the upmost importance to Piedmont Electric. We're moving into the warm months of summer, which, for many of our members, is a time of high electric bills. To help our members save money during this time, we have developed a number of programs designed to help you save energy.

One of the most powerful options Piedmont Electric members have at their disposal is a free Home Energy Audit from an energy specialist. These specialists will come into your home, check the insulation amounts,



R.G. Brecheisen
President & CEO of Piedmont EMC

Your well-being is of the upmost importance to Piedmont Electric.

explore heat loss in and around your windows and exterior doors and evaluate your air conditioning equipment. The specialist will then make suggestions for home comfort and energy saving improvements that can help you save on your bill throughout the year.

Piedmont Electric also offers a variety of tools on our website, pemc.coop,

including electricity saving calculators, applications, and daily usage monitoring that can help ease the impact of warm summer days on your energy bills. I hope that you will take advantage of these tools to better understand your energy usage and take control of your energy costs.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS

RECENTLY ADDED BUSINESSES



DOWN HOME GARDEN CENTER
Mebane, NC
10% OFF TOTAL OF \$25 OR MORE

Visit the Down Home Garden Center for all your gardening needs and locally made goods! The center features plants from local nurseries as well as outdoor swings, chairs and furniture. Each room inside the house features different goods for sale, made mostly by local hands.



SAVE \$5
BRAXTON TIRES
Hillsborough, NC
www.braxontire.com
\$5 off an oil change

SAVE 10%
CIAO PIZZA
Mebane, NC
www.ciaopizza.com
10% discount on entire restaurant bill (excludes alcohol)

SAVE 15%
FOX'S SUZUKI/ KAWASAKI INC.
Roxboro, NC
www.foxsinc.com
10% off motorcycle helmets and riding jackets

FREE
BEYOND MEASURE BARBERING
Mebane, NC
www.beyondmeasurebarbering.com
Free haircut on first visit – afterwards 20% discount each visit

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

AFTER THE STORM

What you should know...

Hurricane season starts on June 1, and while the past few years have featured mild hurricane activity in our area, it is important to always be prepared in case of dangerous severe weather. Before the storm hits, you should have an emergency kit prepared and know where to go in your home in case of an emergency. But what should you do after a storm, and how does Piedmont Electric respond? Check the timeline below to ensure that you are prepared.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:

- 1. Check pemc.coop** for outage information. To report an outage call **800.222.3107**
- 2. Take a quick visual inspection** of the interior and exterior of your home to ensure it is still safe to occupy.
- 3. Keep your family away** from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to Piedmont Electric at **800.222.3107**.
- 4. Never use a generator** inside of your home, as deadly levels of carbon monoxide will quickly build up in these areas.

HOW PIEDMONT ELECTRIC RESPONDS:

- 1. Our first step** is to dispatch repair crews while we coordinate our response strategy, including assessing damage and bringing in more line crews.
- 2. Piedmont repairs power lines**, starting with transmission towers and substations that can be damaged during a hurricane. This equipment serves tens of thousands of customers and is repaired first.
- 3. Next we repair distribution supply lines and final supply lines** that carry power into individual neighborhoods and homes.
- 4. Finally we repair lines that run between your house and the transformer.** ALWAYS report your outage so that the cooperative knows where to repair.

*Please Note: Even after Piedmont EMC repairs power lines, you may need to call a licensed electrician to get your power restored. If there is damage to your home wiring, Piedmont Electric cannot repair anything beyond the meter.

BY THE NUMBERS

6,161 MEMBERS ↑ 2 MEMBERS
are participating in the A/C Load Control Program

4,681 MEMBERS
are participating in the Electric Water Heater Load Control Program

1052 MEMBERS 24 MEMBERS
are participating in the PrePay Program

37 MEMBERS
have turned in receipts for 279 LED bulbs, representing a total of 163,494 kWhs saved toward our Senate Bill 3 Mandate

636 RESIDENTIAL MEMBERS ↑ 5 MEMBERS
have signed up for Time-of-Day Rates

701 MEMBERS ↑ 10 MEMBERS
have signed up to participate in the "Beat the Peak" program

1,363 MEMBERS
are participating in Project Helping Hand

1,038 VISITS ↑ 1 VISIT
made to TogetherWeSave.com, where you can learn more about the power of your electric cooperative membership

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

THIS MONTH'S RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY

ORANGE COUNTY

- Borland Rd
- Arthur Minnis Rd
- Wildwood Subdivision
- Joppa Oaks Subdivisions

PERSON COUNTY

- Cunningham Rd
- Barker Rd
- Ephesus Church Rd
- McGhees Mill Rd
- City Lake Rd

(and surrounding areas)

Locations are SUBJECT TO CHANGE due to uncontrollable circumstances.

THE RIGHT TREE FOR THE RIGHT PLACE

At this time of year, many of you are planting new trees and shrubs on your property. Planting 'The Right Tree for the Right Place' can provide you with many benefits, including shade, windbreaks and privacy. We ask members to consider the proximity of power lines when choosing the location to plant a new tree or shrub. Maintaining clearance for all power lines and equipment on your property is the key to safety and service reliability.

Right-of-Way Success Story

During a recent re-clearing along Piedmont EMC's 100 foot wide Transmission Line Right-of-Way (R-O-W) in the Chapel Hill area, there was a couple whose backyard lay adjacent to our transmission line. They had five mature Bradford

Pear trees planted that had reached a height with only 5 foot clearance from the 100kV lines. We approached them with two options: to either reduce the crown of the trees or remove the trees completely. The homeowners were exceptionally cooperative when we explained the importance and safety of R-O-W clearing. Piedmont EMC's R-O-W contractor, Lewis Tree Service, cut and removed the trees. While cooperation was key to this story, it's important to emphasize planting 'The Right Tree for the Right Place.' By planting trees outside the 100ft easement, both the homeowner and the electric utility can ensure electric safety and service reliability for all. For more information, visit: arborday.org/trees/rightTree.html



BEFORE



AFTER

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC'S RIGHT-OF-WAY PROGRAM

What is Piedmont Electric's Right-of-Way (R-O-W) Program?

Piedmont EMC provides Right-of-Way (R-O-W) trimming services for all primary power lines. R-O-W maintenance involves clearing a 30 foot corridor and trimming tree limbs back, so that they do not interfere with power lines. This allows Piedmont Electric access to the R-O-W for maintenance, repairs and to provide more reliable service to each of its members and increase the speed at which outages can be repaired. Piedmont Electric adheres to a three year R-O-W cycle, which means that we will be in your area re-clearing once every three years.

Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation

RIGHT-OF-WAY ACTIVITY

Right-of-Way activity is planned annually to allow for power line clearances, keeping our power plants and our members safe.

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APRIL/MAY/JUNE OVERVIEW

PERSON COUNTY

- South East Rd
- Middle Rd
- Hwy 95 South
- Williams St

(not necessarily exact)

ORANGE COUNTY

- Rt. 504 Rd
- New Lane Rd
- New Lane Church Rd

PERSON COUNTY

- Spruce St
- Rock Mountain Rd

(not necessarily exact)

ORANGE COUNTY

- Oakleaf Rd
- Oakleaf Rd
- Willow Gap Station
- Hwy 95/54 Station

PERSON COUNTY

- Campbell St
- Oakleaf Rd
- Willow Gap Rd
- Williams St Rd

(not necessarily exact)

COOPERATIVES LEADING THE WAY: ADVANCED METERS

In 2009 Piedmont Electric began installing AMI or "Smart" advanced meters in place of the old meters.

Cooperatives across the country are leading the way in creating a smarter energy grid. The energy grid is the largest machine ever built. It includes millions of miles of transmission and distribution lines that deliver power from generating stations to your front door. Despite the vastness of this energy distribution machine, the grid added no old analog switches and other devices to function for years.

to our command center. We no longer have to send an employee out to your house to "read the meter." Instead, data about energy usage is communicated directly from your meter back to the cooperative over the power lines.

With advanced meters, programs like the SmartHub account management program were created to give you unprecedented access to your home's energy usage information. You can receive daily information about your electricity usage and use that data to make decisions that could lower your energy bill.

Thanks to our advanced meters, you

This is revolutionizing the way electric bills are paid.

Smart meters also allow Piedmont Electric to formulate more efficient responses to outage situations. Because each meter is communicating, we can troubleshoot restoration events quicker.

Cooperatives continue to lead the way in the use of this technology. Innovative member utilities have not yet engaged with the new advanced meters fully. Our cooperative structure allows us to use new technology, such as advanced meters, to respond to the needs of our members. It's just one of the many

Every three months, PEMC posts the R-O-W activity in your area in the member *Connection* newsletter.

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