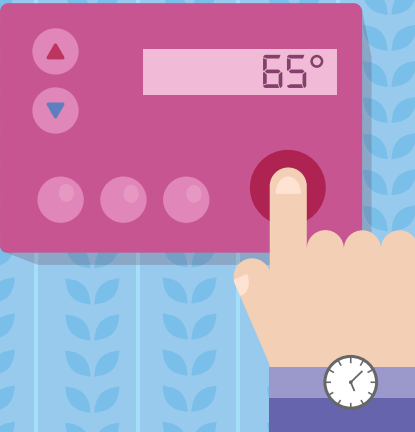




## HIGH SAVINGS ALERT

Use a programmable thermostat to stay cozy this winter and **SAVE 5-15%** on your heating bill!

FEATURE ARTICLE



### TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL AND STAY WARM THIS WINTER!

Did you know that heating and cooling your home can be the largest part of your energy bill each month? Many members are surprised this time of year by expensive electric bills caused by the colder weather. When the temperature drops outside, your heating system has to work harder to keep your home comfortable, which requires more energy and raises your electric bill.

Unlike some utilities, such as cable, which charge you a fixed price each month for a service no matter how much you use, a large part of your Piedmont Electric bill is determined by the amount of kilowatt-hours (kWh) you use. This puts your electric bill in your control! If you and your family find ways to use less energy, you'll see a lower electric bill.

**What can I do to help control my electric bill?** Today's modern programmable thermostats are a great way to reduce your heating and cooling costs. Programmable thermostats work by lowering the temperature of your home while you are away (or at night) and then bringing your home back to a comfortable temperature by the time you return, as efficiently as possible.

You simply tell your learning thermostat your habits and it will do all the work for you! Programmable thermostats start as low as \$25 while a learning thermostat can cost about \$200. Consider a powerful Nest Learning Thermostat, which learns your habits. Studies have shown that it can cut the heating part of your electric bill by 12%.

**How can I monitor my usage?** Piedmont Electric offers a number of ways for our members to monitor their energy usage. Our SmartHub application offers daily information about energy use in your home. We also offer the Analyze My Bill tool which takes your actual electric bill and shows you where and how you use energy. Find out more about these tools at [pemc.coop](http://pemc.coop).

### IMPORTANT DATES

**JAN 01**

**New Year's Day**  
Our offices will be closed for the holiday.

**JAN 01**

**Youth Tour Application Due**  
Available to rising high school juniors and seniors.

**MAR 31**

**Basketball Camp Application Due**  
Middle schoolers can apply for this once in a lifetime opportunity!

### Is a Time of Day (TOD) rate right for you?

Do you want to lower your bill? Do you have a programmable thermostat? Then a TOD rate may be right for you!

TOD rates work by giving program participants a lower rate when they use electricity off-peak; times of low demand. Participants should avoid using electricity on-peak; times when electricity is in high demand like early cold mornings in the winter and hot afternoons in the summer.

Simply program your thermostat to use electricity during off-peak hours and you will see your savings soar! If you think TOD rates work for you, call **800.222.3107** to get started!

### 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

Technology has the possibility of changing the electric utility industry. Piedmont Electric wants to be part of the change, if it benefits the members, by improving service and controlling cost. Modern technology would allow many new options for the production and utilization of electricity—what we like to call the Utility of the Future (UOF).

The UOF could utilize technology to manage energy on both sides of the meter. As an example, many members are installing solar generation; if all these solar sites could be controlled through new technologies they could help the existing large power plants run more efficiently. When these solar electric producers are managed as a group the energy produced could help the large power plants remain at peak efficiency, saving money for fuel and reducing carbon emissions for everybody.

The UOF could also manage how and when the customers use electricity. With the customer's permission, new technologies could be used to reduce electric load by controlling appliances, lighting, heating and air conditioning equipment, etc. If a large number of customers allowed the utility to



R.G. Brecheisen  
President & CEO of Piedmont EMC

## Technology is changing the electric utility industry

control their equipment that managed electric load could also (like solar) be used to improve existing power plant efficiency.

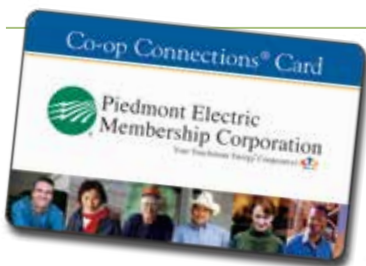
In addition, this increased efficiency could delay the cost of new power plant and transmission/distribution line construction. We also could use this modern technology to more efficiently manage substation voltage control, which will also reduce load and carbon emissions. In this UOF, small solar generators, voltage control and member equipment that is load managed could actually become a dependable power supply resource.

These new technologies can also help the customer make better energy-buying decisions. New advanced metering systems would be able to give the customer real-time

information about their energy usage and help the customer take control of their energy bill. Advanced metering systems would also allow for more efficient power restoration during power outages.

Overall, the UOF offers us opportunities to increase the safety and reliability of our grid, lower emissions and maintain affordability of electricity for our members. While we may not know exactly what the future holds, we do know that the future is bright and the more we work together, the stronger we'll be in powering our future. We wish our members and communities a Happy New Year and look forward to another successful year at Piedmont Electric.

### CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS



Alice D. Howell of Roxboro, NC, won a \$25 Visa gift card just by submitting her receipt from Vesuvio's Italian Restaurant in Roxboro to Piedmont EMC.

You too can be a winner – submit your receipt from a local Co-op Connections® business by January 30, 2016 for a chance to win a \$25 Visa Gift Card. One winner will be chosen. For contest details, call 800.222.3107 or visit [pemc.coop](http://pemc.coop).

SAVE 12%

**RESIDENCE INN OF CHAPEL HILL**  
Near the UNC Campus and Hospitals

12% OFF PREFERRED PARTNER RATE. SUBJECT TO BLACKOUT/AVAILABILITY

SAVE 12%

**HILTON GARDEN DURHAM**  
Southpoint

12% OFF PREFERRED PARTNER RATE. SUBJECT TO BLACKOUT/AVAILABILITY

SAVE 12%

**FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES OF DURHAM, NC**  
Southpoint

12% OFF PREFERRED PARTNER RATE. SUBJECT TO BLACKOUT/AVAILABILITY

SAVE 12%

**HYATT PLACE DURHAM**  
Southpoint

12% OFF PREFERRED PARTNER RATE. SUBJECT TO BLACKOUT/AVAILABILITY

Be prepared for

# EMERGENCY WEATHER

When the wintery wind blows, will you and your family be prepared? Use these tips and checklists to make sure your home and vehicle are properly stocked and organized in the case of severe weather.

## MAKE A WINTER EMERGENCY KIT FOR YOUR HOME:

- 3-day supply of non-perishable food
- Non-electric can opener
- Gallon of water per person per day
- Important prescriptions
- First aid kit, blankets and matches
- Dry chemical fire extinguisher
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio
- Extra batteries
- Shovel/rock salt
- Alternative fuel to heat your home, such as dry firewood or generator fuel

## MAKE A WINTER EMERGENCY KIT FOR YOUR CAR:

- Tire repair kit and pump
- Spare tire
- Blanket and extra clothing
- Shovel and flares
- Bottled water and non-perishable snacks
- Flashlight
- Knife or multi-tool
- Small portable first aid kit
- Windshield scraper
- Gloves and warm hat
- Jumper cables



## EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

Learn more about how you can stay informed by visiting our website, [pemc.coop](http://pemc.coop).

For emergencies,

**CALL 911**

FOR POLICE/FIRE/AMBULANCE

### For Power Outages, Call Piedmont EMC:

Automated Outage Reporting

**1.800.449.2667**

To speak to a Member Services Representative

**1.800.222.3107**

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETS JANUARY 9

Three seats on the Piedmont Electric Board of Directors are up for election at this year's annual meeting of the members. These seats are currently held by Talmadge Yancey (District 6), Steve Long (District 4) and Sam Woods (District 9).

The annual meeting will be held Friday, April 22, 2016, at Orange High School in Hillsborough.

### The members serving on the nominating committee are:

**SYLVIA WADE**

*Rougemont, At Large*

**JOE CURRIN**

*Chapel Hill, District 1*

**GREG MARTIN**

*Mebane, District 2*

**GREGORY RUDD**

*Yanceyville, District 3*

**DIANNE MURPHY**

*Mebane, District 4*

**ADAM SARVER**

*Roxboro, District 5*

**CLEOTIS LAWSON JR.**

*Roxboro, District 6*

**BLANCHE OAKLEY**

*Rougemont, District 7*

**JOANNA BROWN**

*Hillsborough, District 8*

**SUSAN GRAY**

*Timberlake, District 9*

The cooperative's bylaws provide an alternative to the nominating committee. Any fifty (50) or more members of the cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, in like manner listing the nominees separately with respect to the directorate districts from which they are nominated, on or before February 14, 2016, preceding the annual meeting at which such directors are to be elected.

Any member nominated by petition as a candidate for any Directorate must meet the qualifications to serve as a director set forth in section 4.02 before the nominee's name may be placed on the ballot for election at the annual meeting.



## PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.

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,  
David Poythress, Cyrus Vernon  
& Talmadge W. Yancey

### 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

Piedmont Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## NC BRIGHT IDEAS PROGRAM ENRICHING LIVES OF LOCAL STUDENTS & TEACHERS

Every year, Piedmont EMC awards outstanding, local teachers educational grants to fund engaging classroom projects for their students. This year, we awarded over \$25,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to 23 area teachers with more than 6,800 students at schools in Alamance, Caswell, Durham, Orange and Person counties benefitting from these projects.

One local recipient, Kim Kelleher, a school counselor from New Hope Elementary School in Hillsborough, is also a three-time Bright Ideas grant winner. "The Bright Ideas education grant program has supported my efforts to introduce 'outside the box' teaching; literally outside on our school nature trail. We created a one-mile nature trail outside in the woodland forest surrounding our school."

Not only have these Bright Ideas grants provided Mrs. Kelleher with the resources and materials necessary for outdoor learning for her students, but they have enriched the lives of our state's youth. "With help from the Bright Ideas grant program and the National Parks, I began Junior



Kim Kelleher, one of Piedmont EMC's 2015 Bright Ideas Grant recipient, is a counselor at New Hope Elementary School and has been an educator for 36 years. She was honored in 2014 as N.C. School Counselor of the Year.

Rangers and Friends of the Nature Trail Programs. Over time, students have been able to lead tours on our nature trail for other students and visitors. These programs have had a major impact on our school climate and student achievement."

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives collectively have awarded more than \$9.6 million to Tar Heel teachers in K-12 classrooms across the state. Visit [pemc.coop](http://pemc.coop) to see the full list of winners.



### New Water Heater Regulations Restrict Tank Sizes

If you plan on purchasing a water heater that is larger than 55-gallons, you will need to go through Piedmont Electric to complete your purchase, as hardware stores and other retailers are no longer allowed to sell these sizes directly to consumers.

Additionally, electric water heaters larger than 55 gallons must have this larger heater on Piedmont Electric's Load Control program, which pays the member \$1 per month to allow the cooperative to reduce electricity to the heater during periods of high energy demand. Water heaters keep a supply of hot water, and most members won't notice when their water heaters are under Load Control.

Find out more at [pemc.coop](http://pemc.coop)