



## HISTORY OF THE COOPERATIVE

Our mission since 1938 has been to improve the lives of the members we serve by providing power at a good value. Our rich history not only testifies to the resiliency and strength of the cooperative business structure, but to the tremendous fortitude of the community leaders and members who have sustained it.

**1935** President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs an executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), which offers low-interest loans to assist locally formed electric cooperatives with power line construction.

**1938** Piedmont Electric receives official papers of incorporation from the state of North Carolina.

**1939** Piedmont Electric's first substation in Hillsborough powers the lines to electrify the homes of its members for the first time.

**1943** Piedmont Electric adds territory in Durham and Granville counties.

**1954** Hurricane Hazel takes out 90 percent of Piedmont Electric's service, in the worst damage the cooperative has ever suffered.



*Our promise for the future is to continue providing the high quality and affordable electric service that our members have come to trust over the past 78 years.*



**1986** Piedmont Electric opens its new office headquarters on Highway 86 in Hillsborough to house all central operations.

**2003** Piedmont Electric offers "green power" as an option to members who want to help the environment by buying blocks of power generated by renewable resources.

**2006** Piedmont Electric installs first smart meter.

**2013** Piedmont Electric celebrates 75 years of service.

**2016** Piedmont Electric enables all members to invest in solar energy through two community solar projects.

## IMPORTANT DATES

OCT

### Co-op Month

Cooperative members across the nation celebrate what makes cooperatives unique!

OCT  
14

### National Co-op Connections Day

Use your Co-op Connections® card to save at participating local restaurants and businesses today and everyday!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Working together, we all win!*

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## CAPITAL CREDITS

*How we return money back to members.*

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## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER?

*Being a member gives you ownership and a voice in the cooperative.*

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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. You can also visit [pemc.coop/newsletter](http://pemc.coop/newsletter) and sign up to receive our email newsletter.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Being part of an electric cooperative means being part of something special! As a result, Piedmont Electric is celebrating National Cooperative Month in October along with 40,000 other cooperative businesses serving more than 120 million people nationwide.

Many Americans do business with a cooperative every day. Co-ops exist in almost every industry from energy to news reporting to healthcare, and while the services cooperatives provide may differ, there are a couple of key characteristics all co-ops share.

One of the most important features of a cooperative is its not-for-profit business model. A co-op's mission is to meet its members' needs for goods or services. As your local electric co-op, we strive to provide you with the electricity you need to power your everyday life, at a good value.

In addition, we work each day to make sure you have the information and tools necessary to help you manage your energy use and your bill. There's no better example of us working together to save energy and money than our programs aimed at reducing the cooperative's peak energy use such



Stephen B. Hamlin

President & CEO of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation

## The power of working together

as Load Management, Time-of-Day rates and our Beat the Peak program.

Thanks in large part to our members who stepped up to participate in these programs, we have saved more than \$6 million in power costs since 2013. These savings have allowed your board of directors to approve a rate reduction. Since January, our members have saved an average of 4.7 percent of the monthly energy component of their bill. With your help, we hope to

continue this reduction through 2016 and into the future.

Collectively, we make a big difference when each member of the co-op makes a small change. Thank you to every member who has helped us to reduce our peak and energy related costs. We work best when we all work together. That is the cooperative difference!



Visit [Connections.Coop/PEMC](http://Connections.Coop/PEMC) for discount details and a complete list of participating local businesses, national businesses, dentists, chiropractors, vision care centers and pharmacies.

### Can't find your Co-op Connections Card?

Visit [Connections.Coop/PEMC](http://Connections.Coop/PEMC) to print a new one or call our office at **1.800.222.3107** for a replacement.

## CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS

### New Local Business Deals!



**BACON'S MEAT MARKET**  
Hillsborough, NC  
**10% off Fresh Meat**  
on Tuesdays



### SWEET DEAL!

For the month of October, co-op members will get 10% off one store item every day at Bacon's Meat Market when they show their Co-op Connections card.



# WHAT'S A CAPITAL CREDIT?



*Did you know that Piedmont Electric is a not-for-profit electric utility? That means we only collect enough revenue to cover our costs. When we collect more than we need to operate, we return the extra money back to our members as capital credits. Since 1975, Piedmont Electric has returned more than \$21.3 million in capital credits to our members. That's a lot of money being returned to our members!*

## THE JOURNEY OF A DOLLAR

Before being returned to members, our excess revenue is reinvested back into the system. This creates even more savings for Piedmont Electric members because these funds are used to reduce the amount of money the cooperative has to borrow to maintain and improve our system. These funds help us:

- Keep rates low
- Update and repair equipment
- Provide energy-saving programs
- Respond to emergency situations



While Piedmont Electric invests excess revenue from past years back into the co-op, each year we also return capital credits to members from a previous year, or years, in proportion to the amount of energy each member used during those years. If you do not receive a capital credit, we retired a year in which you were not yet a member of Piedmont Electric.

For the past 40 years, Piedmont Electric has returned capital credits to our members!

***Capital credits, another example of the Cooperative Difference.***

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER?



Many businesses use the word “member” to describe their customers. You pay a fee to buy their goods and services, but that is really all you get for the “membership.” No right to vote for the board of directors, no ownership stake in the company, no capital credits and no way to participate in the organization.

Cooperatives like Piedmont Electric are different, membership really does mean something more than just the right to buy electricity. Not only do you have a voice, but you’re part of a rich history.

Did you know that cooperatives are formed when the market fails to offer a quality good or service at an affordable price? That’s exactly why Piedmont Electric was formed.

In the 1930s, private utilities didn’t service our area because there weren’t enough people per mile to make a profit in our rural communities.

So, the founding members of Piedmont Electric went door to door to secure the rights-of-way required to start a co-op that would bring electricity to their neighbors. Those “go-getters” realized the only way to get electricity for their community was to do it themselves.

Ever since then, ownership and control of the cooperatives has been in the hands of the people who use the co-op’s service to power their everyday lives, not investors. That means that our primary interest always has been and always will be our members.

## YOUTH PROGRAM DEADLINES

YOUTH TOUR  
JANUARY 1, 2017



BASKETBALL CAMPS  
MARCH 31, 2017



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS  
MARCH 31, 2017

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT  
**PEMC.COOP/COMMUNITY**  
OR CALL  
**800.222.3107**

## PROJECT HELPING HAND



Piedmont Electric members can round their monthly electric bills to the next dollar to help fund this program, which helps the less fortunate in our community pay their electric bills.

If you’d like to help a fellow member heat their home this winter or know someone who needs assistance, call our office at **1.800.222.3107**.

## PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corp.

2500 NC Highway 86 South  
PO Drawer 1179  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
800.222.3107

Piedmont Electric is an  
equal opportunity provider  
and employer.

Stephen B. Hamlin  
President and CEO

### DIRECTORS

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Paul L. Bailey, Vice Chairman  
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### IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL US AT 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, let us know by completing the form that comes with your monthly bill or by calling 800.222.3107.

Pay account and access account information by phone 24 hours a day by calling 877.999.3394. Voice instructions will direct you through the system.