



FEATURE ARTICLE

Last September, in partnership with the USDA, Piedmont Electric extended a \$750,000 zero-interest loan to the Town of Yanceyville to aid in the expansion of their municipal fire department. A portion of the funds, once repaid, will be re-loaned to assist with future projects in the Piedmont Electric area.

NC CO-OPS LEAD NATION IN REDLG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Piedmont Electric is a cooperative business, which means we do more than deliver electricity. We deliver on a promise to enhance life in the communities we serve by investing in education, supporting essential community services and leading innovative economic development initiatives that bring jobs to rural areas. It's because of this promise that we began our Community Loan Program back in 2014.

Our Community Loan Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. It was created to help retain employment in rural areas.

Piedmont Electric partners with the USDA to access the funding and then use it toward projects that will make an impact in rural communities. Since 2012, projects boosted by REDLG funding have supported the creation of about 1,800 jobs in North Carolina.

Since Piedmont Electric began its Community Loan Program in 2014, we have partnered with the USDA to serve with the following projects:

- **City of Mebane** – \$1,268,000 for fire trucks and fire station equipment
- **Bethel Hill Charter School** – \$360,000 for new building
- **Eno Fire Department** – \$285,000 for fire truck
- **New Hope Fire Department** – \$168,000 for fire truck

- **Rural Orange Fire Department** – \$360,000 for fire truck
- **Moriah Volunteer Fire Department** – \$250,000 for fire truck
- **Caswell County EMS** – \$360,000 for ambulances
- **Town of Yanceyville** – \$750,000 for fire station

In total, Piedmont Electric and North Carolina's electric cooperatives have contributed \$52 million in REDLG funding for exciting regional rural economic development projects. Funding totals are expected to increase as additional projects are approved.

Piedmont Electric currently has several more projects that are pending USDA approval.

We will continue to take a leadership role in supporting initiatives that address the challenges of the future and help make our cooperative communities vibrant places to live and work.

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY 4

Independence Day observed. All offices will be closed, and employees will be on call.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Prepared for Summer Storms

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SUMMER VACATION

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Call before you dig.**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is here, school is out and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Piedmont Electric is ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year round – through right-of-way clearing – to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, during major storms, damage can occur to transmission stations, substations and power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every phone line available is utilized to take your outage report calls. Members are encouraged to call our Outage Reporting Number at **1.800.449.2667** to report an outage. Then, the big problems are handled first – like

We are prepared for summer storms

damage to transmission lines, which typically serves tens of thousands of people. These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

Piedmont Electric's line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there, or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to thousands of members.

Next, line crews check the service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Line crews repair the damaged lines, restoring power to hundreds of people. If you continue

to experience an outage, there may be damage to a tap line outside of your home or business. Make sure you notify Piedmont Electric so crews can inspect these lines.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. For the latest updates during a power outage, be sure to check our website www.pemc.coop or our Facebook and Twitter pages on your computer, smartphone or tablet.

Finally, as with all emergency situations, put safety first and stay away from downed power lines. For more tips on weathering storms safely, visit www.ready.gov.

R.G. Brecheisen

President & CEO of Piedmont EMC

STAYING

CONNECTED

2016 Annual Meeting of Members

Piedmont Electric held its 77th Annual Meeting of Members on April 8 at Orange High School. We welcomed more than 600 attendees, including 349 registered members. This year's annual meeting theme was "Staying Connected" which demonstrates how Piedmont Electric has maintained a strong connection with our members and the communities we serve.

Members were entertained by Cody Shuler and the Pine Mountain Railroad. Entertainment was followed by an audiovisual presentation of our 2015 business affairs which included a video made by Touchstone Energy about Piedmont Electric.

\$500 GRAND PRIZE WINNERS

DARLENE CANOLES
Durham, NC

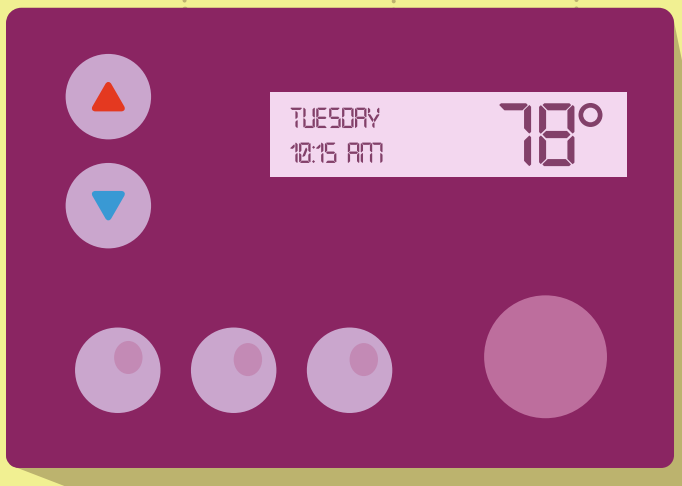
ANNIE TINNIN
Cedar Grove, NC

WILLIAM DUNKLEY
Allensville, NC

Thermostat should be situated on an interior wall away from vents, doors, windows and lamps.

Choose a model that works best with your schedule. Seven-day models allow you to set different programs every day and provide the most flexibility. Five-and-two day models follow the same schedule during the week and a different one for weekends.

Safety should always be your top priority. Turn off the electricity before you replace your existing thermostat with a programmable one.



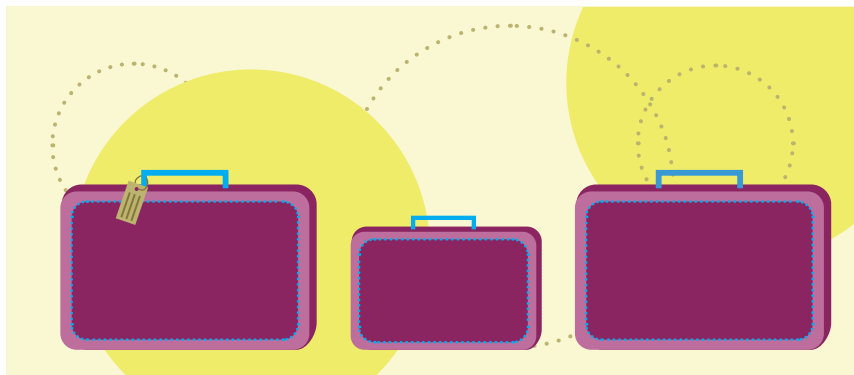
Manage your summer energy bill with a
PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT

In the summer months, simply raise your programmable thermostat 7–10°F for 8 hours, during work or sleeping hours to save energy and money.

If you do not have a programmable thermostat, set your A/C to 78°F in the summer for maximum energy efficiency.

Program the thermostat to begin cooling to your desired temperature shortly before you get home or wake up, so your home is comfortable when you need it to be.

Set the temperature between 78–80°F to save up to 8% on monthly cooling bills.



INCLUDE HOME ENERGY SAVINGS IN SUMMER VACATION PLANS

Many people have a misconception that when they leave their home to go on a vacation, their energy bill will go down. However, automatic power users like the water heater and fridge still use energy even when you're away. Consider making these adjustments before you leave town to give your utility bill a break when you're on vacation.

Water Heater.

Turn down the temperature to the lowest setting, so it doesn't keep the water warm while you are away. Leave a reminder to turn it back up upon returning home.

Thermostat.

Turn up the thermostat on your air conditioning system to 85 degrees to save energy while ensuring that your home doesn't get too warm.

Refrigerator.

Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures

are 35–38°F for the fresh food compartment and 0°F for separate freezers for long-term storage.

Lights.

Turn off all lights in your home. You may want to install timers on one or two lights for security. Consider installing LED bulbs, they use about 75–80 percent less energy than traditional bulbs.

Electronics.

Unless you're recording something while away, unplug all of your electronic devices, such as computers, monitors, printer, TVs, microwave and digital clocks. Any electronics with digital displays, instant-on features or remote controls will consume energy even if they're not in use.



ADD CONVENIENCE WITH MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTERS!

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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 landline, 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
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*Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

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