



FEATURE ARTICLE

USE SMARTHUB'S "USAGE EXPLORER" TO HELP CONTROL YOUR BILL

As a member of Piedmont Electric, you are in a unique position to take advantage of energy efficiency programs offered by the cooperative. As a not-for-profit organization owned by our members, our goal is to provide safe, reliable power at the least cost for our members. This means helping you save money on your monthly electric bill.

The SmartHub application is one of the best tools you have to help you save money every month. SmartHub is a safe and secure program that is free for all of our members. You can use SmartHub to keep tabs on when your energy use is high, what appliances use the most electricity and other details about your energy use. This information is available at your fingertips and will help you keep energy savings in mind.

Take control of your energy use this summer by logging into SmartHub to monitor your daily usage. You can use this information to determine how to make adjustments to your energy consumption and directly see the effects of those changes the next day. Daily use monitoring can also alert you to problems with your air conditioning unit or other equipment.

When you use electricity is just as important as how much you use.

During the summer, most households use more power in the afternoon – when temperatures are at their highest. By reducing your usage during these high demand times, you save money and help the other members of Piedmont Electric save as well by reducing peak loads.

Logging into SmartHub daily will show you exactly when you're using the most energy and how making changes may affect your bill.

You can access SmartHub from a desktop computer or on the go from a tablet or mobile device. Visit the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store and search for "SmartHub" to download the free app. Signing up is easy and fast, and you can start using it immediately.

As your trusted energy provider, Piedmont Electric is proud to offer energy efficiency programs, like SmartHub, for you, our members.

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY 4

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

HILLSBOROUGH OFFICE RENOVATION

Beginning in July, we will be renovating the Hillsborough office. Our office will be open and we apologize for any inconvenience you may experience during our renovations.

Note: The Hillsborough drive-thru will be closed at times during office hours (8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.) throughout this renovation, but the payment drop box will be open after 5:00 p.m.

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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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some of life's biggest events are bittersweet. At our Annual Meeting in April, I announced my retirement, with a mixture of sadness at leaving a company that I have been with since 1983, and excitement for the future of the cooperative. As Steve Hamlin begins his new role as Piedmont Electric's President and CEO, I'm confident that Piedmont Electric has never been more secure in its direction and is in perfectly capable hands.

Steve, who has served for years as our chief financial officer, is a certified public accountant and has an extensive background in finance. He has been with Piedmont Electric for 17 years and has a deep understanding of the inner workings of the cooperative and our connection to our members. Steve and I have been working together for the last few months to ensure a smooth transition. For many, change can be a scary thing. But rest assured, this transition does not indicate a change in the direction for our cooperative. Providing our members with safe, reliable, environmentally responsible power



New Leadership in Capable Hands

at the least cost to our members has always been our top priority, and it will continue to be our top priority moving forward. I have the utmost confidence that Steve will continue to lead Piedmont Electric by following our guiding principles and with the mission of partnering with our members to provide energy value and enhance quality of life.

I'm a lucky man for being able to work with such a special community of members and employees for 33 years. As I end my 24 years as President and CEO, I would like to offer my sincere

Retiring CEO Randy Brecheisen welcoming incoming CEO Steve Hamlin.

gratitude to everyone that has made my tenure so successful. The members and employees of this cooperative are what make Piedmont Electric strong. Each of you have helped make this job more rewarding than I could have ever imagined.

Thank you for your continued support of Piedmont Electric, I can't wait to watch our continued growth.

—Randy Brecheisen

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CEO

Piedmont Electric's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Steve Hamlin has been selected as the next President & CEO. Hamlin moved into the position upon the official retirement of President & CEO Randy G. Brecheisen in June 2016. He is the fifth leader in the Cooperative's 78-year history.



Hamlin brings 17 years of cooperative knowledge and experience to this position. He began at Piedmont Electric in 1999 as an accounting manager and then as the Cooperative's chief financial officer. Hamlin graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1978. He is a certified public accountant and worked in public accounting as well as private industry prior to joining Piedmont Electric. Hamlin is married with three grown children and most recently, a grandson.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

Glennie C. Beasley, of the Haven Hill community in Durham County, has been selected to serve as a member of the cooperative's Board of Directors representing District 8. She is filling the unexpired term left vacant by Richard Roberts, who recently retired from the Board.



Ms. Beasley has been a member of Piedmont Electric for 14 years. She is retired from the NC Cooperative Extension Service in Chatham County, where she was employed as a family and consumer education agent. Her office was located in Pittsboro, however, her audience was comprised of families throughout the county.

She is a member of Union Grove Baptist Church in Person County. She serves on several other boards and committees. She enjoys volunteering, participating in community and other organized projects and reading recipes.

Tap into

THE POWER OF THE SUN



Since April 1, 2016

OVER

2 8 1

PANELS
SUBSCRIBED

ONLY

1 5 7 3

PANELS
REMAINING

Reduce

your carbon

footprint!

Join the dozens of other members who have enrolled in our Community Solar Project and started a more sustainable lifestyle!

In addition to giving all of our members the opportunity to get involved with clean, solar technology, this project helps Piedmont Electric diversify our energy resources.

Contact Jay Berry, Piedmont Electric Energy Specialist, at **(919) 644-3449** or visit pemc.coop/community-solar to get more information and find out how you can join your neighbors and reduce your carbon footprint!

What are the advantages for me?

- Low-cost way to tap into the power of the sun. No money down and a low monthly subscription fee.
- Solar energy produced by the panels will be credited directly to your electric bill.
- No hassling with maintenance; we'll take care of that!
- Our sites at the Roxboro and Caswell offices are well-suited for solar panels, so you can be sure you're getting the most out of the sun's potential. Site suitability is often an issue with home solar installations.
- Perfect for renters who want to be involved with renewable energy.
- No red tape with zoning restrictions or homeowners' associations.



TIPS FOR BEATING HIGH SUMMER ELECTRIC BILLS

Don't let warmer weather turn into "summertime blues" when your monthly electric bill arrives. Use these low-cost energy tips from Piedmont Electric to help keep your energy use and your bill low during these warm summer months.

Keep the heat out of the kitchen. Avoid using the oven whenever possible to help reduce the load on your air conditioner. Summer is the perfect opportunity to cook outdoors on a grill and keep excess heat out of the house. When you decide to make a meal indoors, choose a toaster oven or slow cooker to get the job done with less energy than a conventional stovetop or oven.

Become a "fan" of ceiling fans. While they don't replace air conditioners, fans move air and help you feel more comfortable. On milder days, fans can save as much as 60 percent on electric bills. However, remember that fans cool people, not rooms, so they should be turned off when you leave the room.

Adjust the thermostat. During warmer months, raising the thermostat by

a few degrees can go a long way in helping you save money. Setting the temperature between 78–80° F could save you up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills. Install a programmable thermostat to help you easily regulate your home's temperature year round.

Clear the air. A dirty air filter makes your cooling system work harder to keep you cool, which wastes energy. Changing your air filter regularly helps to ensure efficient operation, keeping your electricity bill in check and reducing the need for costly maintenance over time. In many cases, it takes only a few minutes to replace your existing filter with a new one.

Think ahead. Piedmont Electric offers a free home energy analysis to all of our members. An experienced energy specialist performs the audit and makes suggestions for home comfort improvements. If there are repairs that need to be done, consider making them sooner rather than later so that you can enjoy the energy savings as soon as possible.



ADD CONVENIENCE WITH MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTERS!

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PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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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
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