



FEATURE ARTICLE

## 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO BE DOING TO SAVE ENERGY

It happens every year: the days grow longer, the sun shines brighter and air conditioners across North Carolina start running more often. While hot weather and high energy use go hand-in-hand, there are still many things you can do to help cut back on your energy usage.

### HIGH ENERGY SAVINGS

#### 1. Keep your air conditioner from being overworked

Install a programmable thermostat for your home, which lets you automatically set the temperature according to your schedule. Don't pay to keep your home at a comfortable temperature when you aren't there to enjoy it!

It's also important to remember to change your air filters monthly so your system works more efficiently.

### MEDIUM ENERGY SAVINGS

#### 2. Be mindful of hot water usage

Consider installing low-flow shower heads to cut back on overall water usage. To further reduce costs, adjust your water heater's temperature to 120° F.

Turn your hot water heater off or turn the temperature down when you leave on vacation.

#### 3. Blinds and shades

Use blinds and shades to cover your windows, shade the inside of your house and help keep your home cool.

#### 4. Use lighting wisely

If you haven't already, replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient LED bulbs, which use 90 percent less energy.

### LOW ENERGY SAVINGS

#### 5. Small changes add up

Raise the temperature of your A/C and use ceiling fans to stay cool. Fans use less energy than A/C, so using them in place of A/C lowers your bill and gives a similar cool feeling. Also, move lamps and televisions away from your thermostat, which can sense the heat they give off, causing your air conditioner to run longer.

By making these adjustments in your home, you can expect to see your energy usage — and your bill — reduced.

### IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT  
5

#### Labor Day

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

SEPT  
23

#### Bright Ideas Deadline

Teachers are encouraged to apply for a grant to fund innovative class projects. Visit [NCBrightIdeas.com](http://NCBrightIdeas.com) to learn more.

August is a

**PEAK MONTH**

Watch for alerts to limit power usage during peak times to save money for you and your co-op!

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Moving Forward, Together.*

PAGE 22

### BEAT THE PEAK

*Take Control of Your Energy Bill*

PAGE 23

### GO GREEN

*Now is the Best Time to Invest in Solar!*

PAGE 24

**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

I am honored to write this letter as the new President and CEO of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation. It has been a privilege to work for this cooperative for the past 17 years, first as the accounting manager and then as chief financial officer.

As the fifth leader in our co-op's 78-year history, I promise to carry out Piedmont Electric's strong legacy of providing our local communities with safe, reliable and environmentally responsible electricity at a reasonable cost.

Foremost among the many strengths of this electric cooperative is you, our member. Not only are you a consumer, but you are an owner of this co-op – this is what we call the cooperative difference.

Our mission has remained constant – to empower and to partner with our members to provide energy value and to enhance quality of life. Our current success and future potential derive from our deep commitment and connections with our members.

During the past three decades, the cooperative membership has doubled in size while technology has advanced exponentially. Over



Stephen B. Hamlin  
President & CEO of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation

## Moving Forward, Together.

the years, Piedmont Electric has invested in a number of technological innovations such as digital services for members to access account and usage information, two-way digital communication and programs that support renewable energy for members like our community solar program.

What each of these innovations has in common is that they all empower Piedmont Electric's members to better understand and control their energy usage, while at the same time enabling the cooperative to provide better, more reliable electric service and conduct business in a more cost-effective manner.

In addition, these services help the cooperative and members stay connected like never before. By

enabling our members with these tools and knowledge, we empower them to make better energy decisions.

I would like to close by thanking my predecessor, Randy Brecheisen, for his mentorship and support for all these years. I also thank all of Piedmont Electric's employees for their hard work, day in and day out, to keep this cooperative running smoothly and the lights on despite what Mother Nature may send our way.

Above all, I thank our members, the foundation of our cooperative. I look forward to connecting with all of you and to guiding the continued success of Piedmont Electric.

## CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS



### Co-op Connections® Card Contest

Member Tammy Tuck of Timberlake won a \$25 Visa gift card just by submitting her receipt after visiting a local Co-op Connections participating business!

You too can be a winner – submit your receipt from a local Co-op Connections® business by July 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 \$1

**BAILEY'S BEE SUPPLY**  
Hillsborough, NC  
\$1 off one quart of honey

SAVE 10%

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10% off purchase

FREE HAIRCUT

**BEYOND MEASURE BARBERING**  
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Free haircut on first visit – afterwards 20% discount each visit.

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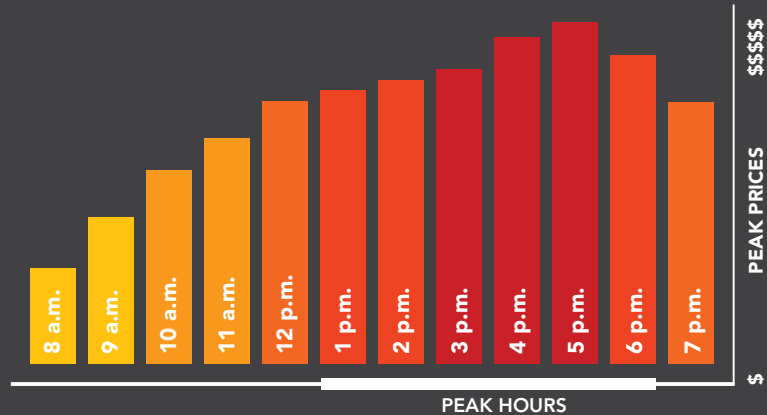
**CHAPEL HILL TENNIS CLUB**  
Carrboro, NC  
Special offers throughout the year including special offers for year round and summer memberships.



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.

# Piedmont Electric Members TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR ENERGY BILL

*The summer is notorious for high temperatures and high energy use. But what can you do to keep your usage and your costs down?*



## JOIN BEAT THE PEAK

Beat the Peak is a voluntary program aimed at reducing energy consumption during hours of peak energy use, also known as times of high demand. When we forecast peak demand (usually between 1-6 p.m. during the summer), we'll send you a text or email alert.

You'll then be able to turn off/turn down your thermostat or unplug as many electronic items as you can to help reduce the amount of energy you're using.

In addition to lowering your bill, this helps every member of the cooperative save money by lowering the amount of energy we use during peak times. Peak energy is the most expensive type of energy to produce and is typically less environmentally friendly.

For more information about this program, visit  
[pemc.coop/BTP](http://pemc.coop/BTP)

August is a  
**PEAK MONTH**  
and the perfect time to  
enroll in the program.

## TO ENROLL

Text BTPEAK and your first and last name to 85700 or include your name and address in an email to [BeatThePeak@pemc.coop](mailto:BeatThePeak@pemc.coop).

## \$2.4 MILLION

Piedmont Electric members banded together last year to save \$2.4 million by reducing their power usage during peak demand times!



Now is the best time

# TO INVEST IN SOLAR!

Bright, sunny summer days are ideal for capturing the power of the sun. Don't miss out on your chance to join our community solar program. Panels are limited, so claim yours today!

To find out how to get your panels, contact Jay Berry, Piedmont Electric Energy Specialist at (919) 644-3449 or visit [pemc.coop/community-solar](http://pemc.coop/community-solar)

## Why should I join a community solar program?

- 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.
- Great way to go green and reduce your carbon footprint.
- No hassling with maintenance; we'll take care of that!
- Our sites at our 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.



## ADD CONVENIENCE WITH MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTERS!

Want the monthly newsletter in your inbox for an easy read? Go to [PEMC.coop](http://PEMC.coop) to sign up to receive our email newsletters in addition to the *Carolina Country* magazine.

## PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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## 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  
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\*Voice instructions will direct you through the system.

Call 811 BEFORE you dig

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Piedmont Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

