



FEATURE ARTICLE

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WINTER

As the temperatures drop, many of us bump the thermostat up, which leads to higher energy use and higher bills. Prepare your home before the winter weather strikes to help manage your energy use and bill.

Winterize Your Home

Follow these tips to save energy and money while keeping your home comfortable this winter:

- Inspect your heating equipment every year to ensure it's working properly.
- Caulk and weather strip doors and windows to keep out the cold. Draft stoppers are an inexpensive solution you can make yourself.
- Insulate your hot water heater and pipes. If they are warm to the touch, they are good candidates for insulation.
- Install storm doors and windows to add an extra barrier to the cold, or cover the inside of windows with window plastic for a less expensive solution.
- Remember that heat rises. Add insulation to your attic to help prevent heat from escaping your home.

Manage Your Energy Use

Making these small changes in your daily life can help you better control your energy use and bill:

- Change your air filter once a month.
- Keep all curtains closed at night and keep those that don't get direct sunlight closed during the day.

- DO NOT use the emergency or auxiliary heat setting on your thermostat unless it is truly an emergency as these settings are much more expensive to run.
- Log in to your SmartHub account to monitor your daily energy use and see exactly how the adjustments you make can affect your bill.

Beat the Peak

Want to help Piedmont Electric keep rates low? Join our Beat the Peak program!

Part of our power supply costs are determined during the time when members are using the greatest amount of electricity, known as our peak period.

Once you enroll in the program, you'll be alerted when a peak period is expected, so you can save energy during that time. Reducing our power costs help us keep rates low for our members!

To join Beat the Peak, call us at 800.222.3107 or email BeatThePeak@pemc.coop.

For more energy saving tips and to see how you can lower your bill, visit pemc.coop/save-energy-money.

IMPORTANT DATES

NOV
24-25

Thanksgiving

Piedmont Electric offices will be closed and employees will be on call. Enjoy your holiday!

DEC
23 & 26

Christmas

Offices will be closed for the holiday and employees will be on call.

JAN
1

Youth Tour Deadline

Applications for Youth Tour are due. For more information, visit pemc.coop/community.

JAN
2

New Year's Day

Piedmont Electric offices will be closed and employees will be on call.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter is coming

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PROJECT HELPING HAND

An easy way to help your community.

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NOMINATION BYLAWS

Requirements on how we elect our Board of Directors.

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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 and sign up to receive our email newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter is coming. Are you ready? As your electric cooperative, we want to make sure you and your home are prepared for the colder weather.

Start by getting your home ready for the cold. Heating or cooling your home is typically the biggest expense on your power bill, so anything you can do to heat your home more efficiently this winter will have an impact.

I encourage you to explore our website, the pages of this magazine and to check out our Facebook and Twitter pages each day as we provide you with tips on what you can do to make your home more energy efficient and how you can manage your energy bill.

One of the best things to do is log in to our SmartHub portal using your computer or tablet, or download the app on your phone. SmartHub can help you analyze your usage and let you see how the changes you make impact your bill.

Getting ready for winter also means checking in on that emergency kit you had ready for hurricane season. It can come in handy this winter, but make



We are ready to weather the winds of winter

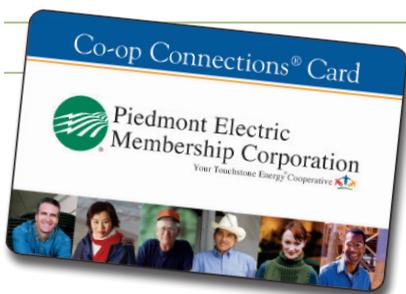
Stephen B. Hamlin
President & CEO of Piedmont Electric
Membership Corporation

sure you plan for the cold and add a blanket or warm clothing to your kit. Don't forget fresh batteries for your flashlight!

As you are busy preparing for the winter weather, we are too. Our right-of-way crews work year-round to make sure trees and bushes remain clear of power lines. Snow and ice can weigh down branches, making them come into contact with power lines and causing blinks and outages.

In the event the power does go out, our crews will work quickly and safely to make sure your power is restored. When a particularly bad storm hits, crews from other cooperatives will come to assist in restoring power.

It is truly a strength of the nationwide cooperative network and just one more way we are ready to weather the winter temperatures!



Visit 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 to print a new one or call our office at **800.222.3107** for a replacement.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS



CONNECTIONS.COOP/HEALTHY-SAVINGS

As cold and flu season move in, remember to use your Co-op Connections Card® for discounts at your local pharmacy and more. For a complete list of health discounts visit Connections.Coop/Healthy-Savings.

Help your neighbor, round up your bill.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC is committed to supporting our members, all of them. That's why we are proud to support Project Helping Hand, a program that helps keep the lights on for our members in need. We encourage you to join us in our efforts to support our neighbors who need a helping hand.



How it Works

1. Sign up for Project Helping Hand by calling **800.222.3107** or by visiting **PEMC.coop** and searching for Project Helping Hand.
2. Each month we'll round your electric bill to the nearest dollar (if your bill is \$75.55, we'll round it to \$76).
3. The excess money (in our example, \$0.45) is placed into a fund, which is used to help keep the lights on for families and individuals who are in need in our community.

BYLAW REQUIREMENTS LISTED FOR NOMINATIONS OF DIRECTORS

The following is an excerpt from our bylaws pertaining to nominations.

SECTION 4.06. Nominations.

(A) NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint a Nominations Committee consisting of ten (10) persons who are members but are not directors or close relatives of directors, and who are so selected that each of the Cooperative's Directorate Districts and the at large directorate shall have one representative thereon. The Committee shall meet and nominate candidates for each of the Cooperative's Directorate Districts to be elected at the next annual meeting and the at large director if that directorate is to be elected at the next annual meeting. The Committee shall nominate at least one (1) nominee for each such District and may nominate more than one (1) nominee for each such District. The Committee shall show clearly each nominee(s) and the Directorate District for which they are nominated. In addition, the Committee shall nominate each three (3) years at least one (1) candidate and may nominate more than one (1) candidate for the "at large" position. The Committee shall ensure that all members nominated meet the qualifications to serve as a director set forth in section 4.02. The Committee shall meet as necessary in order to

complete its nominations no later than thirty days preceding the deadline for nomination by petition as is set forth in the following subsection to provide the opportunity for any qualified member who desires to be placed on the ballot at the upcoming annual meeting but not nominated by the Committee, to seek nomination by petition as set forth in the following subsection.

(B) NOMINATIONS BY PETITION

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 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.

(C) MAILING OF NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

The Secretary shall mail to the members with the notice of the meeting, or separately, or through any publication routinely used by the Cooperative for communication with the membership on a monthly basis

at least seven (7) days and not more than forty-five (45) days prior to the meeting, the names of all nominees for each such district, showing separately those nominated by the Committee and those nominated by petition, if any.

(D) POSTING OF NOMINATIONS

Once the signatures of the members on any petition and the qualifications to serve of the nominees are verified, the names of all nominees for each directorate district and the names of each nominee for the at large directorate, if it is to be elected at the upcoming annual meeting, shall be posted at the principal office of the Cooperative. The Posted Notice of all nominees shall show the directorate for which each nominee seeks election as director and may indicate those nominated by the nominations committee and those nominated by petition.

**YOUTH PROGRAM
APPLICATION DEADLINE**

YOUTH TOUR
JANUARY 1, 2017



FOR MORE INFO, VISIT
PEMC.COOP/COMMUNITY

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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800.222.3107

Piedmont Electric is an
equal opportunity provider
and employer.

Stephen B. Hamlin
President and CEO

DIRECTORS

Bill R. Barber, Chairman
Paul L. Bailey, Vice Chairman
Sam T. Woods, Secretary
Richal Vanhook, Treasurer
Glennie C. Beasley, J. Randy
Kinley, Stephen C. Long, David
Poynthress, Cyrus Vernon &
Talmadge W. Yancey

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.