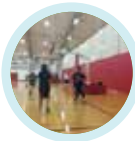




FEATURE ARTICLE

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS REFLECT ON BASKETBALL CAMPS

Each year, local middle schoolers earn an all-expenses-paid trip to basketball camps at UNC and NC State sponsored by Piedmont Electric. Applications are available now so encourage a deserving middle school student you know to apply today!



EMI HUTTER-DEMARCO
attended the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp



ETHAN HORTON
attended the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp

"When I learned that I had won, I was super excited! At camp I improved my free throws, met new people, loved the food, and I would love to go back." Emi is in the seventh grade at Woods Charter School in Pittsboro.

"When my mom told me I had won the trip to camp I began running and yelling! I was so happy! I met Joel James, Seventh Woods and Tony Bradley. They worked on passing and layups with me. I played basketball around eight hours a day. This, in my opinion, is an unforgettable experience, and I would recommend it to all middle school students who love basketball." Ethan is in the eighth grade at Gravelly Hill Middle School in Efland.



WILLIAM MELEGA
attended the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp

"I was really excited. I stayed overnight in the dorm, I met the coaches and the players and worked really hard on dribbling, shooting and form. I loved playing basketball all the time and I loved staying in the dorm. I think the whole UNC basketball team came to camp. That was awesome." William is in the seventh grade at Seawell Elementary School in Chapel Hill.

Piedmont Electric sponsors one boy and one girl to camp each summer. The application period is now open with applications due by March 31. Apply today or learn more about this wonderful opportunity at ncelectriccooperatives.com/community/sportscamps.htm.

IMPORTANT DATES

MAR 31

Basketball Camp & College Scholarship Applications due
Apply at pemc.coop.

APR 7

Annual Meeting
Yearly business meeting of Piedmont Electric.

APR 22

Earth Day

ENERGY EFFICIENCY MADE SIMPLE

Q&A with our energy expert
PAGE 22

COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM

The benefits of solar power
PAGE 23

PREPARE FOR WINTER STORMS

Make an outage preparation kit
PAGE 24

How much energy did you use yesterday?
Want to find out how much energy you used yesterday? Last week? Last month? Log in to pemc.smarthub.coop to view your daily energy use, pay your bill online, ask a question and much more!



IMPORTANT DATES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| MARCH 31
Applications due | JUNE 11-14
Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp |
| MAY 1
Winners notified | JUNE 17-21
Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp |

Apply at ncelectriccooperatives.com/community/sportscamps.htm

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC SPOTLIGHT

Jay Berry

Energy Expert

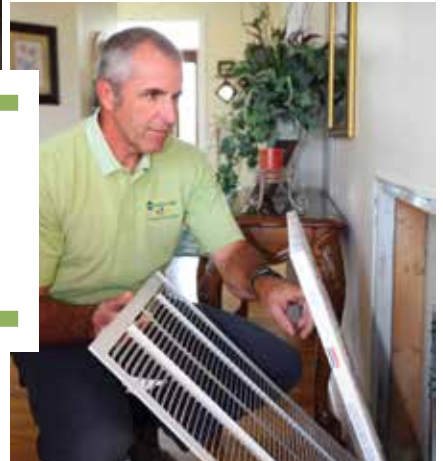
At Piedmont Electric, we want to help our members save money on their monthly bill, and that begins with helping them to better understand their energy usage. One way you can save money is by scheduling a free home energy audit. An experienced energy expert will visit your home and help you identify how you can improve your home's energy efficiency. To better understand how these audits work, we sat down with energy expert, Jay Berry, who's been with Piedmont Electric for more than 19 years.

WHY SHOULD I SCHEDULE AN ENERGY AUDIT?

Sometimes when we receive a complaint about a high energy bill we can help a member over the phone; but in many cases, we need to send a person to the home to get a clearer picture of the situation. An energy audit will help homeowners determine where their house is losing energy and money. I will show you problems that, when corrected, will help you save.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

A home energy analysis is free to all cooperative members.



Free Home Energy Audits

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT THE PROCESS. WHAT TYPICALLY OCCURS DURING AN ENERGY AUDIT?

Before I even get to the member's home, I take a look at their energy usage and analyze their energy behavior. Then, I visit the member and begin by examining the outside of their home to determine the size of the house and its features, like wall area, size of windows, etc. I also check for air leaks, examine insulation, inspect the HVAC or furnace and ductwork and use an infrared camera. Most audits take less than an hour to complete.

WHAT CAN MEMBERS EXPECT WHEN THE AUDIT IS COMPLETE?

After the walk-thru and diagnostic energy analysis, I sit down with the

member and make suggestions for home comfort improvements that have the potential to help them lower their energy bill and be more energy efficient. Often, these are small, low to no cost changes that make a big impact, like changing air filters regularly or setting your thermostat. In other cases, some people learn they may need to replace their HVAC or water heater.

HOW DO I SET UP AN APPOINTMENT?

All you have to do is call Piedmont Electric at 800.222.3107 or visit our website pemc.coop and fill out our contact form.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS

PERFECT FOR YOUR VALENTINE Flower Patch

10% off on Cash-N-Carry for flowers, gifts, plants and balloons.

Hillsborough, NC



Can't find your Co-op Connections Card?

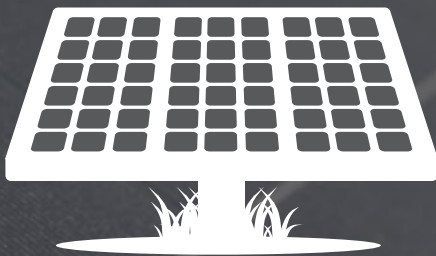
Visit connections.coop/pemc to print a new one or call our office at 800.222.3107 for a replacement.



YOU'LL LOVE OUR COMMUNITY

SOLAR

PROGRAM



This Valentine's Day, give you and your loved one the benefits of solar power without the long-term cost and commitment!

What is Community Solar?

Piedmont Electric has built two community solar farms that members can subscribe to for a small monthly fee. We take care of all the maintenance and repair while you get paid for the electricity produced by the number of panels to which you have subscribed.

Benefits of Community Solar

- It is a cost-effective way to utilize solar power.
- Renters can take advantage of this program, since it requires no installation.
- We take care of all maintenance on the panels.
- Our site is well-suited to get the most out of the sun's potential.

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER STORMS



As little as a quarter inch of ice is enough to bring down power lines.

When winter storms hit, heavy snow and ice can bring down power lines, leaving Piedmont Electric members without power.

During extremely low temperatures, this can be dangerous. While our crews will work as quickly and safely as possible to restore power in the event of an outage, there are a few things you can do to prepare yourself.

MAKE AN OUTAGE PREPARATION KIT

The best way to be ready for an unexpected outage is to create an emergency preparation kit with the supplies you need during a storm. Your kit should include:

- A first aid kit with bandages, gauze and other essentials. You should also have at least a seven-day supply of any required medications.

- A two-week supply of drinking water or one gallon per day for each person in your household.
- A flashlight and extra batteries. Avoid using candles for light as they are a fire hazard.
- A three-day supply of non-perishable foods.
- Before a major storm, fill your bathtub with water that can be used to flush the toilet.

STAY CONNECTED

When you report an outage, we use your phone number to quickly identify your location. Make sure your information is up-to-date so we can restore outages more quickly.

Also, follow us on Facebook, Twitter or our Outage Map for the latest on power restoration efforts during storms and for co-op news all year.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html or at any USDA office, or call (866)

632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all the requested information in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to the USDA by:

1. Mail:
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director,
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW,
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442
3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation

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
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and employer.

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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.