



FEATURE ARTICLE

CONTROL YOUR BILL DURING THE HOTTEST MONTHS OF THE YEAR

As a member of Piedmont Electric, you are able to take advantage of programs and tools we offer to help maximize your energy efficiency. Our goal has always been to provide safe and reliable power at the lowest cost possible for our members. One of the ways we achieve that goal is by helping you save money on your monthly bill.

Think about when you use power, not just how much you use

During the summer, peak times are in the afternoon when temperatures are highest. The hot weather causes our members to use more energy to keep their homes cool.

This excess use contributes to higher energy costs overall for our cooperative since peak energy is the most expensive type of energy to produce. We encourage our members to decrease energy use during peak times by raising their thermostat up three degrees in the summer and unplugging electronic devices.

Check in with SmartHub

If you're trying to lower your energy bill, SmartHub is one of the best tools at your disposal. You can log in to your account at pemc.coop and monitor your daily usage and determine how to make adjustments to your energy consumption.

This powerful tool allows you to see the effects of the changes you make by the next day. You can access your SmartHub account from a desktop computer or on the go from a tablet or mobile device.

Take advantage of a free home energy audit

As a Piedmont Electric member, you have access to a free home energy audit in which an energy specialist will be sent to your home to make suggestions for energy efficiency and home comfort improvements.

This free analysis includes checking your home's insulation and potential leaks around windows and exterior doors. To schedule your home energy audit call 800.222.3107.

As your trusted energy advisor, Piedmont Electric is proud to offer these energy efficiency programs to you, our valued members.

IMPORTANT DATES

JULY 4

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

JULY 19

American Red Cross Blood Drive
At Piedmont Electric in Hillsborough
Wednesday, July 19, from 2:30 – 6:30 PM

AUGUST 15

Early bird deadline for Bright Ideas

July is a

PEAK MONTH

Sign up for Beat the Peak and get alerts encouraging you to save energy during peak times, which saves money for you and your co-op!

SUMMER STORM SAFETY

Learn how to stay safe during severe weather
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APPLY FOR A BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT

Educators could receive up to \$1,500 for their students!
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PROVIDING MORE THAN ENERGY

Auxiliary services from Piedmont Electric
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NEW LED SECURITY LIGHTS

Piedmont Electric has begun replacing old security lights with new, more efficient, longer-lasting LED lights. These lights are being installed as the poles they are attached to need replacing.

Q&A WITH ROBERT RILEY

Summer Storm Safety

The summer months see more storms than any other season, so it's important that both you and your family know how to stay safe during severe weather. That's why we met with Robert Riley Jr., our vice president of operations, to discuss storm safety tips.

What type of severe weather should I expect?

Thunderstorms and hurricanes can be expected to bring lightning, damaging winds and heavy rain. These storms can cause flooding, so it's important to stay alert and up-to-date on the changing weather.

Why might my power go out during severe weather?

Strong winds and lightning can cause trees and rotting branches to fall on utility poles or power lines and cut off power. Strong winds and tornadoes can knock down poles and cause extensive damage for several miles. Piedmont Electric works hard to make sure we protect our system from danger, but when outages occur, our crews are dedicated to safely and quickly restoring your power. Remember, never touch downed power lines!

How can I stay safe during a storm?

Make sure you have all your essentials available in case of



Robert Riley Jr.
VP, Operations at Piedmont Electric

Never drive over downed power lines

widespread outages. Create an emergency kit that contains flashlights, batteries, nonperishable food, blankets, bottled water and any necessary medications. If you know a storm is on its way, take shelter in a sturdy building and keep a fully-charged phone nearby. Never drive through flooded roadways or over downed power lines.

What does Piedmont Electric do to prepare for storms?

We always keep an eye on the weather and we have line crews ready to respond to outages 24/7/365. If a particularly large storm is headed our way, we will be sure to have extra crews and materials on standby.

What is the best way to report an outage?

To report an outage call 800.449.2667. Our 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 in your monthly bill or by calling 800.222.3107.

How can I stay up-to-date on the progress of an outage?

The outage map on our website, pemc.coop, will show you the location and the status of every outage. If you don't see your outage on our map, be sure to give us a call at 800.449.2667 to report your outage. Also, we post updates for large outages to our Facebook and Twitter accounts.



Visit connections.coop/pemc for discount details and a complete list of participating local businesses, national businesses, dentists, chiropractors, vision care centers and pharmacies.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS® CARD DISCOUNTS

SUMMER SNAPSHOTS

Southeastern Camera
20% Discount on *photofinishing*.

Carrboro, 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.

Educators Could Receive up to **\$1,500** for Their Students!

Educators, apply now for the 2017 Bright Ideas grant program, sponsored by North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives. Educators in grades K-12 in North Carolina are eligible. Piedmont Electric is proud to have awarded \$400,000 to local teachers since 1994. Don't miss out on your opportunity to be selected today!

Early Bird Deadline AUGUST 15, 2017

Final Deadline SEPTEMBER 4, 2017

Visit NCBrightIdeas.com to apply.





Providing More than Energy

Auxiliary Services from Piedmont Electric

At Piedmont Electric, we do much more than provide safe, affordable and reliable power. We offer a variety of services that complement your energy usage. Below are common issues that can be solved by a Piedmont Electric product or service.

I need to know why my energy bill is high this month.

Since energy bills are often a primary concern, we offer free home energy audits to all of our members. This analysis is performed by a Piedmont Electric energy specialist who will make suggestions for home comfort and energy saving improvements. These improvements can often be made at little to no cost to you. Our analysis includes checking the amount of insulation and measuring heat loss around windows and exterior doors. To schedule an audit, call 800.222.3107 or visit pemc.coop and search for "energy audit."

Which new HVAC unit or water heater is right for my home?

Piedmont Electric is proud to offer advice and technical assistance regarding operation or installation

of our members' heating and cooling systems. Additionally, we can provide advice on which system will benefit you and your family the most.

To schedule an appointment with one of our licensed HVAC technicians, call 800.222.3107.

I want to install new equipment in my home.

New equipment can often have a major impact on your monthly electric bill which is why Piedmont Electric wants to make buying new equipment an easy decision for our members.

We are happy to offer you information on how your new purchase, project or installation will affect your power bill and we can provide advice on how to best manage its energy use.

We also offer a variety of rebates on products like LED light bulbs, commercial lighting, electric heat pumps, air conditioners and more.

If you are financing your energy efficiency or renewable energy project, then consider our loan program. Approved members may borrow up to \$10,000 for seven years at 5 percent interest.

To find out more and apply for our rebates or loans, search "rebates" at pemc.coop.

I want to add more light outside of my home.

Feel more secure and extend your outdoor activity time with outdoor lighting from Piedmont Electric. For a low monthly fee, you can choose from a variety of lighting options to meet your needs. Our service professionals will install and maintain the lights and ensure that they are always on when you need them.

For more information and to view examples of lighting options, search "outdoor lighting" at pemc.coop.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
800.222.3107

Piedmont Electric is an equal opportunity provider 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.