



**FEATURE ARTICLE**

Members enjoy entertainment before the Annual Meeting of the Members.

I'd like to personally invite each and every one of you to Piedmont Electric's Annual Meeting of the Members on Friday, April 7, at Orange High School in Hillsborough.

As members of Piedmont Electric, our annual meeting is your chance to hear about what your cooperative has been working on for the last year, learn more about our future plans, talk to our staff or ask a question and speak to an energy expert.

Cooperatives live by a set of principles including democratic member control, which means that you have a say in how your cooperative is run and how your cooperative operates. The annual meeting is your chance to do just that by talking with directors and staff before the Annual Meeting of the Members begins at 8:00 pm.



Steve Hamlin  
President & CEO of Piedmont Electric

So come on down and see us on April 7, we'll have good entertainment, important information and fellowship for all.

**COOPERATIVES BUILD**

Orange High School  
500 Orange High School Road  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Doors open at 6:00 pm  
Entertainment begins at 7:00 pm  
Meeting starts at 8:00 pm

**APRIL 7, 2017**

SEE COVER WRAP FOR FULL DETAILS

**IMPORTANT DATES**

**APR 7** **Piedmont Electric Annual Meeting**  
*Orange High School, Hillsborough, NC*  
Enjoy musical entertainment by Sweet Potato Pie, a special audiovisual presentation and prize drawings! Registration begins at 6 pm and business meeting begins at 8 pm.

**APR 10** **Lineman Appreciation Day**

**APR 22** **Earth Day**

**Members must be registered by 8:00 pm to be eligible for cash prizes.**

**Want to go green and stop getting a printed bill?**

Login to SmartHub at [pemc.coop](http://pemc.coop) and make sure your email is up to date. Then go to the **My Profile** section, click on **Update My Printed Bill Settings** and then turn the status to off. You've just gone paperless!



**#ThankALineman**

## April 10 LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

Let's thank our linemen for providing reliable power all year long.

 [Facebook.com/PiedmontEMC](https://www.facebook.com/PiedmontEMC)

 [@PiedmontEMC](https://twitter.com/PiedmontEMC)

## Switch to TIME-OF-DAY rates, and save money throughout the year

Pay a lower rate when you use energy during off-peak hours.



**AVOID ON-PEAK  
WINTER AM HOURS**  
OCTOBER TO APRIL\*

**AVOID WEEKDAY MORNINGS  
6 AM–10 AM**



**AVOID ON-PEAK  
SUMMER PM HOURS**  
APRIL TO OCTOBER\*

**AVOID WEEKDAY EVENINGS  
1 PM–6 PM**

\*Excludes weekends and holidays designated by Piedmont Electric.

**TIME-OF-DAY PEAK  
CHANGES ON  
APRIL 9, 2017**

The on-peak and off-peak times change on Sunday in the second full weekends of April and October.

### 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 am–5 pm  
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 Poythress, 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.

# TOP 5 WAYS *Renters* CAN SAVE ENERGY (AND MONEY)

If you are a renter, you may be wondering what you can do to make your home more energy efficient and save money. Traditional upgrades like more insulation or new appliances may be out of your control.

But, renters CAN save energy and money! Even simple changes can have a large impact on your energy bill. Here are five things you can do today that will help you save:

1

Install a programmable thermostat – Make sure to check your lease, but most rental units allow you to update appliances in your home, such as a thermostat, as long as you return or replace the original before leaving. Programmable thermostats can save up to \$150 a year in energy costs, and new “smart” thermostats can save even more by learning your habits and optimizing temperatures based on when you are at home.

2

Change your lighting – One of the easiest ways to save energy is to change the way you light your home. ENERGY STAR® estimates that changing to more efficient bulbs can save up to \$65 a year in energy costs. Turning off the lights helps too. Turning off a bulb that burns 8 hours a day will save you \$15 a year in energy costs!

3

Change your air filters – Dirty filters force your HVAC system to work longer to warm or cool your home. Changing your air filter regularly will not only keep your HVAC system functioning properly, but will help it run more efficiently too. We recommend changing your filter every three months, at a minimum. If you own indoor pets, you may need to change your filters more often.

4

Wash laundry with cold water – About 90 percent of the energy you use to wash clothes goes to heating water. By using cold water (and cold water detergent) with your washing machine, you could save more than \$40 a year in energy costs!

5

Turn it off when not in use – We’re all guilty of leaving the TV on when we leave for a quick trip to the store or leaving a fan running all day in an empty room. But if no one is home, most appliances or electronics don’t need to be running. Try to turn off any devices when not in use, and you’ll see measurable differences in your energy costs.

**Piedmont Electric is here to help! Our professional representatives can assist you with your energy-saving questions!**

# TOP 5 WAYS *Home Owners* CAN SAVE ENERGY (AND MONEY)

Springtime is a great opportunity for you to make upgrades to your home. If you're looking for projects that will update your home and help you save energy, here are some ideas to get you started in addition to the savings shown on the previous page.

1

Upgrade to ENERGY STAR® certified appliances – One of the fastest ways for homeowners to see savings on their energy bill is by updating their appliances. Switching all appliances to ENERGY STAR® certified products can save nearly \$750 over the lifetime of the products, according to the US Department of Energy.

2

Insulate your water heater tank – Your water heater needs proper insulation to keep it running efficiently. Older water heater tanks are often uninsulated and can lose much of the heat they generate. Insulating your water heater could save up to 16 percent in water heating costs. Also, make sure your water heater is set to 120° F. With that level of savings, this project pays for itself in just a year!

3

Install storm windows – Insulating storm windows can save your family up to 33 percent in heating and cooling costs per year. Plus, they are often a fraction of the cost of full replacement windows.

4

Seal air leaks with caulk – Air leaks in your home can waste a lot of energy. Hot air during the summer and cold air in the winter causes drafts – both of which make your HVAC system work harder to keep your home comfortable.

5

Consult an expert – Piedmont Electric offers free home energy audits that will help you better understand where your home is wasting the most energy. Our knowledgeable home energy advisors can also help you discover which renovation projects will be most effective for your home. For more information visit **[PEMC.coop/home-energy-audits](http://PEMC.coop/home-energy-audits)**.