



FEATURE ARTICLE

START THE NEW YEAR WITH SAVINGS!

The beginning of a new year serves as a fresh start and a time to make small changes to set yourself up for success in 2018. One common resolution is looking for ways to save money, and Piedmont Electric is here to help! We have a variety of programs to help you save both energy and money throughout the year.

Beat the Peak

A significant part of our energy costs is determined by the amount of energy used during peak times. Our Beat the Peak program alerts you via text or email when a peak time is expected. This allows you to take measures to reduce your energy consumption such as turning off appliances and postponing hot water use.

Load Management

Joining our Load Management program is a hands-off way to help you save. When you sign up, we install load management switches on your air conditioning and/or water heater meters. When a period of high demand is forecast, the switch cycles your air conditioner and turns off your electric water heater. By participating in the program, you will receive a credit back on your bill!

Time-of-Day Rates

By participating in our time-of-day rates program, you will pay a lower rate for the energy you use during off-peak hours on weekdays and all

weekends. Reducing the amount of energy used during on-peak hours helps our cooperative save money. On-peak hours are weekdays 6 a.m.–10 a.m. from October to April and weekdays 1 p.m.–6 p.m. from April to October.

Other Ways to Save

Aside from our money-saving programs, we also offer rebates to our members. Current rebates include \$1 per LED bulb purchased and up to \$200 back when you install a new electric heat pump.

Additionally, a free home energy audit is available to all Piedmont Electric members. The analysis is performed by an energy specialist who will make recommendations for home energy improvements.

To learn more about our programs and offers to help members save energy and money, visit pemc.coop/save-energy-money.

IMPORTANT DATES

JAN 01

New Year's Day

Piedmont Electric offices will be closed and employees will be on call. Happy New Year!

MAR 31

Basketball Camp Applications due

Rising 6–8th graders are eligible to apply for this all-expense-paid scholarship to attend summer basketball camp at UNC and NC State. Visit pemc.coop to apply.

MAR 31

College Scholarship Applications due

Local high school seniors can apply for this funding toward their college education online at pemc.coop.

APR 27

Annual Meeting

Yearly business meeting of Piedmont Electric.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking to the future

PAGE 22

SAVE MONEY, STAY COZY

What's the most efficient way to stay warm?

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE

For board of directors elections

PAGE 24



American Red Cross Blood Drive

JANUARY 4 AT PIEDMONT ELECTRIC

Hillsborough Office
12:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

Roxboro Office
11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

All donors will receive a free long sleeve t-shirt!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year from Piedmont Electric!

This new year is especially exciting as it marks our 80th anniversary as your local electric cooperative. Since 1938, we've been committed to empowering our members, supporting our communities and delivering you exceptional service. Reflecting on the past and on our core values is vital as we plan for the years ahead. After all, our legacy is our future.

On that note, I'd like to share a few of the projects we will be focusing on in 2018 that will help us continue to adapt to the changing needs and priorities of our membership.

Continue Fiber Project

By the end of 2018 we plan to have completed the second phase of our fiber project. When fully completed, this project will connect our three offices and more than 20 substations, which will help strengthen our service to you by improving the flow of information across our system.

New Outage Notifications

Piedmont Electric already has several great ways to find out the latest information on an outage including our detailed outage map and social media accounts.

In 2018, we plan to add text messaging, emails and phone calls to our list of options. If members enroll in the program, they can be notified of an outage and receive additional information, including an estimated



Stephen B. Hamlin, President and CEO

Our legacy is our future

restoration time as we work to quickly restore power.

Investigate New Technology

We want to help you get the most out of the new technology you are using at home. Last year, we implemented a new rate to help electric vehicle owners save money when charging their vehicle after 10 p.m.

This year we will be examining ways to help further the expansion of electric vehicles. Also, smart thermostats, like Ecobee or Nest, are finding their way into more and more homes. We want to partner with our members to help them use these devices to save energy and money.

Cost Control

We continuously strive to keep our daily operating costs as low as possible. It is a continual struggle to balance the beneficial member services and maintain our history of expedient power restoration against the cost of being exceptional in these and other services we provide. However, our goal is to keep rates affordable and only consider a future general rate increase when absolutely necessary.

Listening to our Members

Piedmont Electric is owned by you and we want to ensure that your best interest is always kept close to heart. We conduct regular phone and online surveys to ensure we understand the wants and needs of our members. We also host online groups to ensure our members' voices are heard.

Piedmont Electric Helping Hand Foundation

Thanks to everyone who has opted to continue supporting the Foundation. We will be providing grants to educators, youth programs, emergency preparedness efforts and other programs that the board of the foundation considers proper to receive financial support.

However, you can always opt out of supporting the Helping Hand Foundation by calling 800.222.3107 or visiting pemc.coop/helping-hand-info.

These updates are designed to support you, our members, in this ever-changing energy environment and we are looking forward to another successful year as your local electric cooperative!



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

Hushpuppies Seafood & Grill

Free tea with purchase of a meal
(One discount per card)

Yanceyville, NC



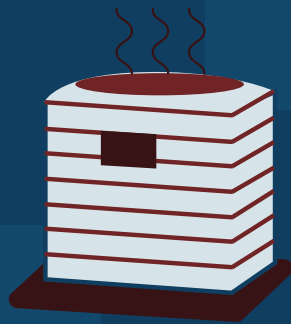
Can't find your Co-op Connections® Card?

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

Save Money, Stay Cozy

Nothing will make you appreciate your heating system like the cold winter months!

It's fun to watch the snow fall in winter – from the warmth of your heated home. But what's the best way to keep your house comfortable when it's freezing outside? Read on to learn the most efficient way to heat your home this winter.

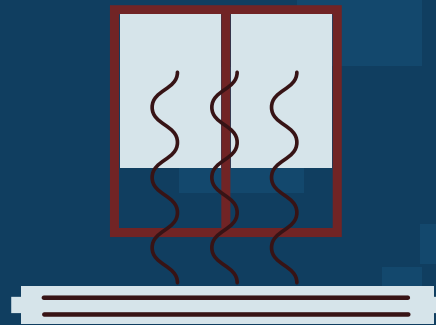


Heat Pump

The most common way to heat your home is the heat pump system and it's more efficient than electric resistance heaters. Set your thermostat to 68°F during the winter to save money and maintain comfort. Consider a programmable thermostat to avoid heating your home while you are away.

Auxiliary or Emergency Heat

Many heat pumps have a backup auxiliary or emergency heat feature that turns on when the heat pump is not able to warm your home to your desired temperature. This feature is costly to run and will result in higher bills. Only use this option in extreme weather or system failure.



Space Heaters

These devices can efficiently heat small rooms. To save, make sure you turn down your home's thermostat before turning on your space heater. Also, if you have a space heater running in every room, turn them off and turn your thermostat up a few degrees as your heat pump would more efficiently heat your home. Be sure to follow the directions to use your space heater safely.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETS JANUARY 6

Three seats on the Piedmont Electric Board of Directors are up for election at this year's annual meeting of the members. These seats are currently held by Cy Vernon (District 3), Bill Barber (District 7), Glennie Beasley (District 8).

The annual meeting will be held Friday, April 27, 2018, at Orange High School in Hillsborough.

The members serving on the nominating committee are:

- KAY FERGUSON Hillsborough, At Large
DIANNE MURPHY Mebane, District 4
MARTIN A. DAVIS Timberlake, District 7
JOE CURRIN Chapel Hill, District 1
ADAM SARVER Roxboro, District 5
ALVIS LONG Hillsborough, District 8
GREG MARTIN Mebane, District 2
CLEOTIS LAWSON JR. Roxboro, District 6
SUSAN GRAY Timberlake, District 9
GREGORY RUDD Yanceyville, District 3

The cooperative's bylaws provide an alternative to the nominating committee. 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, 2018, 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.

YOUTH PROGRAM DEADLINES

BASKETBALL CAMPS MARCH 31, 2018



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS MARCH 31, 2018



FOR MORE INFO, VISIT PEMC.COOP/COMMUNITY OR CALL 800.222.3107

SAVE ENERGY AND GET PAID TO DO IT!

Learn more about our Load Management program by visiting pemc.coop and typing "Load Management" in the search bar.

JANUARY RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE

ORANGE COUNTY ROADS:

- Jones Ferry Road
Old Fayetteville Road
NC Hwy 54
Bethel Hickory Grove Road
Bowden Road
JoMac Road



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 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.