



## "Smart" gifts for Father's Day

Have you ever heard your dad say something like, "Close the door, we're not cooling the whole neighborhood!" or "Hands off the thermostat!?" If so, your dad will love these smart products designed to help him lower his monthly electric bill. In fact, most of these products pay for themselves after a short period of time.

### Smart thermostat

Installing a smart thermostat is one of the best ways to take control of your energy bill. Similar to a programmable thermostat, it allows you to set a schedule for your system, so you're not paying to cool your home when you're not there. But smart thermostats go a step further by learning your habits over time and creating a custom schedule to maximize your system's performance and eliminate excess energy use. Plus, members with a Nest or Ecobee smart thermostat can sign up for more savings with our smart thermostat savings program! See this month's cover wrap for more details.

### Smart blinds

When set to the energy saving mode, smart blinds automatically close to keep excess heat from coming through the windows. They can also be controlled manually through an app, so if you forget to close your blinds before you leave the house on a hot day, you can conveniently close them from your smartphone.

### Smart plugs

Did you know that electronic devices use energy when they're plugged in, even if they're not in use? This is where smart plugs can help! The smart plug goes directly in your wall outlet and the electronic device attaches to the smart plug, giving you the option to remotely cut power to the device or put it on a schedule so the power is turned off for certain devices automatically when you're not home.

### SmartHub

This tool is free for all members of Piedmont Electric! Our free home energy analysis tool within SmartHub allows you to see how you're using energy every day. Then, when you make changes to your use, you can directly see the effects the next day on your dashboard.

This Father's Day, give your dad a tech product that will help reduce his energy bill for years to come!

### IMPORTANT DATES

**June 17**

**Father's Day**

**July 4**

**Independence Day**

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

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### JUNE RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE

#### ORANGE COUNTY:

Orange Grove Road  
Oakdale Drive  
West Hill Road  
Faucette Mill Road

#### PERSON COUNTY:

Allensville Road  
Mountain Road  
Cedar Grove Church Road  
Old Allensville Road





## Goal of low cost

We know the price you pay for electricity is important to you, and as your co-op, we take steps every day to ensure we're delivering quality service at an affordable price to you and your family. To learn more about how we save you money and keep costs down, we spoke with our member services, accounting, engineering and operations departments.

### MEMBER SERVICES

#### Susan Cashion – VP, Chief Compliance & Administrative Officer



Our peak reduction programs are managed by our member and energy services departments and are designed to help both you and your co-op save money. Your cooperative has saved millions of dollars in wholesale power costs by reducing our loads during peak times through our time-of-day rates and load management programs. Our energy efficiency and renewable loan program, free home energy audits and efficient HVAC system rebates can also lower members' energy cost. We are always developing new programs such as our new electric vehicle time-of-day rate and our smart thermostat savings program to help members keep money in their pockets. We enjoy showing our members how to lower their electric bill!

### ACCOUNTING

#### Lisa Kennedy – VP, Financial Services



The accounting department helps control costs by monitoring interest rates to ensure Piedmont Electric borrows at the lowest interest rate available. Just like you pay interest on your car or home loan, when we borrow money to pay for new services and make necessary upgrades, we pay interest too. When interest rates are low, we save money. We evaluate all refinancing opportunities, and if beneficial, we will refinance old loans to new, lower rates. The lower the interest rate, the less we must pay back.

### ENGINEERING

#### Larry Hopkins – VP, Engineering



The engineering department is responsible for system improvements such as the construction of substations and transmission lines. New substations are occasionally necessary because of new members moving into our communities, which increases the load on the existing substation. Other times, the substation upgrade is required because the equipment has aged and must be replaced. Before we begin work on a big project like this, we competitively bid the equipment, material and labor. This way, we get the best price possible.

### OPERATIONS

#### Robert Riley – VP, Operations



The operations department continually inspects and replaces equipment before it damages other equipment on the line, which saves us money. We also have a right-of-way and vegetation management program that is on a regular rotation schedule to minimize the cost associated with equipment and line damage, which is crucial to the cooperative's goal of low cost.



*Protect your appliances with*

# STRIKE GUARD

According to the National Weather Service, more than 75 percent of lightning strikes in North Carolina occur between June and August. Join Piedmont Electric's Strike Guard program to get two-level protection against surges for your valuable electronic equipment.

Call 800.222.3107 or visit [pemc.coop/strikeguard](http://pemc.coop/strikeguard) for more information.



Piedmont Electric  
Membership Corporation

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



## Go green and save money With our rebate and loan programs

Being energy-conscious doesn't have to come with a hefty price tag when you're a Piedmont Electric member. Check out how you can go green and save money with our rebates and loan programs.

**Smart thermostat** rebates of \$50 are offered for members who own a Nest or Ecobee smart thermostat and sign up for our smart thermostat savings program.

**Electric heat pump** rebates are available to members who install electric heat pumps with a SEER of 15 or higher and have a total electric home. The rebate equals \$50 per ton, up to \$200 per system.

**Residential and commercial lighting** rebates are offered at \$1 per LED bulb purchased, up to \$15 per year per member until December 31, 2018.

**Electric vehicle (EV) or plug-in hybrid** rebates are now available for members who are owners of EVs or hybrids, resulting in a \$50 credit on their power bill. These same members can also make

use of our electric vehicle time-of-day rate, which pays an additional \$50 credit on their power bill. Terms and conditions for these credits can be found at [pemc.coop/evtimeofdayrate](http://pemc.coop/evtimeofdayrate).

The **energy efficiency and renewable energy loan program** can help finance the purchase and installation of just about any energy efficiency upgrade or renewable energy project. Piedmont Electric provides financing up to \$10,000 for projects such as a new HVAC unit, solar panels, an energy efficient electric heat pump, solar water heaters and even smaller projects like new windows and doors. Learn more about our rebates and loan programs at [pemc.coop/rebates-loans](http://pemc.coop/rebates-loans).



## Annual meeting prize winners & number of attendees

On April 27, 2018, we held our 80th Annual Meeting of the Members and had 346 members in attendance. The winners of the three \$500 grand prize drawings were Mary P. Clayton, Eric S. Tucker, and Tina Wrenn. Thank you to all the members who attended!

### PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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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.

Stephen B. Hamlin  
President and CEO

#### DIRECTORS

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#### IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL US OR TEXT US AT 800.222.3107

Opt in to text alerts by texting "pemc" to 800.222.3107. Once you've opted in, report an outage by texting "#out" to 800.222.3107.

Our automated outage reporting system uses your phone number to determine your service location. Update the number connected to your account 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 800.222.3107. Voice instructions will direct you through the system.