



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | JULY 2018



Sweet summer savings ideas!

Now that summer is in full swing, it's natural to be thinking about how to save money on your energy bill. As your trusted energy provider, Piedmont Electric is here to remind you of energy-saving tips you can implement during these warm months.

We know that summer is a popular time for vacations, so we're sharing some of our favorite ways to reduce energy use while you're on a trip, as well as everyday tips to make the hottest months of the year a little easier on your wallet.

Save money while on vacation...

Before you leave for a trip, remember the following tips to help reduce energy consumption while you're away:

Unplug electronics and appliances.

Even when not in use, these products consume energy just being plugged in the outlet.

Raise the temperature. Most people can be comfortable in the summer with the thermostat set to 78°F. However, when you're out of town, you can raise it a few more degrees to a higher temperature so your HVAC is not cooling empty rooms.

Turn off the lights. Make sure all indoor and outdoor lights are turned off before you leave. If you're concerned about safety, consider setting lights on a timer so they are not constantly on while you're away.

Adjust the water heater. Lower the temperature on your water heater to the lowest setting. Just remember to adjust it back when you get home!

...Or when you're at home

Once you get back from vacation, you can continue the savings by implementing these small changes in your life:

Know when to use a fan. Remember, fans cool people, not rooms. Turn off your ceiling fan when you leave the room.

Close the blinds. Keep your blinds and curtains closed to prevent excess heat from coming into your home during the day.

Replace air filters. Keep your HVAC system running efficiently by changing the air filters monthly.

Skip the stove. Cooking dinner in the oven or on the stovetop can increase the amount of heat in your home which causes your air conditioner to work harder. Use a slow cooker or outdoor grill to prepare your meal instead.

Remember to regularly check your SmartHub account to see how following these tips can reduce your bill.

IMPORTANT DATES

July 4

Independence Day

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

July 12

Blood drives

At our Hillsborough and Roxboro offices.

August 15

Early bird deadline for Bright Ideas educator grants

18 **Working together to Beat the Peak**

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July right-of-way maintenance

ORANGE COUNTY:

Smith Level Road
Highway 54
Dogwood Acres
Northside Drive
Berryhill Drive
Brandywine Drive
Yorktown Drive

PERSON COUNTY:

Oxford Highway
Pixley Pritchard Road
Glenn Fogelman Road
Mt. Harmony Church Road





Steve Hamlin President and CEO

Working together to Beat the Peak and keep costs low

Have you heard the saying “many hands make for light work”? That’s the same idea that helped create Piedmont Electric 80 years ago when our members banded together to bring power to our community. Similarly, this same phrase applies when tackling the upward cost pressures your co-op is currently facing.

When our members coordinate their efforts to save energy, these savings are passed on to you. Your reduction might seem small on an individual level, but when delivering electric service to more than 31,000 meters, these savings add up!

One clear example of how you can help is by participating in our load management programs like our smart thermostat savings program, time-of-day rates and Beat the Peak.

Our smart thermostat savings program helps you save in four different ways. With an Ecobee or Nest smart thermostat, you’ll receive a \$50 rebate once you sign up for our program and monthly bill credits for remotely allowing us to adjust your thermostat a couple degrees on very hot afternoons in the summer.

Your smart thermostat will also decrease your bill by lowering your energy use as it cools and heats your home more efficiently. The final way it helps you save is by setting your temperature schedule to lower your energy use during peak times which helps your co-op keep rates low. Plus, combining this program with our

time-of-day rates can really help you see the savings!

Another energy-saving option is Beat the Peak, which is a voluntary program and one of the easiest ways to help us keep energy rates low. Through Beat the Peak, members are alerted by text message or email when a peak time period, or time of high energy use across your co-op, is expected. These members then do their part by reducing their energy use during those peak times or by shifting that use to a later time.

A large part of power supply cost is determined by energy used during these high energy use times. These times typically occur on summer afternoons. If we can reduce the energy use or demand during these few hours, we can reduce our power costs and save our members money all year long!

Try thinking about high energy demand like cars on the highway during rush hour. When highways are packed with vehicles, everyone is wasting fuel and money by sitting in traffic. If we removed some vehicles from the highway during

high traffic times, like using less energy during peak times, everyone gets where they need to go without wasting time or money.

When we save money on wholesale power costs, this often shows up on your energy bill in the line labelled “power cost adjustment.” Since November 2014, we have been able to pass a power cost adjustment credit on your bill because of successful peak energy reduction programs like Beat the Peak. With your help, we can continue reducing our power costs.

As the past 80 years have shown, our member-owned cooperative is powerful when we all work together for a common goal. Let’s continue to strive toward a bright energy future by reducing the energy peak together!

+ **Join our energy savings programs**
Visit pemc.coop/thermostat or pemc.coop/beat-the-peak to learn more about our smart thermostat savings program and Beat the Peak or call us at 800.222.3107.

“ Try thinking about high energy demand like cars on the highway during rush hour.

July is a
PEAK MONTH
Watch for Beat the Peak alerts via text or e-mail to limit power usage during peak times to save money for you and your co-op!

Set up your thermostat for success this summer

You can save money during the hottest months of the year with a programmable or smart thermostat in your home.



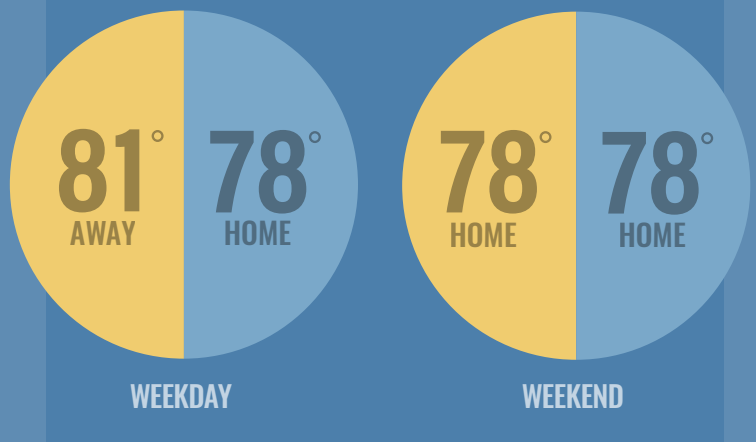
Both programmable and smart thermostats allow you to set a schedule in the summer to maximize the efficiency of your HVAC system. For a family that is out of the house during the weekdays and home on the weekends, we recommend using one routine for weekdays and one routine for the weekend.

The recommended temperature setting for the summer is 78°F. Schedule your thermostat to increase several degrees when you leave for the day and adjust back to 78°F just before you arrive home at night. On the weekends, you'll want to keep the thermostat set to 78°F all day, so your family remains comfortable.

If you have a smart thermostat, you should let your smart thermostat learn your behavior over time, making automatic adjustments as needed.

Members with a Nest or Ecobee smart thermostat and Wi-Fi can enjoy a \$50 rebate by signing up for our smart thermostat savings program which allows Piedmont Electric to adjust your thermostat by a couple degrees on very hot afternoons in the summer.

Recommended summer thermostat programming



Learn more about this savings program by visiting pemc.coop/thermostat.



Bright Ideas grants make our communities *shine*

If you've ever wondered exactly how Piedmont Electric helps our community through the Bright Ideas educator grants, we have a couple stories for you.



Joseph Sharp: Mock Archaeological Dig

After receiving a Bright Ideas grant, Joseph Sharp was able to integrate a mock archaeological dig into his students' Civil War unit at A. L. Stanback Middle School in Hillsborough. Students used proper excavating techniques to discover artifacts and analyze the items in their laboratory.

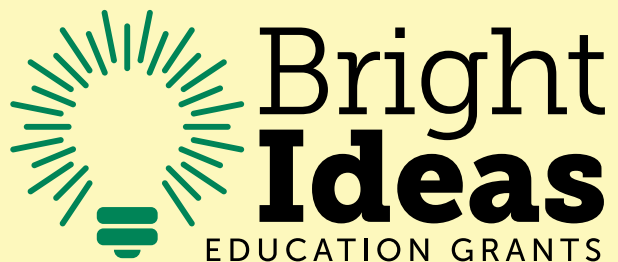
Michael Bonsignore: Chickens in the Lower School

Thanks to a Bright Ideas grant, Michael Bonsignore extended Carolina Friends School's garden program by adding a chicken coop to their garden. After students at the Durham school researched chicken breeds and care, they selected their chickens and now care for them as a part of their daily jobs at school. The eggs are collected by the children and used in their cooking interest groups.



These are just two of the amazing projects that were made possible by Bright Ideas grants. Your continued support is what helps us make a difference in the lives of those we serve by helping build a better community.

If you're a local educator with an innovative classroom project, you can apply before the early bird deadline of August 15 or the final deadline of September 3. To learn more about the Bright Ideas grants, visit pemc.coop/brightideas.



PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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