



# CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2018



## Storm Restoration

We are stronger when we work together, and we prove it each time a storm rolls through. One of the seven cooperative principles is cooperation among cooperatives, which means we provide help when other co-ops are in need. We call this mutual aid.

To learn more about how Piedmont Electric upholds this principle, we spoke to two of our linemen, Jonathan Jacobs and Jason Howerton, who volunteered to work on the storm restoration team after Hurricane Matthew battered the coast in 2016.

### What's it like working on storm restoration?

The long days combined with the mass destruction from a hurricane creates unique challenges. We always make sure that our home base is secure and all of Piedmont Electric's territory has power before leaving to assist which means we've already worked long hours before heading out to a neighboring co-op.

When we arrived at Central EMC (in Sanford, NC) after Hurricane Matthew swept through, our first restoration site involved replacing two broken poles which is not a quick fix. Large storms can cause outages that take longer to restore because the damage is typically more severe.

After we finished working two days at Central EMC, we traveled to Santee EMC in South Carolina. At Santee, we replaced a broken pole in an area that

had received so much rainfall that the ground acted like quicksand each time you attempted to dig a hole for the new pole. We had to work safely and quickly to remove the auger (a spiral digging tool) and set the pole in place before the ground gave way.

### Why do you volunteer to help?

We know that feeling of relief when we see other co-ops arrive to help us after a huge storm and it's important to us that we help other co-ops feel the same way. They're our neighbors and helping people is what we do.

### Any safety tips for our members?

Never go looking for downed power lines as the ground around them might be energized. Linemen are trained to locate the issue quickly and safely, so leave the search to the experts.

If you have a generator, always follow the safety instructions and never run a generator in the basement, garage, an enclosed space or near an open window. Be sure that your generator has a double-pole, double-throw switch which keeps the generator's electricity from flowing back onto the power lines, endangering linemen.

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### September 3

**Labor Day** Our offices will be closed for the holiday. Employees will be on call.

#### September 3

**Bright Ideas deadline for educators**

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## September right-of-way maintenance

### ORANGE COUNTY

Arthur Minnis Road  
Mt. Sinai Road  
Bradshaw Quarry Road  
New Hope Church Road  
Friends School Road  
Buckhorn Road  
Oak Grove Church Road

### DURHAM COUNTY

Mason Road  
Ball Road  
Johnson Mill Road  
Matthews Road



In addition to providing storm restoration assistance to two local co-ops after Hurricane Matthew, Piedmont Electric operations personnel have provided storm restoration assistance to four other co-ops over the past few years.



## Fall is coming! Are you ready?

Can you feel it in the air? Fall is just around the corner and with it comes the reminder that as the seasons change, your home energy habits should change too. As your trusted energy advisor, Piedmont Electric is here to help you maximize energy efficiency in your home during every season.



### Schedule a free home energy analysis

One of the perks of being a member is that you have access to a free home energy analysis, performed by one of our energy specialists. Our specialist

will look around your home and make suggestions for energy efficiency improvements. This includes looking at your HVAC system, attic insulation, windows, doors and more. To schedule your free home energy analysis, call 800.222.3107 or visit [pemc.coop/home-energy-analysis](http://pemc.coop/home-energy-analysis).



### Use our online energy advisor tool

For specific advice on improving your home's efficiency, try our free online home energy advisor tool.

This interactive program asks you questions about your home such as the square footage, average thermostat settings and types of appliances to give you a detailed analysis about how to make improvements and save on your monthly bill. For quick and accurate savings information, plug in your account number and see how you can save! To get your free analysis, visit [pemc.coop/analyze-my-bill](http://pemc.coop/analyze-my-bill).



### Apply simple energy efficiency tips

Additionally, making changes to your energy use habits can be an effective way to lower your bill. As the weather cools down, we recommend

implementing these small changes around your home:

- Fill small gaps around doors and windows with caulk to prevent outdoor air from coming into your home, which causes your HVAC system to run longer.
- Upgrade to a Nest or Ecobee smart thermostat and join our smart thermostat savings program. Learn about the four ways you'll save at [pemc.coop/thermostat](http://pemc.coop/thermostat).
- Use an insulation blanket around your water heater to reduce heat loss.
- Change the air filters in your home once a month to keep your HVAC system running efficiently.

By taking advantage of these tools and tips, you can have peace of mind that your home is ready for the cooler months ahead.



[www.pemc.coop/tools](http://www.pemc.coop/tools)

Get energy smart! Discover new energy savings today.

# PREPARING FOR THE **changing seasons**

Have your chimney inspected for cracks so they can be filled to prevent cool air from leaking into your home.

Seal air leaks in your attic to keep conditioned air inside. If you feel a draft then you have a gap to fill!

Caulk gaps around your windows to prevent inside air from escaping.

Install a door sweep on exterior doors to prevent drafts from coming into your home.

Set your ceiling fans to rotate clockwise to lift cool air up and force heated air down towards your living space.

Install and utilize window coverings like curtains or drapes. Keep them open during the day to allow heat from the sun to warm your home and close them at night to prevent heat loss.



## Back to school with stories to tell

As school starts back up, students involved in Piedmont Electric programs will have some pretty amazing stories to share with their classmates. Through your voluntary contributions to the Piedmont Electric Helping Hand Foundation, we're proud to continue to support students in our area as they continue their journey towards being leaders in our communities.\*



### Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Local students, Anne Crabill and Bryce Gunter, went on an educational trip of a lifetime this past June, touring our nation's monuments and museums, learning more about electric cooperatives and seeing our government in action. It was an experience that helped educate some of the finest students in our communities on the cooperative's history and business model.

If you or someone you know is a rising high school student whose parents or grandparents receive electricity from Piedmont Electric, we want you to apply for next year's Youth Tour. Visit [pemc.coop/youthtour](http://pemc.coop/youthtour) where you can get more information and submit an application for the 2019 tour.

### College scholarships awarded

We're proud to announce that we had a record number of applicants for our college scholarships this year! Piedmont Electric delivered the exciting news to seven winners who were awarded \$2,000 to go towards continuing their education at a college, university, technical or community college. Congratulations to Alexis Grace Bowen, Lauren Coffey, Taylor Michelle Jones, Chase Kimball, Karina R. Mace, Dario Etienne Alexis Muller and Ivy Smith.

High school seniors are invited to start applying now for next year's scholarships by visiting [pemc.coop/scholarships](http://pemc.coop/scholarships).

### Basketball Camp scholarships awarded

Piedmont Electric also awarded full scholarships to middle-schoolers Sawyer Currin, Jocelyn Delphias and Kailyn Griffin to attend basketball camp on college campuses this summer. The Touchstone Energy Sports Camps program provides a unique educational and athletic opportunity for our state's youth and demonstrates Touchstone Energy's core values of accountability, integrity, innovation and particularly, commitment to community. Visit [pemc.coop/basketball](http://pemc.coop/basketball) to apply to next year's program.

\*To opt out of the Piedmont Electric Helping Hand Foundation and receive all your prior contributions, call 800.222.3107 or complete the form online at [pemc.coop/helping-hand-opt-out](http://pemc.coop/helping-hand-opt-out).

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

**Piedmont Rate Schedules:** The base cost of purchased power built into the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment Clause Rider (Rider WPCA) is being adjusted to more closely reflect the actual cost of purchased power over the past twelve months. This revision is effective with bills rendered on or after September 1, 2018. For a complete listing of our rate schedules visit [pemc.coop/rates](http://pemc.coop/rates).

### PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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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.