



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2019



Summer savings checklist

Going out of town this summer? There are a lot of things to remember when planning a trip, from travel logistics to what to pack in your suitcase, but don't forget to take a few extra steps to reduce energy use in your home while you're gone. Mark off the items on this checklist to make sure you don't end up paying for energy you do not need.

☐ **Adjust your thermostat.**

There's little need in cooling an empty home. Raise the temperature on your thermostat while you're away as high as 85°F. If you have a smart or programmable thermostat, schedule the temperature to lower to the recommended 78°F shortly before you arrive back home so the house feels comfortable. If you have pets that will remain in the house while you're gone, be sure to only raise the temperature to the point where they will still be safe and comfortable. This also applies to expensive wooden furniture as wood can expand with high levels of humidity.

☐ **Keep blinds and curtains closed.**

Before you leave for your trip, close all your blinds and curtains. This prevents excess heat from entering your home and decreases the strain on your air conditioning unit.

☐ **Unplug electronics and appliances.**

Contrary to popular belief, electronic devices and appliances use electricity anytime they are plugged in, not just when they are in use. Unplug any non-critical devices like your toaster, computer, oven or TV before you head out to reduce energy use throughout your house. You can continue to leave certain things unplugged once you get back home and try to get in the habit of only plugging them in during use.

☐ **Turn off lights.**

Make sure all lights are turned off any time you leave the house, not just when you're on vacation! If you feel more comfortable leaving a few lights on when you're gone to help with your security, set certain lights to turn on and off with a timer.

☐ **Turn off your water heater breaker.**

If no one is home, why waste energy heating your water? Before you leave, turn off your water heater breaker. Just remember to set a reminder to turn it back on after your trip so you avoid a cold shower once you're home.

IMPORTANT DATES

June 16

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

DURHAM COUNTY

Craig Road
Bivins Road
Pleasant Green Road
Ebenezer Church Road

PERSON COUNTY

Helena Moriah Road
Cothran Hicks Road
Bethany Church Road
Rougemont Road



Visit pemc.coop/save-energy-money for more ways to save.

Prepare now so you're ready for summer storms later

Traditionally, summer makes people think about spending time on the beach, grilling outside and baseball games. It's easy to forget about dangerous summer storms until they're upon us.

This year take a few simple steps to prepare for summer storms so that by the time they hit, all you have to focus on is staying safe and dry.



How to prepare for summer storm season

Sign up for Strike Guard

Protect your appliances from damaging power surges by signing up for our Strike Guard program. Our Strike Guard surge protectors provide two-level protection against surges for your valuable electronic equipment and pump motors. Visit pemc.coop/strikeguard for more information about pricing and how to sign up.

Update your information

Do we have the correct contact information for you on file? Before storm season hits, take a few moments to ensure that we have your current email address and phone numbers in our system. We use these communication channels to share important alerts and information during storms and to make sure you receive energy-saving tips, program information and cooperative news. You can update your contact information by calling 800.222.3107.

Sign up for text outage notifications

Be the first to know about outages when you sign up for our text outage alert program! By signing up, you'll be able to use your cell phone to quickly report an outage and receive restoration updates. Opt in to the program by texting "pemc" to 800.222.3107. Your phone number must be on file before signing up. Call 800.222.3107 to add your cell phone number to our records.

Tap into a clean energy source this summer

As a cooperative, Piedmont Electric strives to “go green” not only in how we operate, but also in the options we provide to you. Our community solar program allows you to tap into the clean energy of the sun and reduce your carbon footprint!

What is community solar?



Community solar allows you to take advantage of solar energy, without the cost or commitment of adding panels to your home.

We have constructed two solar fields; one at our Roxboro office and one at our Caswell office. The panels in each field are exclusively for use by Piedmont Electric members. When you enroll in the program, you subscribe to the rights of the energy output from these solar panels for \$2.50 per panel per month. A member can subscribe to a maximum of 15 panels.

The fee is charged directly to your monthly electric bill. Additionally, you will also see a credit on your bill which reflects the amount of electricity produced from the solar panels to which you are subscribed.

How impactful is the program?

We have 1,854 solar panels across both farms, which can generate up to 2,500 kWhs of electricity every day on average. That's the equivalent of enough energy to power 70 average-sized homes each day!

Not only are we creating solar energy that can be used by our members, but we're also helping the environment by using this clean energy source.

You can see a daily report showing the CO₂ emissions we've avoided from each farm by visiting pemc.coop/communitysolar.

What are the benefits?

Community solar gives our members a low cost, low risk way to take advantage of solar technology. Our solar fields are well-suited to receive maximum sun exposure and the program eliminates the expense, installation and maintenance of owning solar panels while still affording our members with the benefits of solar power. Plus, it allows renters the opportunity to use solar power!

How do I sign up?

If you're ready to take advantage of solar energy for your home or would like to increase the number of panels you are subscribed to, visit pemc.coop/communitysolar or call us at 800.222.3107.



How much does it really cost to use your appliances?

You've probably heard that older, outdated appliances use more energy and that upgrading to newer energy-efficient models can help reduce your monthly bill. But is that really true?

See for yourself by using our online appliance calculator!

This free tool allows you to input specific information about the actual appliances in your home to see how much it costs annually to operate them. If you're considering

an upgrade, run the specs of the new appliance through the calculator so you can compare it to your existing one to see the real difference in what you'll be saving.

For example, using the calculator, you can see that a 14 cu. ft. refrigerator manufactured before 1993 costs \$53 to use annually, while an ENERGY STAR® model of the same size only costs \$34. The calculator can also help you see how much you'll save by reducing the amount of time you use certain appliances every week. Plus, saving energy with energy-efficient appliances helps the environment!

Try it out today by visiting pemc.coop/appliance-calculator.

Interested in more calculators that will help you learn about your energy use? Visit pemc.coop/tools.



T. S. Sizemore (left) with employees Susan Cashion and Brian Rhew.

Annual meeting recap

We held our last traditional Annual Meeting of the Members on Friday, April 12, 2019, and had 246 members registered. Congratulations to T.S. Sizemore of Efland who won our \$500 drawing and to Bing Long of Roxboro and Jeff Pennell of Burlington who won our \$100 bill credit drawing for members who voted by mail and online. Thank you to all our 887 members who voted!

The results of the board of directors election are as follows: Stephen C. Long (re-elected for District 4), Elizabeth Townsend (elected for District 6), and Sam T. Woods (re-elected for District 9). Thank you to Talmadge W. Yancey for 28 years of service on the Piedmont Electric board of directors. Our newest directors will be featured in our July 2019 Carolina Country 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

Bill R. Barber Chairman
Paul L. Bailey, Vice Chairman
Sam T. Woods, Secretary
Richal Vanhook, Treasurer
J. Randy Kinley, Stephen C.
Long, Andrew M. Oakley,
David Poythress, Elizabeth
Townsend & Cyrus Vernon

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

Opt in for 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.