



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2019



Why does my power bill rise with the summer heat?

You're probably used to receiving a higher bill during the hot months. But there are still ways you can save energy even as the temperature rises. Here are two reasons for that higher bill, along with a few of our favorite ways to help keep it from climbing.

Weather

It can be difficult to keep your home at a comfortable temperature during the dog days of summer. Even if you keep your thermostat at the recommended 78 degrees in the summer, when it is 95 degrees outside your air conditioner must run longer than when it is 80 degrees outside. This leads to a higher energy bill.

Closing curtains and blinds can help your home stay cool by blocking sunlight from warming rooms in your home. Also, installing a smart thermostat that can automatically schedule your air conditioner to run before you arrive home instead of cooling your home all day will help you save energy and money. Plus, our smart thermostat savings program offers a \$50 rebate when you join with your Nest or Ecobee! Learn more at pemc.coop/thermostat.

Energy use changes

For many families, summer signals the end of the school year and the beginning of pool time.

You might see a spike in your energy use if your kids are home during the day in the summer. The hours of video games and countless searches for snacks in the fridge can add up to a noticeable difference on your power bill. Encourage your family to unplug all appliances when not in use and to limit their time with the fridge door open to conserve energy.

Home pools can also contribute to a higher energy bill in the summer. Consider upgrading your pool pump to an energy-efficient, variable speed version and clean the filter regularly.

For more information, visit energystar.gov and search for pool pumps.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 2

Labor Day

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

Bright Ideas Deadline

All Bright Ideas applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm.

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August right-of-way maintenance

DURHAM/GRANVILLE/
ORANGE/PERSON COUNTY



Craig Road	Fitch Oakley Road
Ebenezer Church Road	New Sharon Church Road
Pleasant Green Road	Guess Road
Allen Creek Road	Bromley Road
Range Road	

August is a

PEAK MONTH

Watch for Beat the Peak alerts via text or email to limit power use during peak times to save money for you and your co-op! Sign up for text alerts by texting BTPEAK (first and last name) to 85700.



ENERGY ADVISOR

What's using energy in your home? Visit pemc.coop/analyze-my-bill to find out!

DO THE MATH!

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERS + FREE ENERGY-SAVING CALCULATORS = THE PERFECT COMBINATION

One of the best ways to save money on your monthly energy bill is to have a better understanding of how you use energy. When you monitor how and when you consume energy, you'll start to see opportunities for savings that you may not have previously noticed.

At Piedmont Electric, we offer several free online calculators to help you manage your energy use. Here's a closer look at each of them:

Energy advisor As one of the most powerful tools on our website, the energy advisor calculator allows you to input real information about your home and provides you with cost-saving recommendations. Plus, you can enter your account number in this calculator to provide even more accurate results.

Appliance calculator Have you ever wondered exactly how much it costs to watch TV or run your refrigerator? Our appliance calculator can tell you! By adding in data about your appliance models and average use time, the calculator will give you the total annual cost of each device.

Electric vehicle calculator If you're trying to decide whether purchasing an electric vehicle is worth the investment, use our EV calculator to determine your estimated monthly fuel savings. You can even compare different EV models to see which ones are the most efficient.

Water heater calculator Use our water heater calculator to get a realistic look at your annual water heating costs and see how different fuel types compare.

Phantom load calculator When electronics or appliances are plugged in but turned off, they're still using electricity! This is known as phantom load. This calculator can help you see how much phantom load is being used in your home so you know what you need to unplug.

Lighting calculator Our lighting calculator will show you how much you can save by switching from incandescent bulbs to LED options instead.

Space heater calculator When winter rolls around and you reach for your space heater, first use our interactive calculator to see how much it will cost you to run each month.

Heating calculator Calculate your annual heating costs and compare the numbers to other energy options with our heating calculator.



Visit penc.coop/tools to learn more about each calculator and take the first step to saving energy and money.

Working together, we can all save money

Did you know that your own personal energy use can affect the rate that all of our members pay for power? Part of our power supply cost is determined by the energy demand by our members during peak times on the hottest days in the summer. When we take steps to reduce the amount of energy we all use during peak times, we can reduce Piedmont Electric's power costs. These savings are passed directly on to you!

When we work together with our fellow members to reduce our energy use, we all win! We're proud to offer programs that make it easier for our members to reduce energy use during peak times.

BEAT THE PEAK

When you enroll in Beat the Peak, you'll receive text or email alerts when a peak time period is expected, reminding you to conserve energy during that timeframe. These peak times typically only last a few hours so there is little interruption to your routine.

In order to save the most during peak times, we recommend raising your thermostat by three degrees in the summer, postponing the use of hot water and major appliances and turning off unneeded lights.

You can sign up for Beat the Peak by texting BTPEAK (first and last name) to 85700.

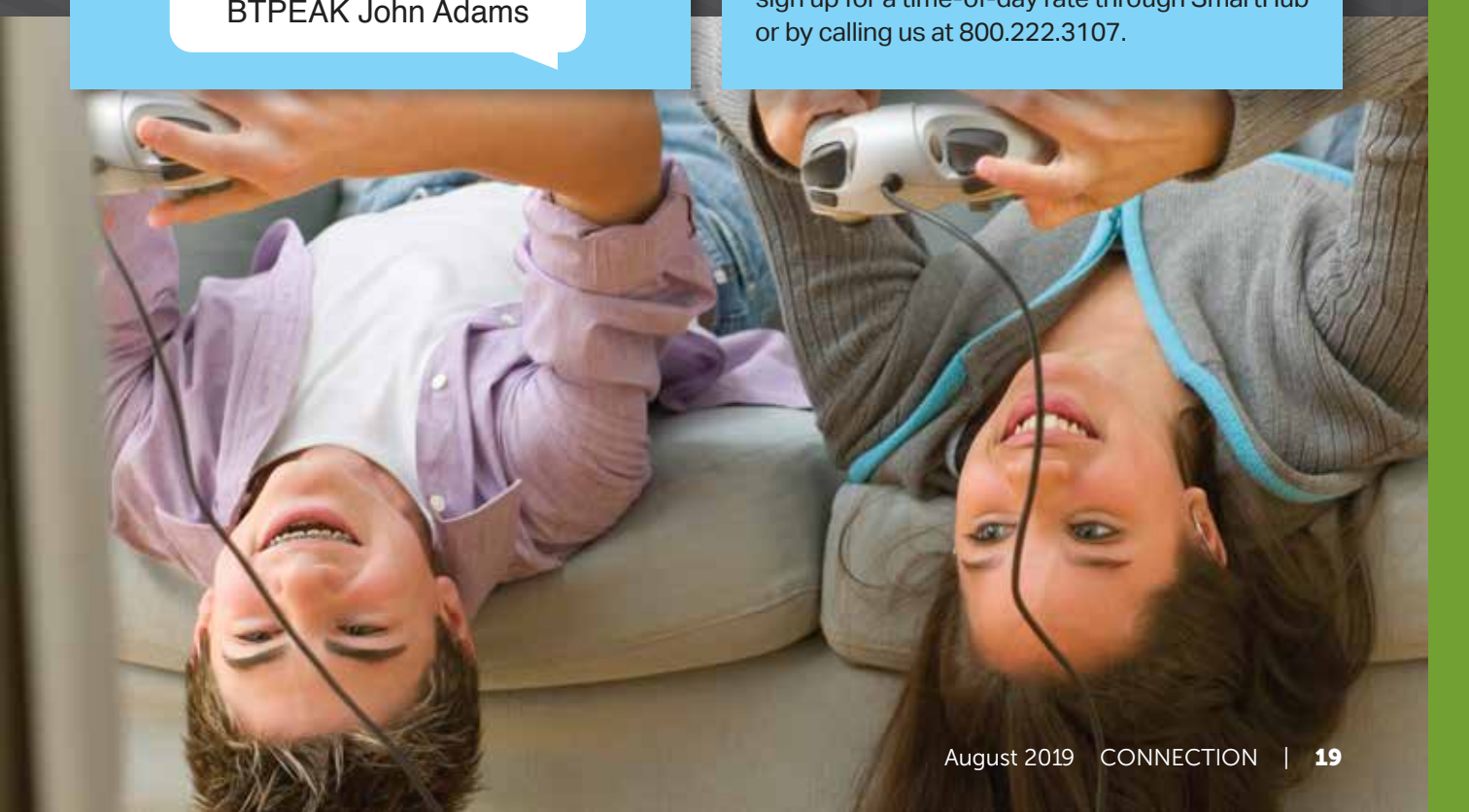
BTPEAK John Adams

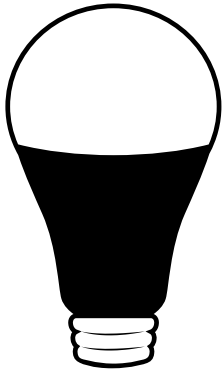
TIME-OF-DAY

With a time-of-day rate, our members pay a lower rate for energy used during off-peak hours on weekdays. During the summer, on-peak hours are from 1:00 to 6:00 pm on weekdays only, so you'll want to shift excess energy use outside of those hours.

If that coincides with your work schedule, remember to unplug any non-critical appliances before you leave and program your thermostat to turn off or raise the temperature during the on-peak times. Our smart thermostat savings program can help you save even more on a time-of-day rate.

Learn more at pemc.coop/thermostat. You can sign up for a time-of-day rate through SmartHub or by calling us at 800.222.3107.





These low-cost energy efficiency tips can lead to big savings

Now that summer is in full swing, we're all looking for ways to lower our energy use.

By making a few low-cost energy-efficient purchases, you could see the savings reflected on your monthly energy bill. Here are a few of our favorite low-cost, but high-reward energy-savings tips:

1 Switch out your light bulbs.
Is your home filled with incandescent light bulbs? Now is a good time to switch them out with energy-efficient LED bulbs. While incandescent bulbs are a little cheaper initially, LEDs have a longer lifespan and cost less to use.

2 Use caulk to seal leaks.
If you have small air gaps around your doors and windows, you're letting warm outside air inside and making your HVAC run longer to keep your home comfortable which

uses more energy. Take a quick trip to your local hardware store for a caulk gun and seal up those gaps to save on energy use.

3 Replace air filters.
When was the last time you changed out the air filters around your home? We recommend changing your filters monthly. A clean filter allows all air from your air conditioner to cool your home instead of being blocked by a dirty filter which makes your unit use more electricity. As a bonus, changing out your filters will result in cleaner air flowing through your home.

4 Install a low-flow showerhead.
Make your showers more efficient by installing a water-saving showerhead. There are a number of models available so you're sure to find the perfect option that's both powerful and

energy efficient. Saving hot water reduces the energy needed to heat up the water in the tank.

5 Install a programmable or smart thermostat.
This is the most expensive tip on this list, but it can make a significant impact on your energy bill. With a programmable thermostat, you can set schedules for your heating and cooling system to adjust automatically. You can also let your smart thermostat learn your cooling habits and make adjustments as necessary for maximum efficiency. Plus, we offer a \$50 sign-up rebate when you join our smart thermostat savings program with your Nest or Ecobee smart thermostat! Learn more at pemc.coop/thermostat.

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

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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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.

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