



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2019



Managing your energy bill while hosting for the holidays

While the holidays are a fun opportunity to spend quality time with the important people in your life, they can also lead to an increase in energy use, which results in a higher bill.

How does a holiday gathering affect my bill?

The amount of your monthly bill is calculated by a fairly simple equation: You pay for the amount of energy used during the course of a certain time period. So it makes sense that if you have more people than normal in your home for the holidays, more energy will be used and your bill will reflect that.

Even if you're not having overnight guests, hosting Thanksgiving dinner can still impact your bill. Cooking all day for a large group of people means that you'll be using your appliances more than usual. You might also have multiple TVs on at the same time so people can watch the parade or football games throughout the house.

Similarly, if you have a lot of people in your home for the day, you might need to adjust your thermostat settings so the temperature in your home is comfortable for everyone. Alone, these seem like small factors, but you might be surprised by how much they can all add up together.

How can I reduce the impact?

If you'd like to better manage your energy use during the holidays, Piedmont Electric can help!

Visit pemc.coop/appliance-calculator to see a breakdown of how much it costs to use the appliances in your home. Then you can use the results to make informed decisions about how you use energy during the holidays.

For example, if you see that using your oven for one hour uses 2.4 kWh, but your slow cooker only uses 0.2 kWh for the same amount of time, you might plan to make your Thanksgiving stuffing in the slow cooker instead of the oven to save energy.

**Calculations based on a 2400-watt oven and a 200-watt slow cooker. 1000 watts equals 1 kW.*

IMPORTANT DATES

November 11 Veterans Day

Thank you to all our veterans!
Piedmont Electric offices will be open.
ElecTel will be closed.

November 28-29 Thanksgiving

Piedmont Electric offices will be closed and employees will be on call.
Enjoy your holiday!

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November right-of-way maintenance

ORANGE COUNTY

NC Hwy 157
Laws Store Road
Little River Church Road
Wagner Dairy Road



Want to save even more? Sign up for a time-of-day rate to save more than 50 percent on your energy use during holidays and every day!

Visit pemc.coop/timeofday for more information.





*Is your home ready for **cold** **Carolina temperatures?***

As the leaves change color, you probably make adjustments to your wardrobe and pull your heavy winter clothes out of storage. Have you considered making similar adjustments to your home as the seasons change? Just like you need warmer clothes to be comfortable in the winter, making changes in your home for the different seasons will help your home run more efficiently. As a bonus, these adjustments can help lower your energy bill.

We've identified some of our favorite no-cost, low-cost and higher-cost winter energy-saving tips to keep you warm and your wallet happy.

No-cost energy tips

- Switch the rotation of your ceiling fan blades to rotate clockwise, which will bring warm air back down to you.
- Keep your curtains open during the day to let the sun warm your home. But don't forget to close them once the sun goes down.
- Update the schedule on your programmable thermostat. We recommend keeping your home set at 68°F during the winter. For even more savings, join our smart thermostat savings program with your Nest or Ecobee smart thermostat at pemc.coop/thermostat.
- Keep your garage door closed so that warm air stays trapped against the garage-side wall of your house.
- Adjust the temperature on your water heater to 120°F. This will keep the water warm enough for you to shower comfortably without using energy to heat water you aren't using.
- Schedule a free home energy analysis which is available to all Piedmont Electric members. We'll send an experienced energy specialist out to your home to make suggestions for improvements.

Visit pemc.coop/home-energy-analysis for more information.



Low-cost energy tips

- Use weather stripping or caulk to seal gaps around doors and windows. This will help prevent warm air from escaping and cool air from entering your home.
- Change out the air filters in your home monthly so that your HVAC unit can continue working efficiently.
- Weather proof your windows with a clear, plastic film to reduce heat loss. It's a quick and cheap project that will help keep you warm all winter and then you can easily remove it in the spring.
- Instead of running the heat through your entire home, use a space heater to warm only the room you're using. Remember to turn it off before leaving the room or going to bed and never leave it unattended.
- Add an insulated water-heater blanket to your electric water heater to prevent heat loss from the tank.
- When decorating your home for the holidays, use LED lights and set them on a timer so you don't accidentally leave them on during the day.



Higher-cost energy tips

- Consider replacing your fireplace with a more energy-efficient electric model or add doors to your existing fireplace to help stop air leaks when not in use.
- If your home is older, add insulation in your attic as it may have broken down over time. This will keep your house warmer during the chilly winter months.
- Schedule a cleaning and maintenance service for your HVAC unit. The amount you spend now could help your system run efficiently for a longer period of time.

For even more energy-saving tips, visit pemc.coop/save-energy-money.



OFFICIAL NOTICE

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETS DECEMBER 7, 2019

Four seats on the Piedmont Electric board of directors are up for election in 2020. These seats are currently held by David Poythress (District 1), Randy Kinley (District 2), Paul Bailey (District 5) and Richal Vanhook (At Large). As a reminder, there will be no voting at the annual meeting next year. All voting will be conducted online or by mail-in ballot.

The members serving on the nominating committee are:

- KAY FERGUSON Hillsborough, At Large
DIANNE MURPHY Mebane, District 4
MARTIN A. DAVIS Timberlake, District 7
JOE CURRIN Chapel Hill, District 1
ADAM SARVER Roxboro, District 5
WILLIS PARKER Rougemont, District 8
GREG MARTIN Mebane, District 2
CORY MELTON Roxboro, District 6
SUSAN GRAY Timberlake, District 9

GREGORY RUDD Yanceyville, District 3

The cooperative's bylaws provide an alternative to the nominating committee. Any fifty (50) or more members of the cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, in like manner listing the nominees separately with respect to the directorate districts from which they are nominated, on or before January 14, preceding the annual meeting at which such directors are to be elected.

Any member nominated by petition as a candidate for any Directorate must meet the qualifications to serve as a director set forth in section 4.02 before the nominee's name may be placed on the ballot for election at the annual meeting.

DID YOU KNOW? The average member saved more than \$22 per month by switching to a time-of-day rate last year! That's more than the cost of most TV and movie streaming services. Sign up for a time-of-day rate by visiting pemc.coop/timeofday and use the money you save to watch your favorite shows.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation Piedmont Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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.

2500 NC Highway 86 South PO Drawer 1179 Hillsborough, NC 27278

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.

Please note that it may take up to 24 hours for our system to recognize new cell phone numbers in the text outage alert program.