



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2019



Save on energy costs while baking for the holidays

It's Christmas afternoon and Piedmont Electric member Emma has one more surprise for her two kids. They're making Grandma's famous sugar cookies! As the afternoon passes, the three of them listen to holiday music, laughing together as they try not to spill too much flour on the counter.

The weather outside is frightful, but the temperature inside is delightful thanks to Emma's new smart thermostat. The sweet aroma of freshly baked sugar cookies fills the air and the kids try to sneak one before they cool.

It's a day spent making priceless memories together and the last thing on Emma's mind is how much energy is being used to make the cookies.

That's because Emma is a Piedmont Electric member with a time-of-day rate, which means she pays half-price on energy used during off-peak hours on holidays, weekends and certain hours of each weekday.

This gives her more time to focus on the important things in life and not stress about her monthly electric bill. In fact, members like Emma saved an average of \$22 per month by switching to a time-of-day rate last year!

See if a time-of-day rate is right for you by visiting pemc.coop/timeofday.

Make Grandma's sugar cookies for yourself!

Ingredients

- 1 cup sugar
- 2 sticks softened butter
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon vinegar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Directions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Beat sugar gradually into butter. Combine flour, baking soda, vinegar, vanilla and salt in a separate bowl. Combine the sugar mixture and the flour mixture, adding a little at a time. Roll into small balls on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake for 10 to 15 minutes.

Recipe courtesy of Carolina Country and Ann Westra of Youngsville.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 24-25 Christmas

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

December 31 Youth Tour applications due

Apply for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity available to high school students. Applications due by 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 31.

January 1 New Year's Day

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

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December right-of-way maintenance

DURHAM/ORANGE/ PERSON COUNTY

- Hall Dairy Road
- Holeman Ashley Road
- Dick Holeman Road
- New Sharon Church Road
- Bill Poole Road
- NC Highway 57
- McKee Road
- Sawyer Road



NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL PIEDMONT ELECTRIC LOOKS 2019

Revisit our greatest hits from the year!

As the year is coming to a close, we're looking back at some of the articles our members found to be the most helpful in 2019. Did your favorites make the list?

1

SmartHub, the smartest way to manage your bill, February 2019

Let us help make life a little easier with SmartHub, your one-stop shop for all your account needs. Learn about ways that SmartHub can help you manage your account by visiting pemc.coop/smarthub.

2

Convenient payment options to fit your lifestyle, May 2019

We know that you're busy, which is why we offer multiple payment options to make it easier than ever for you to pay your electric bill. See an overview of all the convenient ways to pay by visiting pemc.coop/payment-options.

3

Give winter weather the cold shoulder with these energy-saving tips, February 2019

With average winter temperatures in our area ranging from the low-30s to the mid-50s, this season is often associated with higher bills. However, that doesn't have to be the case! Learn about a few simple energy efficiency tips that can help melt away high bills during the winter by visiting pemc.coop/cold-shoulder.

4

Managing rising costs, September 2019

Piedmont Electric President and CEO, Steve Hamlin, explains our annual budgeting process and that the items in your personal household budget aren't all that different from our cooperative's budget. Read his full message by visiting pemc.coop/managing-costs.

5

Why does my power bill rise with the summer heat?, July 2019

You're probably used to receiving a higher energy bill during the hot months. But there are still ways you can save electricity even as the temperature rises. Find out why your bill increases in the summer and learn about a few of our favorite ways to keep it from climbing at pemc.coop/summer-heat.

6

Go green here in our community, April 2019

At Piedmont Electric, we want to help you reduce your carbon footprint not just once a year, but every day. Help the planet and your wallet by learning easy ways to go green at pemc.coop/go-green.

7

Set it and forget it, May 2019

Homeowners are always looking for ways to save on their energy bill and there are new products to help meet that demand. Consider implementing new technology around your home to help you use less energy and save more money! Visit pemc.coop/set-and-forget to learn how to automate your home with energy-saving technology.

8

Prepare now for summer storms, June 2019

It's easy to forget about dangerous summer storms until they're upon us. That's why it's important to 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. Find out how to prepare for summer storm season at pemc.coop/summer-storms.

9

Can you get an A+ in saving energy?, September 2019

Time for a pop quiz! Do you know how to save energy and reduce your electric bill? Test yourself to see how much you know about energy efficiency by taking our short quiz about simple energy-saving tips at pemc.coop/energy-quiz.

10

National Lineman Appreciation Day 2019, April 2019

Every year on the second Monday in April, electric cooperatives across the country take time to thank and honor the dedicated linemen who work to keep the lights on in our communities. But, regardless of time of year, we invite you to celebrate with us by thanking a lineman for the work they do in our community. Read more about this important day at pemc.coop/lineman-appreciation.

We want to hear from you!

Do you find our articles helpful? Is there anything you'd like to see more or less of in our monthly newsletters? Visit pemc.coop/reader-survey to take a short poll and share your feedback to help shape our future content.

Capital credits

This holiday season, Piedmont Electric is returning nearly \$930,000 to individuals who were members in 1992. Members who will receive \$20.00 or more should be on the lookout for a check in mid-December while those receiving less will see their capital credit as a bill credit.

What are capital credits?

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Piedmont Electric returns margins back to our members. The credits are returned in the form of a check or a credit back on your bill. This is just another benefit of being a cooperative member!

How are capital credits calculated?

The amount you're owed is determined by the proportional amount of revenue you contributed to the cooperative through your monthly bill payments during a year in which our utility collected more than it spent. Each year our member-elected board of directors determines whether the co-op's financial position permits the return of capital credits and, if so, what amount of capital credits will be returned. Holding capital credits helps us keep our rates low by reducing the amount of funds that need to be borrowed.

What happens to a member's capital credits if they move out of the Piedmont Electric service area?

This is where we need your help! If a member moves out of our service area, they may have unclaimed capital credits. For example, if a member living in our service area in 1992 moved away in 2001, they may not realize that they are probably owed a credit from 1992.

Visit pemc.coop/capitalcredit to search for unclaimed capital credits for your family, friends and coworkers.

While we make every attempt to contact former members that are owed money, unclaimed capital credits must be turned over to the North Carolina treasurer's office if they are still unclaimed after four years. That money can be claimed by searching nccash.com.

Thank you for helping us return money to former members who were with us in the late 80s and early 90s!

Since 1975, Piedmont Electric has returned approximately \$27 million in capital credits to our members.

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.

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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.

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.