



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2020



Making changes to your home's electrical?

Talking with your cooperative first could save you time and money.

When you're planning an exciting new home renovation project, it can feel like you have a never-ending list of things to get done.

Well, if your project includes updates to your home's electrical wiring, there's an important item to have on your list: check in with us before getting started!

Why should you talk to Piedmont Electric before changing the electrical equipment in your home?

When you make major electrical updates to your house, there may also be changes we need to make on our end as a result. To save you time (and potentially money!) we recommend calling **800.222.3107** or emailing **info@pemc.coop** to discuss your plans with our team.

We'll be able to give you more information about how your project might result in changes to your Piedmont Electric service.

What types of projects should you call about?

If you're just doing a small update like replacing appliances with similar models or purchasing new electronics, you don't need to call us. But if you're planning a large-scale renovation that might result in major electrical updates, give us a quick call before getting started. Here are a few examples of the types of larger projects you'd want to call about first:

- Installing a whole-home generator
- Adding an electric vehicle charging station
- Changing out or moving your meter box
- Adding an addition to your home
- Adding a pool or hot tub to your backyard
- Adding power to a shed or garage
- Anything that would require substantial digging in your yard

Projects like these can involve moving underground cables or other changes to your service which can be expensive and result in you receiving an unexpected bill at the end of your project. By talking to us first, we can give you the information you need before you get started.

We always provide free advice on using energy in your home. So if you have a question, just call us at **800.222.3107** or email **info@pemc.coop** so we can give you recommendations about how to best handle your project.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 10

Good Friday

Our offices will be closed and employees will be on call.

April 13

National Lineman Appreciation Day

April 15

Vote

Electronic ballots and postcards must be received by 5 p.m. on April 15

April 17

Piedmont Electric Annual Meeting

Watch live on Facebook at 10 a.m.!

April 22

Earth Day

26 **What does it mean to be a co-op lineman?**

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28 **A perfect pair for savings**

April right-of-way maintenance

ORANGE/PERSON COUNTY

Virgilina Road
High Plains Road
NC Highway 49
Buckhorn Road
Bradshaw Quarry Road
Arthur Minnis Road
Oak Grove Church Road



Are you looking for a better internet solution?

Let your voice be heard at **Join.BuildPiedmont.com** today!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A CO-OP LINEMAN?

On April 13, we celebrate the brave linemen of Piedmont Electric and other electric co-ops across the country with National Lineman Appreciation Day. While we are grateful to them year-round, it's a special opportunity to let them know just how thankful we are for the hard work they do to keep our electricity on day and night.

This year, we interviewed a few of our linemen to learn more about what this job means to them.



Brian Rhew (Crew Leader, 25 years with the co-op) It means a lot to me to be a co-op lineman because of the comradery we have together on the crews. Piedmont Electric is a family-oriented business and we are all about community. I've lived here my whole life which makes working in this community very personal.



Hunter Cox (Lineman Trainee, 2 years with the co-op) To me, being a co-op lineman means that my company takes care of me, is family-oriented and provides training. When storms come in, I always learn a lot from the other linemen since every situation is different during storm restoration.



Ae Bounvilay (Class B Lineman, 4 years with the co-op) It means the world to me to be a co-op lineman. The culture is about the community and it's like a brotherhood on the crews. Piedmont Electric challenges me both mentally and physically and lets me learn daily from working alongside senior linemen.



Devyn Crittenton (Lineman Trainee, 10 months with the co-op) One of the awesome differences with the co-op is that they give you the education you need to have a full understanding of everything from the substation to your doorstep.



David Tilson (Crew Leader, 20 years with the co-op) Being a co-op lineman means we focus on our members and on safety in everything we do. That's the whole difference with the co-op.

Remember to use #ThankALineman on social media this month to show your appreciation!



1,281

members reduce their energy use during peak times by using our time-of-day rates

143

members support solar energy through our community solar program

8,777

members reduce paper consumption by participating in paperless billing

317

members cut back on using their AC through our smart thermostat savings program

226

members have installed solar panels on their homes to harness the power of solar energy

51

members reduce carbon emissions by driving electric vehicles

212

members participating in the Beat the Peak program

Showing we care by doing our share

Earth Day is April 22, but our members celebrate the planet every day by participating in our energy-conscious programs! Here's a closer look at some of the ways we all work together to support a healthier planet.

Thank you for helping us do our part in practicing smart energy habits!

Now, add some green to your wallet

Did you know that the average member can save \$23-28 per month during the summer by bundling these energy-saving programs from Piedmont Electric?

- *Smart thermostat savings program: Nest or Ecobee smart thermostat owners can receive a \$2.50 monthly credit from June through September plus a \$50 rebate for signing up for the program.**
- *Load management air conditioning program: Receive between \$2.50-\$7.50 per month from June through September.*
- *Load management water heater program: Receive \$1 per month all year long.*
- *Time-of-day rates: The average member saves about \$20 per month by participating.*

Visit pemc.coop/use-less-save-more for more information about each of these programs and other energy-saving ideas. For more ways to save, download the 101 Easy Ways to Save Energy and Money brochure at www.pemc.coop/101-energy-saving-tips or pick up a brochure at one of our offices.

**Must have Wi-Fi to participate in this program.*



A perfect pair for savings

Summer will be here before you know it! Sign up for these energy-saving programs now so you're prepared when the hottest part of the year rolls around.

Want to maximize your energy savings? Our time-of-day rate and smart thermostat program work best when used together!

When you sign up for a time-of-day rate, you pay a lower rate for the energy you use during off-peak hours. Then when you participate in our smart thermostat savings program, you allow Piedmont Electric to adjust your thermostat on very hot afternoons in the summer through your in-home Wi-Fi which you must have in order to participate in the program. This coincides with summer peak times, helping you to maximize your savings with no extra effort on your part.

Want to make it even easier to save? Program your smart thermostat to automatically cut back or turn off during high-peak times so you're only using your system during the most economical parts of the day.

Not sure if the time-of-day rate is right for you? Try it for a year and if you don't save compared to our regular rate, we'll give you the difference back!

Get started today by signing up at pemc.coop/thermostat and pemc.coop/timeofday.

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 or "#status" for an update on your outage.

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.