



# CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | MAY 2020



## Help those impacted by COVID-19

Piedmont Electric's Helping Hand Foundation has helped support the needs of our local communities, all thanks to the generous support of our members.

In response to the current COVID-19 crisis, the foundation has set aside an additional \$15,000 to go toward energy assistance to help members in need. To continue in the spirit of supporting our local community, please consider making a donation to our Helping Hand Foundation. Contributions, which are tax-deductible, will directly benefit those impacted in our community through energy assistance.

Piedmont Electric will do its part to help every member in need through this crisis.

As a cooperative we work best when we all work together. Please consider making a donation that could help a neighbor, a friend, a coworker, a family member.

You can donate online at [pemc.coop/donate](https://pemc.coop/donate) or you can send a check made payable to "Helping Hand Foundation COVID-19" to Piedmont Electric Helping Hand Foundation, P.O. Drawer 1179, Hillsborough, NC 27278.

If you have any questions please contact us at [info@pemc.coop](mailto:info@pemc.coop) or call 800.222.3107.

### Energy assistance

If you or someone you know is in need of assistance during this time, please get in contact with us at [info@pemc.coop](mailto:info@pemc.coop) or 800.222.3107. Piedmont Electric will do everything we can to work with members during this difficult time.

If you are able to help, please consider donating to the Piedmont Electric Helping Hand Foundation to support those in need.

## Rate changes postponed

With uncertain financial hardships our members may be facing because of the COVID-19 outbreak, we have postponed our residential and commercial rate changes that were planned to start May 1.

As we plan for the future, we will be conducting a rate study this summer to ensure that the cooperative maintains its strong financial position. As an at-cost power company, our goal will continue to be providing you with exceptional service at the lowest cost we can.

Our staff works hard to keep costs under control including efforts to limit our peak energy

consumption which impacts our largest expense - wholesale power costs.

Piedmont Electric's energy peak accounts for more than half of the costs we pay for electricity from our provider. In the summer, our peak occurs 1-6 p.m. when air conditioning units are typically running full blast. In the winter, our peak occurs between 6-10 a.m. when people are getting ready for their day.

Visit [pemc.coop/use-less-save-more/](https://pemc.coop/use-less-save-more/) to see how you can help keep our rates low!

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### May

**National Electrical Safety Month**

#### May 10

**Mother's Day**

#### May 25

**Memorial Day**

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

18 **Strike Guard**

19 **Energy forecast tool**

20 **Electrical safety exam**

### May right-of-way maintenance

**GRANVILLE/PERSON COUNTY**

Blue Wing Road  
Amis Chapel Road  
High View Road  
Bowen Road  
Rassie Crabtree Road  
Moores Mill Road  
Harris Mill Road



Are you looking for a better internet solution?

Let your voice be heard at [Join.BuildPiedmont.com](https://Join.BuildPiedmont.com) today!



# STRIKE THE PERFECT BALANCE

Our Strike Guard program offers just the right blend of protection and savings for your electronic equipment.

Will your appliances and valuable electronics be protected from damaging power surges during summer storms? When you sign up for our Strike Guard program, you'll get powerful surge protectors that provide two-level protection against surges.



Visit [pemc.coop/strikeguard](http://pemc.coop/strikeguard) today for a full price list and for more information about how to sign up so you're prepared once summer storm season hits. When you're ready, call us at **800.222.3107** and we will help you protect your electronic equipment.

*\*Surge suppressors are not intended to protect against direct lightning strikes.*

# BUY OR LEASE

You can either choose to lease the Strike Guard equipment from us or purchase it outright instead. Either way, the small cost to use this equipment could end up saving you hundreds in the event of damage from a power surge to your expensive electronics or appliances.

GAZE INTO THE FUTURE



WITH OUR ENERGY FORECAST TOOL

## What if we told you it was possible to take a peek into the future?

While we can't tell you everything your future holds, we can give you an idea of how much your electricity costs are forecasted to be each day over the coming week. That's right, our free energy forecast tool pulls in data about local weather and uses that to determine your approximate electricity costs for each day based on how you typically use energy.

### Personalized data for you

When you visit [pemc.coop/analyze-my-bill](http://pemc.coop/analyze-my-bill), simply click on the "Energy Forecast" tab at the top of the page. You'll instantly get a general, projected energy cost for the week and a further breakdown by day. Not surprisingly, the more extreme the weather forecast, the higher your estimated cost will be as heating and cooling your home uses the most energy. On days with a milder forecast you can expect to pay less in energy costs.

Plus, if you connect your account number to the tool, you'll get personalized information on how much you can expect your energy costs to be as it will analyze how you normally use energy. You can also add specific information about your house for personalized energy-saving tips.

### Thermostat savings calculator

The energy forecast tool bases its estimates according to a default thermostat setting of 68 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer. But if your thermostat is set differently, your energy costs will vary. You can use the thermostat savings calculator on the page to adjust the thermostat to match your home and see the how the thermostat setting can affect your bill.

The tool also shows a simple breakdown of how much of your weekly costs go toward heating or cooling compared to other energy sources.

Our energy auditors are available by calling **800.222.3107** to assist you or answer any questions you may have.

Visit [pemc.coop/analyze-my-bill](http://pemc.coop/analyze-my-bill) today to take a glimpse into the future and learn more about what you can expect your energy costs to be over the next few days. No crystal ball needed!

# NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



## Can you ace this electrical safety quiz?

May is National Electrical Safety Month, which means it's a great time for you to brush up on your electrical safety smarts!

Test your knowledge by answering the questions below and then check the bottom of the page to see how you did.

**1. If you notice a frayed or broken electrical cord, you should:**

- a. Do nothing. As long as you don't touch it, it's not a safety hazard.
- b. Throw away damaged electrical cords.
- c. Remove it from the wall and plug it into a power strip instead.
- d. Call 811.

**2. The lint filter in your dryer can become a fire hazard if not cleaned regularly.**

- a. True
- b. False

**3. Which project do you need to call 811 for before you dig?**

- a. Installing a mailbox.
- b. Planting a small flower bed or bush.
- c. Digging in a spot that was previously marked.
- d. All of the above.

**4. It's ok to permanently store extension cords outside.**

- a. True
- b. False

**5. If you see a downed power line, you should:**

- a. Call Piedmont Electric.
- b. Stay as far away from the downed line as possible.
- c. Not touch anything that touches the downed line.
- d. All of the above.

**6. How often should you test your smoke detectors?**

- a. Once a month.
- b. Once every three months.
- c. Once every six months.
- d. Once a year.

See how you did below!

Answers: 1. b. Throw away damaged electrical cords., 2. a. True, 3. d. All of the above., 4. b. False, 5. d. All of the above., 6. a. Once a month.

### 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

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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.