



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2020



Always here for each other

September marks Preparedness Month, which serves as a reminder to stay prepared for natural disasters and emergencies. This is especially fitting here in North Carolina as September is the month we typically experience the highest level of hurricane activity in our state.

To celebrate Preparedness Month, let's take a closer look at how cooperatives work together to help each other out in the wake of a natural disaster.

Stronger together

As a cooperative, we follow seven cooperative principles in our efforts to best serve our members. One of those principles is cooperation among cooperatives. This means that when other electric cooperatives in our area need help, we answer the call.

This is set up through a mutual-aid agreement which is an agreement among cooperatives in our state that we all offer assistance to each other when needed. For example, when Hurricane Matthew left the Carolina coast damaged and millions without power, we traveled to cooperatives on the coast that needed help recovering.

By working together, we were able to restore power to their members quickly

and safely. Likewise, when our service area was damaged by Hurricane Michael, other electric cooperatives came to our aid.

As cooperatives, we have each other's backs no matter what time of year and this helps us better serve our members. It also helps protect our linemen who would otherwise have to take care of all the restoration efforts after a large storm by themselves.

We truly are stronger together and we'll get through the worst of hurricane season each year thanks to our preparedness and the helping hands of our fellow co-ops.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 7

Bright Ideas final deadline

September 7

Labor Day

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

18 **Carbon reduction goals**

20 **Light up autumn nights**

September right-of-way maintenance

PERSON COUNTY

Jim Latta Road
Stoney Mountain Road
Surl Mt. Tirzah Road
Halifax Road
Allie Clay Road
Royster Clay Road
Edwin Robertson Road



Make sure you're prepared for hurricane season

Have you updated your emergency kit recently? During the COVID-19 health crisis, many of us had to borrow supplies from our kits when items like toilet paper and hand sanitizer were hard to find in stores.

Take some time to go through your emergency kit and replace any items you have used. You will also want to keep extra hand sanitizer, masks and bottled water in your kit along with other basic supplies like batteries, medicine and nonperishable foods.



To learn how to build an emergency kit, visit pemc.coop/be-prepared

Piedmont Electric announces carbon reduction goals



STEVE HAMLIN
President & CEO

Being a local cooperative, Piedmont Electric is concerned about more than just delivering affordable, reliable power. One of our core principles is to look out for the communities we serve to ensure they remain a good place to live, work and raise a family.

Towards that principle, Piedmont Electric has set ambitious carbon reduction goals to make sure that we do our part to protect the environment.

Piedmont Electric pledges to reduce carbon dioxide emissions 50 percent by 2030 and will have net zero carbon emissions by 2050. While Piedmont Electric does not own or operate power plants, the cooperative will work with its power providers to meet these goals.

Piedmont Electric has long been a supporter of renewable energy. The cooperative supports members who install their own solar, developed two community solar projects to enable all members to participate in renewable energy and has used the renewable energy provided by the Southeastern Power Administration's hydropower projects for decades.

Additionally, the cooperative offers time-of-day rates that help support energy efficiency and load shifting among its membership to give members options in managing their bills while reducing the need for future power plants.

Other measures helping reduce the co-op's carbon footprint include offering rebates and loans to members for energy efficient HVAC systems, system improvements which reduce the need for a vehicle to visit the location, advocating for public policy that advances innovation and a prepay system that supports energy efficiency. Remember to always call us at **800.222.3107** to learn the specific details for our rebates and loan programs.

Your local cooperative has also supported the growth of electric vehicles by providing rebates and advantageous rates for members who charge their vehicles during times when energy demand is low. Piedmont Electric is also integrating electric and hybrid vehicles into its fleet helping the co-op and its members reduce their carbon footprint further.

Contact Piedmont Electric to learn more about these initiatives and for ways you can reduce your carbon footprint by visiting pemc.coop or calling **800.222.3107**.

Supporting renewable energy among our members



222 members
have installed solar

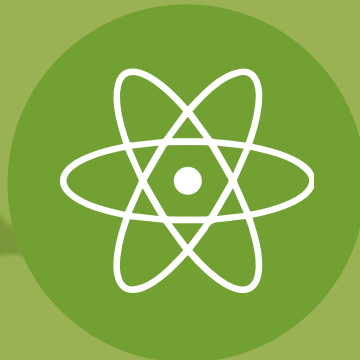


66 members
drive electric vehicles



146 members
are participating in
community solar

Projected 2020 energy mix (used to supply electricity to members)



52%
Nuclear



27%
Natural gas



9%
Renewables/other



12%
Coal

This is our energy mix goal for 2020. Our net carbon emissions have been reduced by 37 percent since 2005 and we aim to be carbon neutral by 2050.

LIGHT UP your autumn nights

Fall officially begins this month and the days are starting to get shorter. Why not update your outdoor space this season with a new security light so you can enjoy more time outside?

Piedmont Electric's outdoor security light program

As a member of our cooperative, you can choose from more than 20 different outdoor lighting options for your home at a price that's easy on your wallet. For a small monthly fee, you can rent the outdoor security light of your choice to give your yard the perfect ambiance for your next outdoor gathering.

Our outdoor security light options include:

- Standard security lights
- Flood lights
- Post lights
- Roadway lights
- And more

Visit pemc.coop/outdoor-lighting to see the different options. The monthly rental fee is dependent on the type of light you choose and whether pole rental is required.

How to request outdoor lighting for your home

If you'd like to request outdoor lighting for your space or you have an issue with an existing security light, please visit pemc.coop/light-update.

Our team will reach out to help you determine which light will best fit your needs.

With the help of Piedmont Electric, your fall gatherings can last well into the night!

Visit pemc.coop/outdoor-lighting to sign up for this program today!

+ Piedmont Electric and RiverStreet Networks

Piedmont Electric and RiverStreet Networks have launched a broadband pilot program in an effort to bring a reliable, affordable internet service to the unserved and underserved areas of our communities. While this project will take years to complete, Piedmont Electric and RiverStreet are committed to bringing a better internet solution to those who need and want it. In order to do that, we need to know who is interested so make sure you and those in your community express your interest by visiting Join.BuildPiedmont.com. Learn more about this pilot program on this month's cover wrap and at pemc.coop/riverstreet-networks.



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.
Report outages, make payments 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

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IF YOUR POWER GOES OUT, CALL OR TEXT 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 online through SmartHub, by completing the form on 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.