



CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2021



Broadband pilot program update

Over the past year, we've been working with RiverStreet Networks to launch a broadband pilot program to help bring high-speed internet service to the unserved and underserved areas in our communities.

In February, our board of directors met to talk about updates for the project, which we're sharing with you today. We're now one step closer to bringing reliable internet access to our communities!

Broadband update

While broadband interest was being collected, there was funding sought from county, state, and federal programs. We are pleased to announce that funding coupled with interest from members in Caswell County has resulted in the future buildout of a wireless solution to 2,918 households and businesses in the Caswell area.

There is also a wireless internet expansion project underway in Person County as the result of RiverStreet Networks acquiring NC Lightleap in 2020. NC Lightleap had been selected by Person County in their earlier efforts to develop a network solution with the buildout of communication towers. Piedmont Electric and RiverStreet Networks are currently working out the details of our agreement and hope to have information, including timelines, to share in the near future.

While these projects will take time to complete, Piedmont Electric and RiverStreet are committed to bringing a better internet solution to those who need and want it.

We are still gauging interest from our members so let your voice be heard by visiting [Join.BuildPiedmont.com](https://www.piedmontelectric.com/Join.BuildPiedmont.com) today!

How you can help these efforts

If you haven't yet expressed your interest in bringing more reliable internet to your neighborhood, don't wait any longer! The best way for us to determine which areas of our community need access to this service is to hear directly from you.

Let your voice be heard by visiting [Join.BuildPiedmont.com](https://www.piedmontelectric.com/Join.BuildPiedmont.com) and providing your address to show your interest. Then, spread the word with your friends and neighbors to let them know that high-speed internet could be headed their way.

Remember, the more feedback we get from your area expressing interest in reliable, high-speed internet, the more likely it is to come to your area in the future.

IMPORTANT DATES

April 2

Good Friday

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

April 12

Lineworker Appreciation Day

Join us in thanking our lineworkers by using #ThankALineworker on social media.

April 16

Annual meeting livestream

Tune in at 10 a.m. on our Facebook page or anytime after on our website.

April 22

Earth Day

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Join our annual meeting livestream!

We hope you'll join us on Friday, April 16, at 10 a.m. for our virtual annual meeting livestream. During this event, you'll learn about the latest co-op updates and hear from our President and CEO, Steve Hamlin.



How to treat every day like Earth Day

As we prepare to celebrate Earth Day on April 22, we're reminded that our commitment to our planet is not something that comes just once a year.

As a cooperative, we've committed to doing our part to give back to the Earth by reducing our carbon dioxide emissions by 50% by 2030. Thanks to the efforts we're making today, we'll have net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Small steps every day can help lead to big results. Here are a few ways you can join our efforts to treat every day like Earth Day.



Piedmont Electric's
**Smart Thermostat
Savings Program**

Smart thermostat savings program:

Helps you use less energy cooling and heating your home plus pays you for joining! This program requires a Nest thermostat and WiFi to participate. Visit pemc.coop/thermostat for more details.

LOAD MANAGEMENT

Load management:

Helps you reduce the amount of energy your air conditioner and water heater use plus pays you bill credits.

Visit

pemc.coop/load-management for more details.

BEAT THE PEAK

Beat the peak:

Reminds you to reduce energy use during times when energy use is high for our co-op. Visit pemc.coop/btp for more details.

Sign up for energy- and money-saving programs

We offer our members a variety of convenient programs to help you save on energy use and costs. Sign up for as many as you'd like to go green and save green!

Plant the seeds for energy-saving

Choose a green billing option

Save the trees when you say goodbye to your monthly paper bill in favor of our paperless billing program. Simply log in to your SmartHub account and change the "Printed Bill Status" slider option to the "OFF" position.

Community solar

Subscribe to panels in our community solar field and receive a monthly bill credit based on the solar productions of your panels. Learn more at pemc.coop/communitysolar.

Online energy calculators

Our calculators can help you see how much energy it takes to use the appliances in your home, interpret your annual heating and cooling costs, provide cost-saving recommendations based on the specifics of your home and more. Try them out for yourself at pemc.coop/tools.

Sign up for SmartHub

Access SmartHub from your desktop or mobile device to see how much energy you use each day. You can also sign up for usage alerts throughout the month so you can better monitor your use and avoid the surprise of a higher bill. Sign up at pemc.smarthub.coop.

Simple acts, big impacts

Here are a few other ways you can help our planet every day and save money in the process.

- Set your thermostat to 78°F in the summer and 68°F in the winter.
- Use ceiling fans to keep rooms cool in the summer. Just remember to turn them off when you leave the room.
- Install a low-flow shower head to reduce excess water use.
- Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use.
- Seal gaps around your doors and windows to prevent outside air from coming into your home.

TIME-OF-DAY

Time-of-day rates:

Lets you pay half price for energy used during times when energy use is low for our co-op. Visit pemc.coop/timeofday for more details.

EV

TIME-OF-DAY

EV time-of-day rate:

Gives you a more affordable option for charging your electric vehicle. Visit pemc.coop/electric-vehicle-rate for more details.



Taking care of the power so you can take care of what matters

When it comes to powering our communities, no one works harder than a Piedmont Electric lineworker.

Rain or shine, day or night, our lineworkers restore power so that you can stay comfortable and focus on the important moments in life.

On April 12, and every day, we show our appreciation for the lineworkers that keep the lights on in our homes and businesses.

Join us in celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 12 by sharing messages of thanks using **#ThankALineworker**.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

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

Hillsborough and Roxboro

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Caswell Office Hours:

Wednesday 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.

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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.