



# CONNECTION

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION MEMBER NEWSLETTER | MAY 2021



## April showers bring May savings

The sun is shining and spring flowers are blossoming. Here at Piedmont Electric, that means savings are in bloom too! This spring, explore our money-saving programs to help you save now and in the warmer days ahead.

### Smart thermostat savings program

If you're someone who tries to keep your energy use low in the summer months, our smart thermostat savings program can help! This program helps you reduce your energy use during the hottest months of the year plus pays you bill credits during the summer months.

When you sign up, Piedmont Electric will make slight adjustments to your Nest thermostat settings via in-home WiFi on very hot afternoons. Of course, you always have the final say in your home's temperature, so you can adjust it back at any time.

#### How it helps you save:

- A \$50 instant rebate just for joining
- A monthly bill credit of \$2.50 from June through September
- Lower energy bills, thanks to more efficient thermostat use

Visit [pemc.coop/thermostat](http://pemc.coop/thermostat) to learn more.

### Air conditioning load management

Another way to combat the costs associated with hot summer days is to join our air conditioning load management program.

When you join, we'll install a load control switch on your meter which will cycle your unit off for a short time during periods when our co-op has high energy use.

#### How it helps you save:

- A one-time \$25 credit, just for joining
- A monthly bill credit of \$2.50-\$7.50 from June through September depending on which level you join
- Lower energy bills, thanks to more efficient AC use

Learn how to join at [pemc.coop/load-management](http://pemc.coop/load-management).

### Water heater load management

The cost it takes to heat your water can be a sneaky culprit of higher bills. Help control this by joining our water heater load management program.

Once you've signed up, we'll cycle your electric water heater off when the energy use is at its peak for our co-op. Your tank keeps a reserve of hot water ready to use, so in most cases you won't notice a difference when it's turned off.

#### How it helps you save:

- A one-time \$25 credit, just for joining
- A monthly bill credit of \$1 all year long
- Lower energy bills, thanks to more efficient water heating

Sign up at [pemc.coop/load-management](http://pemc.coop/load-management).

To learn more about these programs, visit [pemc.coop](http://pemc.coop) or call us at 800.222.3107.

### + Beat the peak

Our alert program helps you and our entire membership save money! When you join, we'll remind you to reduce your energy use during times when energy use is high for our co-op. Learn more at [pemc.coop/btp](http://pemc.coop/btp).

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### May

**National Electrical Safety Month**

#### May 9

**Mother's Day**

#### May 31

**Memorial Day**

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

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Are you planning a home renovation project this spring? There may be changes we need to make on our end as a result. Calling **800.222.3107** or emailing [info@pemc.coop](mailto:info@pemc.coop) first can help you save time and potentially money!

Learn more at [pemc.coop/home-electrical-changes](http://pemc.coop/home-electrical-changes).

## RiverStreet Networks Update

*Our broadband pilot program with RiverStreet Networks continues to make progress.*

### Person County

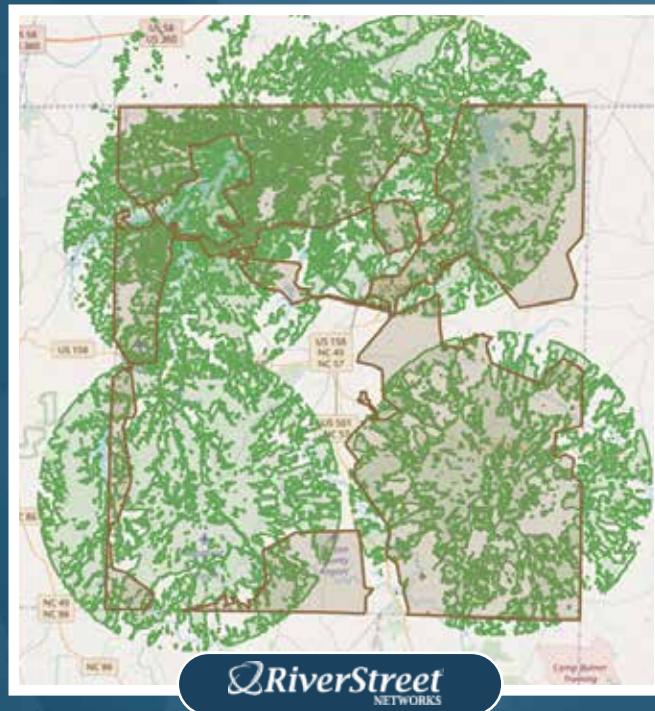
A wireless internet expansion project is underway in Person County as the result of RiverStreet Networks acquiring NC Lightleap in 2020. NC Lightleap had been selected by Person County in their earlier efforts to develop a network solution with the buildout of communication towers.

RiverStreet Networks will offer service in large portions of Person County with overlap in parts of Caswell, Durham, Granville and Orange counties in North Carolina and Halifax County in Virginia. The green areas on the map to the right show the areas potentially available for service. In an effort to express your interest and get on the list, let your voice be heard by visiting [Join.BuildPiedmont.com](https://www.joinbuildpiedmont.com) today! RiverStreet Networks representatives will follow up with you when the service is available in your area.

### Caswell County

We are pleased to announce that funding coupled with interest from members in Caswell County has resulted in the future buildout of a wireless network to 2,918 households and businesses in Caswell County. This is made possible by funding awarded to RiverStreet Networks from the NC GREAT Grant Program in the amount of \$1.5 million. RiverStreet Networks will provide the match for this project of \$1.1 million. Stay tuned for further updates on the progress in Caswell County in future Carolina Country magazines.

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.



Make sure your appliances  
are protected with

**STRIKE⚡GUARD**

Power surges can damage your expensive appliances in the blink of an eye. By signing up for our Strike Guard program, you can either lease or purchase powerful surge protectors that will help protect your valuable equipment.

For more information on how to sign up, visit [pemc.coop/strikeguard](https://pemc.coop/strikeguard) or call 800.222.3107.

# Green living, made easy

We know many of our members are looking for ways to add green initiatives in their everyday lives. We're here to make it a little easier to help you meet your green energy goals!

Explore three of our environmentally friendly programs to see if they are right for you.



## Support solar power

Are you interested in exploring solar power? Our community solar program offers you the chance to be a part of solar energy without the commitment of installing and maintaining your own panels.

For \$2.50 per panel per month, you'll receive a credit for the energy your panel(s) produces. Community solar is a great way to support green energy. You can subscribe to the energy from a maximum of 15 panels.

To learn more about how to sign up and to see an estimate of the solar production you can expect, visit [pemc.coop/communitysolar](http://pemc.coop/communitysolar).

## Cruise into energy savings

If you own an electric vehicle (EV) and would like to lower your energy bill, consider joining our EV time-of-day rate program. As a participant, you'll pay a lower rate when you charge your EV overnight.

You'll pay less than half our regular rate for off-peak power and receive a \$50 credit just for signing up!

Visit [pemc.coop/electric-vehicle-rate](http://pemc.coop/electric-vehicle-rate) to learn how to join.



## Time-of-day rates

Pay less for the energy you use plus help your co-op save money when you switch to a time-of-day rate! With this rate, you pay a lower rate for the energy you use during times when energy use is low for our co-op. Saturday, Sunday, most holidays, and 19-20 hours of every weekday are considered to be off-peak times.

In order to save money with a time-of-day rate, you don't have to use less energy, you just shift your energy use to off-peak hours instead. You will want to avoid using energy during on-peak hours which are 1-6 p.m. during the summer and 6-10 a.m. during the winter.

On average, our members save about \$20 per month on this rate. Best of all, you can try this rate risk-free for a year! If you don't save compared to our regular rate, we'll give you the difference back. Learn more and sign up at [pemc.coop/timeofday](http://pemc.coop/timeofday).

## Facilities Charge and Rider Changes for 2021

At Piedmont Electric we work hard to keep rates low for our members and are pleased that our energy charge for residential members will not change; however a small increase to our facilities charge and some of our riders was necessary.

In 2020 we conducted a cost of service study to ensure that the cooperative maintained its healthy financial position. The results of the study showed that while we are able to keep our residential rate the same, a small increase to our facilities charge would allow for continued financial stability. As an at-cost, not for profit electric cooperative, 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 1-7 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.

This is the **seventh year in a row** that our residential energy charge component has remained the same. We are proud that our rates remain below the state and national average.

As your local cooperative we've kept rates dependable and steady while also making improvements to our system to increase reliability, returning capital credits to our members and delivering exceptional service.

Detailed to the right are the annual changes to various riders and rates charged by the cooperative. Piedmont Electric must comply with state energy efficiency and renewable energy standards. Each year, your cooperative adjusts these riders up or down to reflect the cost of complying with these requirements.

Also detailed are changes to the cooperative's storm damage recovery rider, facilities charges, renewable generation net metering rider and what we pay to those who generate solar. Visit [pemc.coop/rates](http://pemc.coop/rates) to see the complete listing of our rates.

Effective May 1, 2021.

**+** As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we return any margins to members each year as capital credits.

If you know someone who used to be a Piedmont Electric member but is not one any longer, help them out and search for their name at [pemc.coop/capitalcredit](http://pemc.coop/capitalcredit). They could have money waiting for them!



### OFFICIAL NOTICE

#### ENERGY EFFICIENCY RIDER

	PREVIOUS CHARGES	NEW CHARGES
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	0.0477 c/kWh	0.0511 c/kWh
<b>COMMERCIAL &amp; INDUSTRIAL</b>	0.1069 c/kWh	0.1475 c/kWh

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY RIDER

	PREVIOUS CHARGES	NEW CHARGES
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	\$0.48/month	\$0.64/month
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>	\$2.66/month	\$3.53/month
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>	\$17.75/month	\$23.55/month

#### STORM DAMAGE RECOVERY RIDER

PREVIOUS CHARGE	0.080 c/kWh
NEW CHARGE	0.210 c/kWh

Effective May 1, 2021.

#### FACILITIES CHARGE

	PREVIOUS CHARGES	NEW CHARGES
<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	\$36.00/month	\$37.00/month
<b>SMALL GENERAL</b>	\$38.00/month	\$39.00/month
<b>THREE PHASE</b>	\$84.00/month	\$85.00/month
<b>SMALL QUALIFYING FACILITIES</b>	\$3.75/month	\$5.00/month

#### SMALL & MEDIUM RENEWABLE GENERATION NET METERING RIDER

PREVIOUS CREDIT	NEW CREDIT
3.47 c/kWh	3.47 c/kWh

#### SMALL QUALIFYING FACILITIES PURCHASED POWER

PREVIOUS CREDIT	NEW CREDIT
3.47 c/kWh	3.47 c/kWh

#### PUBLIC CHARGING STATION SERVICE

LEVEL 2	14.00 c/kWh
LEVEL 3	27.00 c/kWh

## 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.

2500 NC Highway 86 South  
PO Drawer 1179  
Hillsborough, NC 27278

Stephen B. Hamlin  
President & General Manager

#### DIRECTORS

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Randy Kinley, Vice Chair  
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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.