



Connection

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2021



No-sweat energy-saving tips to try this summer

Are you looking to beat the heat and save on your electric bills this summer? We've got some simple tips that make saving energy and money no sweat at all. By joining some of our energy-saving programs and being more aware of your energy habits, your energy bill could be cooling off before you know it.

Simple programs designed to help you save

We know you already have a lot on your plate, so why not let us do the heavy lifting for you? When you join our smart thermostat savings program, we'll make slight adjustments to your Nest thermostat through your in-home WiFi to help you save.

Similarly, our load management program helps you spend less by automatically cycling off your air conditioner and water heater throughout the day.

When you join Beat the Peak, you'll get convenient reminders sent right to your phone when times of peak demand are expected so you can cut back on energy use and help keep rates low.

Learn more about these programs and others by visiting pemc.coop/save-energy-money.

Energy-saving habits to remember

Looking for even more ways to save? Keep these tips in mind to help you put money back into your wallet.

- Remember that fans cool people, not rooms. Only keep fans running if you're spending time in the room.
- Keep your thermostat set to 78°F in the summer so you can stay comfortable while still saving money.
- Replace traditional light bulbs with LED alternatives for a quick, inexpensive way to update your home's efficiency.

Continue the savings by reading our full list of 101 energy-saving ideas by visiting pemc.coop/101-energy-saving-tips.

IMPORTANT DATES

August

A peak demand month

As temperatures rise, so does energy use. Be mindful to conserve energy on hot weekday afternoons from 1-6 p.m.

August 16

Bright Ideas early bird deadline

September 6

Labor Day

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

Bright Ideas final deadline

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+ Free public WiFi available

Piedmont Electric is providing free WiFi hotspots at our Person and Caswell County office parking lots and at the Cherry Grove Ruritan Club parking lot, in partnership with RiverStreet Networks. Individuals can access the internet from the safety of their vehicles. The free access name is PEMC-Free-WiFi at both locations. No password is needed.

Locations for free WiFi access:

- Cherry Grove Ruritan Club: 7152 Cherry Grove Road, Reidsville, NC 27320
- Person County: 1125 Oxford Road, Roxboro, NC 27573
- Caswell County: 64 Rascoe Dameron Road, Burlington, NC 27217

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

RiverStreet Networks broadband service is now available in Person County! See all the latest updates on this initiative at pemc.coop/RN.

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP RATES LOW



A MESSAGE FROM

STEVE HAMLIN

President & General Manager

What exactly is our peak?

As your cooperative, our primary goal is to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. That's why we work so hard to offer you programs designed to help you easily save energy and money during your daily life.

You have probably heard talk about peak times. Today, I want to take a few moments to explain more about what that actually means.

Why is our peak important?

Peak times are periods of the day with the highest demand, or energy use, that determines a large part of the cost of the power we provide. Peaks generally occur on weekday afternoons in the summer from 1-6 p.m. and winter weekday mornings from 6-10 a.m.

When we all work together to lower energy

use during peak times, we can help reduce the price our cooperative pays for this power. These savings are then passed on to you, our members, in affordable electric rates.

Cutting back on energy used during peak times not only helps us all save money, but it's also good for the environment by reducing emissions and conserving natural resources. This helps to keep our community healthier and happier, so everyone wins.

How can you reduce energy use during peak times?

Here at Piedmont Electric, we try to make it easy for you to reduce energy use during peak times without disrupting your life. That's why we have developed programs that make it simple for you to save. Check out the next page of our newsletter for more information on a few of these programs.

Generally speaking, avoiding or delaying the use of big energy users in your home like your air conditioning, heating unit, dishwasher, washing machine, dryer and other large appliances helps save during the peak. Also, reducing your hot water use helps as your water heater does not have to replace the hot water you use.

Even small changes you make at home can add up to big savings. When we work together as a cooperative, we all win.

**BEAT THE
PEAK**

Now that you know a little more about our cooperative's peak, help us all save by reducing energy use when you receive a Beat the Peak notice.

You can either text BTPEAK (first and last name) to **800.222.3107** or send an email to **BeatThePeak@pemc.coop** with your name and email address.

Recommended just for you

Just like your favorite streaming services recommend new shows and movies based on what you're most likely to enjoy, we have program recommendations based on your lifestyle.

Want to learn which Piedmont Electric programs we recommend for you?

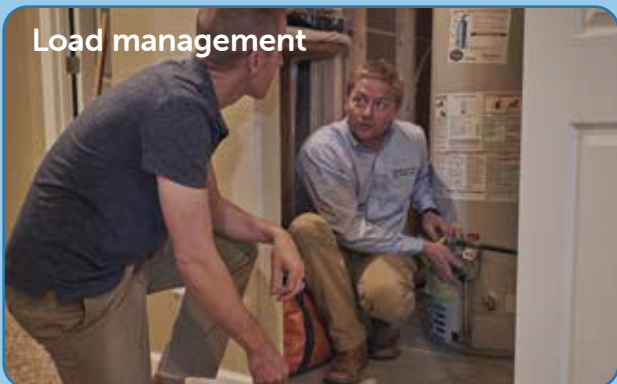
First, think about some of your energy goals. Do you want to lower your bill or receive bill credits for helping the cooperative save money? Maybe you want to practice green living by incorporating eco-friendly habits in your daily life?

Next, head on over to **pemc.coop/my-piedmont-programs** to take a short, one-minute quiz.

When you're finished, you'll get more information about the programs that will best fit your lifestyle and help you achieve your energy goals.

It's easier than deciding what to watch on your next movie night!

Learn which energy-saving programs are right for you at **pemc.coop/my-piedmont-programs** or call us at **800.222.3107** to speak with one of our friendly member service representatives.



Someone you know could be missing out on unclaimed capital credits

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we return any profits, known as margins, to members each year as capital credits. In December 2020, we retired the capital credits from 1993 and notified all members. However, sometimes members move out of the area and we are unable to locate them to return their capital credit.

We always attempt to contact former members that are owed money, but if a capital credit remains unclaimed, we are required to send it to the state treasurer after four years. Piedmont Electric also must follow the same procedure for any other funds returned to members.

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. They might have money waiting for them!

You can also visit nccash.com to find any funds sent to the state treasurer.



A little help goes a long way for community teachers

The amazing teachers in our community deserve the best, which is why we're so passionate about Bright Ideas education grants. Since the program began in 1994, our cooperative has given more than \$550,000 to local teachers, principals and school counselors to help support them in their efforts as they teach the youth of our community.

Each year, local educators can apply for grants of up to \$2,000 for innovative classroom projects that help their students learn in new ways. Our 2020 winners were especially creative, in some cases coming up with virtual projects to keep students engaged during periods of distance learning.

Ashley Knott, a teacher at North End Elementary in Roxboro, received funding for her project, Drums Alive! Through this program, the students exercised during PE class through drumming activities. This allowed them to be active; improve coordination; increase attention and concentration; and promote social emotional learning all while staying socially distant.



If you'd like to apply for a 2021 Bright Ideas grant, there's still time! Submit your Bright Ideas grant before the early bird deadline on Aug. 16 to be entered to win one of five \$100 gift cards in a statewide drawing. The final deadline is Sept. 6. Visit pemc.coop/brightideas to submit an application.

Not an educator? You can help support community initiatives like Bright Ideas by rounding up your bill to the nearest dollar amount and donating it to the Helping Hand Foundation. Your pennies can help support the educators and students in our community! Visit pemc.coop/donate to set up a one-time or recurring donation today.

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC CONNECTION

Published monthly for the members of Piedmont Electric Cooperative. Piedmont Electric Cooperative 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.