



Connection

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2022



Cooler Weather is on the Way: Is Your Home Ready?

Do you feel that chill in the air? When the seasons change, it's a good reminder to update your home to maximize your energy efficiency so you can keep your energy bills low. Take a few moments to implement these low-cost and no-cost energy-saving tips so your home is prepared for chillier days and nights.

Check for Air Leaks

It can be hard to see air leaks around your home, so you have to go out of your way to check for them. The easiest thing to do is hold a small, light piece of paper or tissue near potential gaps in doors or windows. If the paper or tissue moves, there's a good chance you have outside air coming into your home which makes it harder for your heater to maintain a comfortable temperature. You can seal these leaks with caulk from your local hardware store and lower your bill in the process.

Reverse Your Ceiling Fans

Did you know that ceiling fans are an energy-efficient option in the fall and winter too? If you reverse your ceiling fans to turn clockwise during colder months, the rotation will push warm air down and pull cooler air up so you stay comfortable without adjusting your thermostat.

Insulate Your Water Heater

Just like you wrap yourself in a blanket to stay warm, your water heater can also benefit from an insulation blanket. By wrapping a water heater blanket around your tank, it will work more efficiently, helping you save money.

Insulate Your Windows

If you don't have the most efficient windows, consider buying a low-cost window insulation kit. These kits contain a thin plastic film that you attach to your windows to help maintain a more comfortable temperature in your home. Then, when the weather gets warmer, you can remove the film with no damage to your windows.

Close the Fireplace

Make sure the flue is closed when the fireplace is not in use. If you have a glass screen, close that as well. Open fireplaces allow heat to escape.

To learn more tips on how to prepare your home for cold weather, consider scheduling a free home energy analysis with one of our energy experts. Learn more at pemc.coop/home-energy-analysis.

IMPORTANT DATES

October

National Co-op Month

October 16

**Winter Time-Of-Day Rate
Schedule Begins**

Shift your energy use in the morning away from 6-10 a.m. to an earlier or later time.

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The Value of Electricity

Electricity is a great value, flip the page to learn more.



The Value of Electricity

These days, we're all feeling a strain on our wallets as everyday expenses continue to grow. One expense that hasn't is your Piedmont Electric Cooperative bill as your co-op has not changed its residential rate since 2014. It's during these times that we're reminded of the value of electricity.

With fall officially here, we thought it'd be the perfect time to examine how the cost of electricity* compares to our favorite fall purchases.

- For the price of a box of full-size candy bars, you can watch Hocus Pocus **762 times**.
- For the price of a Batman Halloween costume, you can use your space heater for **495 hours** on chilly nights.
- For the price of a pumpkin spice latte, you can cook soup in your crock pot for **208 hours**.

As you can see, your dollar goes further even as the days grow shorter! When it feels like rising costs will never end, remember the true value of electricity when it comes to powering your life.

**Calculations are based on a 50-inch LED TV that uses 26 kWh annually, a \$15 box of candy bars, a 1,500-watt space heater that costs \$0.08 per kWh, a \$60 Halloween costume, a crock pot that uses 31 kWh annually, and a \$5 medium pumpkin spice latte.*

Supercharge the Power of Your Penny

Want to make your penny stretch even further? Our time-of-day rate can help you do just that. By signing up, you'll pay half-price for your power during off-peak hours, which includes, weekends and most holidays. Learn more by visiting pemc.coop/timeofday.



SCARY GOOD SAVINGS

It's the spookiest time of the year, but the real scare is opening up your bill and seeing a higher number than expected. Your local cooperative is here to help you better manage your electricity bill so you can avoid the tricks and instead treat yourself to savings.

Load Management

If hot water costs give you a fright, consider participating in our water heater load management program. When you join, we'll install a load control switch on your electric water heater to reduce usage.

During the winter, we limit the control of your tank to a maximum of four hours, and in most cases, you won't notice since your tank keeps a reserve of hot water ready for when you need it. By participating, you'll save on water heating costs and receive a \$1 monthly credit on your bill. Learn more at pemc.coop/load-management.

Time-of-Day Rate

Pay a lower rate for the energy you use during off-peak hours when you join our time-of-day program. During the winter months, this means avoiding excess energy use on weekday mornings from 6-10 a.m. Weekends, most holidays and up to 20 hours of every weekday are considered off-peak, so most of the time you'll pay half-price for your power.

On average, members save more than \$20 per month just by participating in the program. You can take advantage of these fang-tastic savings yourself by visiting pemc.coop/timeofday.

SmartHub

Want to carve out even more ways to save? Log in to your free SmartHub account to track your energy use and sign up for daily energy use alerts so you have more insight into how to save money.

By tracking your energy use, you can see the direct impacts of making adjustments to your energy habits and joining the programs listed above. To get started, visit pemc.smarthub.coop or download the SmartHub app on your tablet or smartphone.

Don't Let Phantom Energy Haunt You! When your electronic devices or appliances are plugged in but turned off, they still pull electricity. Known as phantom load or vampire energy, it's spooky how much these devices can contribute to your energy bill. Use our phantom load calculator at pemc.coop/phantom-load-calculator to see how much vampire energy your home is producing so you can start saving now.

Serving on the Piedmont Electric Board of Directors

Piedmont Electric is your local electric cooperative and we are guided by a board of directors made up of 10 Piedmont Electric members from across our service area. These board members provide guidance, oversight and help craft the strategic direction of the cooperative along with cooperative staff. This process sets us apart from other types of utilities and helps ensure that the local needs of Piedmont Electric members are heard and met. Directors are elected on a three-year rotation and are nominated by a nominating committee and follow the requirements below.

The following is an excerpt from our bylaws pertaining to nominations.

SECTION 4.06. Nominations.

(A) NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint a Nominations Committee consisting of ten (10) persons who are members but are not directors or close relatives of directors, and who are so selected that each of the Cooperative's Directorate Districts and the at large directorate shall have one representative thereon. The Committee shall meet and nominate candidates for each of the Cooperative's Directorate Districts to be elected at the next annual meeting and the at large director if that directorate is to be elected at the next annual meeting. The Committee shall nominate at least one (1) nominee for each such District and may nominate more than one (1) nominee for each such District. The Committee shall show clearly each nominee(s) and the Directorate District for which they are nominated. In addition, the Committee shall nominate each three (3) years at least one (1) candidate and may nominate more than one (1) candidate for the "at large" position.

The Committee shall ensure that all members nominated meet the qualifications to serve as a director set forth in section 4.02. The Committee shall meet as necessary in order to complete its nominations no later than thirty days preceding the deadline for nomination by petition as is set forth in the following subsection to provide the opportunity for any qualified member who desires to be placed on the ballot at the upcoming annual meeting but not nominated by the Committee, to seek nomination by petition as set forth in the following subsection.

(B) NOMINATIONS BY PETITION

Any fifty (50) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, in like manner listing the nominees separately with respect to the Directorate Districts from which they are nominated, on or before January 14 preceding the annual meeting at which such directors are to be elected. Any member nominated by petition as a candidate for any Directorate must meet the qualifications to serve as a director set forth in section 4.02 before the nominee's name may be placed on the ballot for election at the annual meeting.

(C) PROVIDING NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

The Secretary shall communicate to the members through any publication routinely used by the Cooperative for communication with the membership on a monthly basis or by electronic means at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting, the names of all nominees for each such district, showing separately those nominated by the Committee and those nominated by petition, if any.

(D) POSTING OF NOMINATIONS

Once the signatures of the members on any petition and the qualifications to serve of the nominees are verified, the names of all nominees for each directorate district and the names of each nominee for the at large directorate, if it is to be elected before the upcoming annual meeting, shall be posted at the principal office of the Cooperative. The Posted Notice of all nominees shall show the directorate for which each nominee seeks election as director and may indicate those nominated by the nominations committee and those nominated by petition.

Revised 3/18/19

Interested in Serving?

The Nominating Committee selects qualified candidates for the ballot from each directorate district in the next election cycle. If you are interested in being considered for nomination, first, check the qualifications to serve as a director in Section 4.02 of the bylaws. Piedmont Electric's bylaws can be found at pemc.coop/bylaws. If you feel you meet these qualifications, email Piedmont.Board@pemc.coop with your name, address and interest in a director position to verify your membership and qualifications and determine if your directorate district is up for election this year. If your district is up for election, you will be provided with contact information for your member of the Nominations Committee. Or, if you are qualified, you can follow the instructions in the bylaws above to be nominated by petition. Again, you should email Piedmont.Board@pemc.coop to verify membership and to learn the particulars of the petition process.

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 Drive-Thru Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Caswell Drive-Thru Hours:
Wednesday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Offices are closed except for scheduled appointments.

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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Richal Vanhook, Treasurer
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& Cyrus Vernon

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 phone number connected to your account online through SmartHub, by completing the form on your monthly bill or by calling 800.222.3107.

Use the SmartHub app to report an outage or online at pemc.smarthub.coop/#reportanissue.

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.