



Connection

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2022



Cost-Effective Ways to Pay Your Electric Bill

Simplify your busy life with these time and money saving ways to manage your bill.

Our low-cost, convenient payment methods can help you save money in your household and benefit the co-op by lowering our overall costs. These savings go right back to our members!

Automatic Bank Drafts

Set up convenient, automatic payments that come out of your bank account each month so you never have to worry about missing a payment. By setting up a bank draft, the amount due for your bill will come out of your account each month, with no action required by you.

You can view your statement online at any time if you want to see details about your bill. To set up an automatic bank draft, all you have to do is log in to your SmartHub account and choose the Auto Pay Program option under the Billing & Payments tab.

Creating a SmartHub account requires that we have your email address on file. Email info@pemc.coop or call 800.222.3107 to add one to your account.

Equal Payments Option

Automatic drafts can be applied to any of our payment methods like budget billing. When you join budget billing you pay the same amount each month instead of experiencing the highs and lows that come with the changing weather.

Aside from making your life a bit easier, automatic bank drafts can save you money on postage if you pay by mail. It also helps your co-op save money on credit card processing fees, which helps us reduce costs.

Paperless Billing

Another convenient option we provide to our members is paperless billing. When you sign up for this option in your SmartHub account, we'll stop sending you a bill in the mail. Instead, you'll receive an email when your bill is ready which you can access via SmartHub.

This makes it easier for you to keep track of your statements all in one place and helps us reduce costs by limiting the amount of money we need to spend on paper printouts, envelopes and postage.

When we all save, we all win. Thank you for helping us reduce costs to help keep our rates low! If you need help, just give us a call at 800.222.3107 and we will help get you set up.

National Drive Electric Week

National Drive Electric Week is Sept. 23 - Oct. 2. Turn the page to learn more about how we support electric vehicle ownership for our members.

Visit Local Festivals

For a bit of local fun, come check out one of the community events this month. Enjoy BBQ at Hog Day in Hillsborough Sept. 16-17, kick up your heels in Yanceyville at the Bright Leaf Hoedown Sept. 24 and find out why things are better in Person (County) at Personality Festival in Roxboro on Oct. 1.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 5

Bright Ideas Final Deadline

September 5

Labor Day

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

September 23 - October 2

National Drive Electric Week

September 1

Basketball Camp Scholarship + College Scholarship Applications Open

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Make the Most of Your Autumn Evenings

Do you feel that slight chill in the air? Maybe not as you never can tell with North Carolina weather, but fall will be here before you know it and the nights are starting to grow longer. However, that doesn't mean you have to stop enjoying your outdoor space. Here at Piedmont Electric Cooperative, we want to help you enjoy North Carolina's cool fall nights.

We proudly offer a variety of different outdoor lighting options to help you light up your outdoor space for an affordable rate. You can choose from the following outdoor lights:

- Security light
- Flood light
- Post light
- Roadway cobra light

Lights come in a variety of styles, and, best of all, Piedmont Electric will install and maintain them for you so you can sit back, relax and enjoy your well-lit space all for a low monthly fee.

To learn more about our residential and commercial outdoor lighting options, visit pemc.coop/outdoor-lighting or call 800.222.3107 today!





Cruising Into National Drive Electric Week

Do you have an EV? Interested in getting one? Talk to a Piedmont Electric Cooperative expert today at **800.222.3107** or **info@pemc.coop**.

This year, National Drive Electric Week runs from Sept. 23 - Oct. 2 and we're excited to participate! This nationwide celebration is meant to help raise awareness of the benefits of driving electric vehicles (EV) with virtual and in-person events around the country.

How We're Celebrating National Drive Electric Week

Here in our neck of the woods, we'll be holding a small car show at Carrboro Plaza (104 NC 54, Carrboro, NC 27510) on Sept. 23 from 4-7 p.m., featuring a few different models of EVs. We invite you to come out, see the cars for yourself, ask any questions you have about driving an EV and even take one for a test drive to see if it could be the right option for you.

How We Help You Save

Before you come, don't forget to check out our electric vehicle calculator to compare gas rates for your current vehicle with expected savings by purchasing an EV. You can even use the calculator to compare different EV makes and models. Visit pemc.coop/electric-vehicle-calculator to start crunching the numbers.

If you decide to purchase an EV at any time, don't forget to let us know. We offer a \$50 credit on your power bill when you notify us of your EV or plug-in hybrid. You can get an additional \$50 credit if you join our EV time-of-day rate that rewards you for charging your vehicle overnight. Moving energy use from the day to at night helps all Piedmont Electric Cooperative members save money.

How We Support EV Drivers

If you already have an EV, don't worry, we're looking out for you too! During National Drive Electric Week and the rest of the year, your cooperative is here to help you get the most out of your EV.

Throughout our service area, we've installed EV fast-charging stations so it's easier than ever for our members to charge their vehicles while out and about. Most recently, we installed charging stations in Carrboro Plaza and at the Arby's in Mebane as part of our initiative to create a statewide network of EV charging stations.

The charging station in Carrboro Plaza has been the most used station in North Carolina's electric cooperative network since its installation. That's why we are working on getting another unit installed there soon!



Are you looking for ways to foster a love of reading in your young children? The Dolly Parton Imagination Library can help! The organization distributes high-quality books to children from birth to age 5 completely free of charge.

Originally started in 1995, the program began serving young children in Dolly's home county in Tennessee before expanding across the country and the world. To sign your children up for the program, visit imaginationlibrary.com to fill out the registration form. There are no income requirements to sign up and the program is open to all children aged 5 and under. While you must be a child's legal guardian to sign them up, we'd love for you to help spread the word to your friends and neighbors with young children! If you'd like to help support this program yourself, you can also make a one-time or monthly donation at donate.imaginationlibrary.com.

Your child will begin to receive monthly, age-appropriate books a few weeks after being accepted into the program. The book you'll receive each month is selected by an early childhood expert, based on your child's age. For example, a one-year-old child may receive a bright, colorful board book with minimal text while a three-year-old may receive a book teaching the concepts of colors, numbers and letters. The organization also has some bilingual book options, as well as audiobooks and braille titles. You can see the books featured in 2022 by visiting imaginationlibrary.com/usa/booklist.

As a partner of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives and Piedmont Electric Cooperative are committed to helping spread the word about this free program to the youngest members of electric cooperatives across our communities. We thank the state legislature for funding this program and making it available to North Carolinians free of charge, and we encourage you to take advantage of this amazing literacy program 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 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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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.