



Connection

PIEDMONT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2025



New Year, New Savings: Maximize Your Savings and Energy Efficiency

The start of a new year brings an opportunity to revisit old habits and embrace changes that can have a lasting impact. Energy efficiency is one area where small changes can add up to big savings, so why not set a resolution to save energy and money in 2025? To help you get started on the right foot, here are a few simple actions you can take to make a difference on your bill.

Join Our Programs

Saving money on electricity costs doesn't have to be complicated. Signing up for our energy-saving programs like our time-of-day rate, smart thermostat savings program and load management makes it easier to lower your bill without major disruptions to your daily life.

Visit pemc.coop/smart-energy to learn more about which program is best for you, or join them all to maximize your savings.

Sign Up for Daily Usage Alerts

Knowledge is power, especially when it comes to how you use electricity! When you want to make meaningful changes that impact your bill, the first step is to understand how you use electricity and where there are areas for improvement.

In your SmartHub account, turn on the "Usage Emails" option to receive daily email alerts that give you a snapshot view of your usage. From there, you can use that data to make adjustments to how you use energy and track the impact it makes.

Consider Upgrading to ENERGY STAR® Appliances

Old, inefficient appliances use more energy, leading to higher bills. If you're in the market for upgraded appliances, look for ones labeled with an ENERGY STAR rating, which means they have been certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as energy efficient.

Did you already make energy-efficient upgrades in your home over the holidays? Visit pemc.coop/rebate-to-help-you-save to learn about available rebates and tax credits to see if you qualify for additional savings.

Likewise, if the keys to an electric vehicle were under your tree, there are plenty of opportunities for savings, including our EV time-of-day rate. To see how to make the most of your savings with an EV, visit pemc.coop/electric-vehicles.

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 1

New Year's Day

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

Jan. 20

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

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

March 31

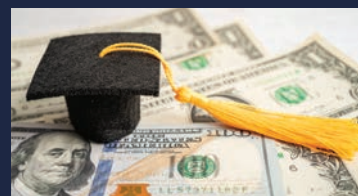
Basketball Camp, College Scholarship Applications Due

Final day to submit your basketball camp and college scholarship applications.

16 **Dribble, Shoot and Score a Basketball Camp Scholarship**

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Supporting Our Youth! Turn the page to learn about scholarship opportunities available to students in our service area.



Dribble, Shoot And Score A Basketball Camp Scholarship

Our co-op loves to see local talent light up the court and we're proud to support middle school student athletes by offering yearly basketball camp scholarships. This opportunity is a slam dunk for young players looking to practice their jump shots, improve their defense and learn how to be team players in a fun environment.

Each summer, Piedmont Electric awards scholarships to one boy and one girl, allowing them to attend a Touchstone Energy Sports Camps program at a local university. This year's application period is now open!

Rising 6th and 7th-grade boys can apply for a scholarship to attend the Carolina Basketball School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill while rising 6th and 7th-grade girls can apply to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Qualifying students can apply on our website by visiting pemc.coop/basketball-camp. Applications close on March 31, 2025.

Empowering College Dreams

We are committed to supporting the next generation and one of the best ways we do that is by offering college scholarships to local students. We believe that financial support can help pave the way for educational success, enabling students to focus on their goals without the burden of financial worry.

Piedmont Electric proudly awards seven \$2,000 scholarships to high school seniors who are planning to continue their education at a North Carolina university, college, community college or two-year school!

To apply, complete the online form at pemc.coop/scholarships and attach your most recent academic transcript, a reference letter and a short personal statement video of yourself before March 31, 2025.

Our Helping Hand Foundation also awards six \$1,500 scholarships to Piedmont Electric members who are attending Alamance Community College, Durham Technical Community College and Piedmont Community College. They are awarded to two students at each school at the start of the fall semester. You can apply for these scholarships through your community college's general scholarship application form.

Thank you to all of our members for supporting the Helping Hand Foundation, which allows us to give back to our community with these scholarships.



Cut Costs, Not Comfort: Pay Less for Energy During Off-Peak Times

The weather outside is frightful, but your bill doesn't have to be. You can save money all winter long by joining our time-of-day rate and shifting your energy use to off-peak hours when you'll pay a lower rate.

During the winter months, that means shifting excess energy use away from 6-10 a.m. Monday through Friday. To make the most of your savings, program your thermostat to avoid on-peak hours, install a water heater timer and do energy-intensive chores like laundry outside of peak times.

The average member saves over \$20 per month just by making the switch to a time-of-day rate! Experience the savings for yourself by visiting pemc.coop/special-rates to sign up.



Be Prepared For A Frosty Forecast



While North Carolina's winter weather can be unpredictable, a well-prepared home can make all the difference during snow and ice storms. By taking a few proactive steps, you can keep your home and family safe when the temperature drops. As your local electric cooperative, we're here to help you feel ready with a few winter prep reminders.

Create a Winter Storm Emergency Kit

Stock a winter emergency kit with basic necessities like:

- Water
- Non-perishable foods
- Flashlights and extra batteries
- Blankets
- Medication
- Portable phone chargers
- First-aid kit

When severe weather hits, having these essentials within reach can help you stay safe and comfortable during an outage.

Practice Safety if You See a Downed Power Line

After a winter storm, downed power lines pose serious risks, so it's crucial to practice caution. Always assume a downed line is live and dangerous and keep a distance of at least 30 feet. You should also avoid driving over downed lines or touching anything in contact with the line, like trees or metal.

You can report downed lines to 911 or call Piedmont Electric at **800.222.3107**.



Report Outages

If you experience an outage during a winter storm, you can report an outage or get updates in the following ways:

- Call **800.222.3107** and follow the voice instructions for the reporting system.
- Use the SmartHub app on your mobile device or internet browser by clicking "Report an issue."
- Text #out to **800.222.3107** to report an outage. We must have your cell phone number on file.

Keep Your Info Current in SmartHub

Before winter weather hits, check your SmartHub account to ensure the correct contact information is on file. Having a current email address and phone number listed in your profile allows you to receive outage updates so you know when to expect your power to be restored. You can update your information on SmartHub at **pemc.smarthub.coop** or by calling us at **800.222.3107**.

Follow Piedmont Electric for Real-Time Updates

We share real-time outage updates on our Facebook and X (Twitter) accounts. Follow us **@PiedmontEMC** to make sure you see all the latest updates as they become available.

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

Caswell Drive-Thru Hours:
Wednesday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Offices are closed except for scheduled appointments. Available by phone or website chat Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Report outages, make payments and access account information by phone 24-hours-a-day by calling 800.222.3107

You can also pay your bill online at **pemc.smarthub.coop**.

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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**: with your SmartHub login.

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.