

Tideland Topics

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

ANNUAL MEETING: Four-year work plan focal point of official remarks

Tideland EMC held its Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday, May 30, at Beaufort County Community College in Washington. The focal point of the meeting was the executive message delivered by Tideland's chief executive officer and general manager Paul Spruill. While touching on issues like recent capital credit refunds to members, new cellular and Internet account management tools, and power cost influences, Spruill devoted much of his presentation to the co-op's current four-year work plan. Details of Spruill's discussion of the construction projects included in the \$27 million work plan will be shared in future issues of Tideland Topics beginning August 2013.

During the meeting, members Doug Brinson, Leon Bryant and



Annual meeting grand prize winner Nellie Sawyer received a \$350 electric bill credit. She is pictured with her son, Guy Sawyer.

Rudy Austin were re-elected to the cooperative's board of directors. Tideland Electric scholarship recipients Deonta Woods, Karissa Cahoon and Courtney Armstrong were also on hand to thank the membership for providing the funding necessary to pursue a higher education.

May electricity sales lowest since 2006

After a long, cold winter, many Tideland members should have enjoyed some energy bill relief as we transitioned from heating season into cooling season. At least that's what May kilowatt-hour sales figures seem to indicate. In fact, Tideland EMC's kilowatt-hour sales for May 2013 we're the lowest they have been since May 2006.

May 2013 temperatures were largely in keeping with the historical average. The average temperature for the month was 70°F, which would suggest very little need to run heating and cooling systems.

Other factors, of course, impact sales figures including steps taken by co-op members to improve energy efficiency by updating HVAC equipment and home appliances. Those efforts are often magnified during non-winter months due to our southern climate so upgrades to refrigeration and air conditioning systems often reap greater rewards.



Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lewis Tree Service to trim trees in our right-of-way. In July they will be working in the Engelhard District:

North Lake Road towards Fairfield; and Piney Woods Road towards Fairfield.

This includes adjoining small roads and lanes in the area.

Mowing crews will along Hwy 264 east of Engelhard.

Message to our Member-Owners: First half of 2013 better than expected

By Paul Spruill
General Manager & CEO

During last year's annual meeting I talked about the factors that would apply upward pressure to energy costs in 2013 and beyond. For several reasons those cost drivers have been held at bay resulting in better-than-expected rates for Tideland EMC members.

Those power plant construction projects that are underway are benefiting from historically low interest rates, which further slow rising costs. Even when the co-op does not directly own the generating asset, we benefit from lower borrowing costs and improved plant efficiencies when we renegotiate power purchase agreements.

this year's annual meeting, I reported that our generating fuel mix changed much more rapidly than anticipated, and for 2013 our fuel mix stands at 56% nuclear, 14% coal and 19% natural gas. As a result, we have benefitted from currently low natural gas prices but must now revise long-term forecasts to allow for historically volatile natural gas markets.

RESIDENTIAL kWh CHARGE COMPARISON						
per kWh	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
2012	10.933¢	10.722¢	10.703¢	10.661¢	11.995¢	12.107¢
2013	10.284¢	10.52¢	10.599¢	10.643¢	11.475¢	11.487¢

A slower-than-anticipated economic recovery has eased demand for energy, keeping the costs of many generating fuels in check. As a result of lower energy demand, many power producers have deferred investments in new power plant construction and have instead focused on increasing efficiency and output of existing facilities.

Even our fuel mix forecast has outpaced our best estimates. In 2008, North Carolina's electric co-ops received 50% of their energy from nuclear, 37% from coal and 9% from natural gas. By 2016, we anticipated that mix would be 57%, 20% and 12%, respectively, and made certain pricing forecasts based on that scenario. At

In what can be an ever-changing marketplace, the key to our continued success will be to remain flexible, seek a diverse portfolio of generating assets, and mitigate risks when and where possible.

ONLINE LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Charge up summer break with energy education

Want to get your child excited about energy efficiency? We have the solution. The Kids Energy Zone website (www.kidsenergyzone.com) features a spunky energy efficiency mascot, CFL Charlie. The site is designed to teach children in kindergarten through fifth grade how to be Super Energy Savers in their homes. The website includes interactive games, videos, activity sheets, and surprises. Through fun activities, children and their parents learn about energy, electrical safety, and energy savings.





4 STEPS TO SAVING

Use our online resources to optimize your power usage and save money!

Step 1: Go to **tidelandemc.com**
 Click on **ebill** at the top left to open the Member Portal.



www.tidelandemc.com

Step 2: Click on **My Account** and submit your login info.
 (If you are a new user, click "Create User ID" from the My Account drop-down menu.)



Step 3: At the top menu, select **My Usage** and then choose **Usage History**



Step 4: Select your search criteria, such as:

- **Date Range** (Day/Month/Year)
- **Weather Impacts on Usage**
 - Sunny vs. Cloudy
 - Hot vs. Cold
 - Humid vs. Dry
 - Windy vs. Calm



Compare your usage to past months and years to start saving energy and reduce your monthly bill!

Questions? Call us at 800.637.1079

Generate Safely

Safe Generator Operation

Keep this card in your home's emergency kit or with your generator.

- Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment:
 - Stationary Generator:** An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.
 - Portable Generator:** Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.
- Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is **DEADLY**.

- Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.
- Start the generator first **BEFORE** connecting appliances.

Source: SafeElectricity.org

Developed jointly by the Energy Education Council & Rural Electricity Resource Council



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www.tidelandemc.com

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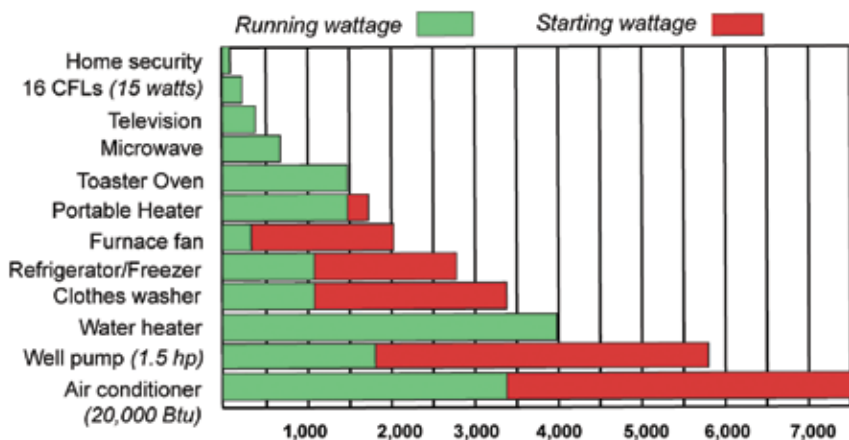


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The Right Portable Generator for the Job

Before purchasing or operating a portable generator, make a list of the appliances you will need to run at the same time. Find both starting and running wattage requirements on appliance nameplates or in owner's manuals; add them up to determine the total wattage your generator should handle.

Sample running wattages, as compared to spiked starting wattages:



Sources:
North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives; National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

OUR OFFICES WILL
BE CLOSED FOR
JULY 4TH



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

SIEMPRE
LLAMA
ANTES DE
EXCAVAR