

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

# Tideland Topics

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

## RETAINING SEATS: Incumbent directors will continue to serve



**Mark Carawan**  
District 2



**Garry Jordan**  
District 7



**David Ipock**  
District 10

Tideland Electric's nominating committee met on February 10 to consider candidates for director districts 2, 7 and 10.

The following candidates were nominated in their respective districts: Mark Carawan of Scranton, Garry Jordan of Aurora and David Ipock of New Bern. No candidates were nominated by written petition.

In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, unopposed candidates are deemed elected to the board of directors for a three-year term.

The directors will retake their oaths at the cooperative's May board meeting.

### REAL TIME SAVERS:

*One contest down; another underway*

The last day to enter our Netflix drawing was March 31. Every member that signed up for our free E-bill Notification program was entered into the drawing. At press time we had over 421 contest entries. The winner will be announced in next month's newsletter.

Check out our new contest on Page G of Tideland Topics for your chance to win a Kindle just in time for paperless beach reading!





## Message to our Member-Owners: Don't gut what works

By Jill Lee  
Interim General Manager

### Right of Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lewis Tree Service to trim trees in our right of way.

In April they will be working in the following areas:

- From Hwy. 264 and Hwy. 45 intersection to Scranton
- Higginsport Rd.
- New Lake Rd.
- Sladesville-Credle Rd.
- Sladesville Rd.

and all small roads & lanes off of the above listed roads.

**Our contractors will also be mowing the right of way along Hwy. 264 between Engelhard and Manns Harbor.**

For 75 years, 900-plus member-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives have worked hard to improve the quality of life in rural America. Today, electric co-ops generate, transmit, and distribute electricity to 18 million homes and businesses in 47 states, serving 42 million total consumers.

Now, some members of Congress are considering massive cuts to and possible elimination of various government programs, including loans provided to electric co-ops through the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Doing so would not only imperil the delivery of safe, reliable, and affordable electric service to all corners of the country, it would wipe out a small source of income to the U.S. Treasury. Furthermore, it would sever a successful private-public partnership that led to what some call the greatest technological achievement of the twentieth century—the electrification of rural America.

To date, electric co-ops have invested more than \$140 billion to construct critical facilities spanning 75% of the U.S., including 66,000 miles of bulk transmission lines and 2.5 million miles of distribution lines—42% of the nation's total. Co-ops employ more than 70,000 people, and pay more than \$1.4 billion annually in state and local taxes. The key to helping electric co-ops

“keep the lights on” in some of the most sparsely populated and geographically challenging areas of America for more than 7 decades has been a small federal investment through RUS, known until October 1994 as the Rural Electrification Administration or REA.

Federal assistance for electric utilities is not unique. For-profit, investor-owned utilities [IOUs] receive tax breaks, while city-owned municipal electric systems are able to issue tax-exempt bonds.

RUS electric loans do not cost taxpayers a single penny. Coupled with strong and innovative management and local, consumer-owned and controlled governance, electric cooperatives have used RUS financing to adapt to industry challenges, construct and maintain electric networks capable of serving consumers across even the most remote terrain, and, most importantly, keep electric rates affordable—an important consideration since household incomes in co-op service territories are 14% lower than the national average.

A comparison of electric utilities shows:

- Privately owned electric co-ops serve an average of 7 consumers per mile of line and receive annual revenues of \$10,565 per mile of line. Based on cur-

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## CO Detectors Now Law

As of January 1, 2011, North Carolina building code requires the installation of carbon monoxide (CO) alarms outside of each separate sleeping area in all newly constructed dwellings. In existing dwellings, CO detectors must be installed whenever interior alterations, repairs, fuel-fired appliance replacements, or additions requiring a permit occur or where one or more bedrooms are added or created. (See Section R313 of the NC Residential Code for equipment requirements).

We applaud this move to protect North Carolina citizens given the prevalence of unvented gas heaters in dwellings and increased ownership of emergency backup generators.

REAL PEOPLE. REAL CHANGE.

# Celebrate Earth Day

## EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22

Spring is here and now's a great time to reconnect with the earth and protect our natural resources.

## VISIT A STATE PARK OR WILDLIFE REFUGE

We're especially lucky in eastern North Carolina to have vast amounts of land set aside for wildlife habitat and public recreation. So put on your walking shoes and go explore the great outdoors.

## START A BACKYARD GARDEN

Think of all the energy used to transport produce to your local grocer. There's never been a better time to cultivate your inner gardening spirit. If you just can't seem to conjure up your own green thumb, shop local produce stands.

## CHANGE A BULB

Install compact fluorescent bulbs and you'll recoup the cost through reduced energy use in 6 to 12 months



## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Paper and plastic make up the majority of landfill waste. Set up a recycling bin at your home or office. Empty water bottle? Reuse it and save money by filling up at the water cooler.

## ADOPT A HIGHWAY

Contact the NC Department of Beautification Programs at 1-800-331-5864 to find out how your family or organization can adopt a highway.

## INSTALL A LOW FLOW SHOWERHEAD

Through water and energy savings you'll recoup the cost of installation in no time.

## DRY CLOTHES NATURALLY

Clothes lines are making a comeback. Worried about the look of your backyard? Don't be. There are plenty of retractable models to choose from.

## BUY AN ELECTRIC LAWN MOWER

No fumes, no oil or fuel spills, cheaper to operate and quieter too.

## SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING

See Page G for details!

4  
SPRING  
CLEANING TIPS  
THAT SAVE  
ENERGY

1.

While changing out your air filter, remove the return air grille and give it a thorough cleaning to remove dust buildup

2.

Give your refrigerator and freezer gaskets a thorough cleaning with a soft brush and warm soapy water

3.

Clean range drip pans so they will reflect more heat for faster cooking

4.

Clean your clothes dryer vent hose for faster drying and to prevent fires



## Save the Date

Tideland EMC's Annual Meeting of Members will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at Beaufort County Community College

Meeting Registration Begins at 6:30 p.m.

Business Session Begins at 7:00 p.m.

Grand Prize: \$350 electric bill credit

rent interest rates, RUS loans (with an average interest rate of 4.70%, compared to the government's cost of borrowing at 4.08%) actually make money for the U.S. Treasury—approximately \$63 million over the past two years.

•Publicly owned municipal electric systems average 47 consumers per mile of line and reap \$86,302 in revenue per mile of line. The federal government loses revenue when municipals issue tax-exempt bonds because interest paid to

power plants, gutting a time-tested loan program that doesn't cost the government any money—and shutting off a source of financing to rural communities that can't be replaced—simply makes no sense.

Federal Subsidies to the Electric Utility Industry			
Utility Type	Consumers per mile of line	Revenue per mile of line	Federal subsidy per consumer
Investor owned	35	\$62,655	\$38
Municipal	47	\$86,302	\$55
Cooperative	7	\$10,565	\$0

•Stockholder-driven IOUs average 35 customers per mile of line and collect \$62,665 in revenue per mile of line. In virtually every case, IOUs charge electric rates that include amounts for presumed federal tax liabilities. However, tax breaks available since 1987 (investment tax credits and accelerated depreciation) allow IOUs to retain most of the taxes collected, a total of roughly \$94 billion to date—essentially an “interest-free loan.” At a cost to the government of \$3.8 billion in 2009 (the last year available), this federal subsidy for IOUs works out to about \$38 per customer.

bond owners is not taxed. The cost of this subsidy in 2003 (the last year available) was \$909 million, or \$55 per consumer

Over their history, RUS loans have recorded a miniscule delinquency rate of 0.004 percent—co-ops definitely pay their debts. Wiping out RUS will do nothing but raise electric bills for millions of rural residents. With electric co-ops anticipating \$66.1 billion in capital needs over the next five years and \$140.8 billion over the next decade to update aging infrastructure, connect new consumers, and build needed

Unfortunately, due to decisions made by the White House Office of Management and Budget in 2007, RUS is currently prevented from making loans for coal, natural gas, or nuclear baseload generation. The Obama administration has sought to extend RUS lending restrictions to intermediate and peaking natural gas-fired generation and power plant environmental upgrades as well. Taken together, these moves would limit RUS electric loans to only renewable energy systems, transmission, distribution, and carbon capture projects at exist-

ing coal- and natural gas-burning power plants. Yet federal subsidies for all types of generation continue to flow to IOUs and municipal utilities.

As Congress recognized more than seven decades ago, a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power remains the linchpin to economic growth and job creation. The unique, long-standing relationship between electric cooperatives and RUS helps ensure that all Americans, no matter where they live, have access to a vibrant electric grid able to meet 21st century demands.



## Wrap up in Savings

*Save Energy, Save Water, Save Dollars*

**Buy this for only \$14.99 plus tax**

**Electric Water Heater Blanket & Pipe Insulation**

- 3-inch thick insulation w/cap
- Includes tape & instructions
- One size fits all up to 60-gallon tank
- 6 feet of pipe pipe insulation

**... and get all this FREE!**

**Earth Massage showerhead**

- Adjustable 9-jet turbo massage
- As featured in Good Housekeeping magazine

**Kitchen Faucet Aerator**

- Easy fingertip on/off feature

**Two Bathroom Faucet Aerators**

**Total Kit Value: Over \$50!**

**On Sale at all Tideland Offices**



# E-mail rumors about CFL safety

Worried when you hear a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) pop or sizzle? Despite confusion caused by an e-mail hoax circulating since April 2010, these sounds signal the bulb is working safely in its final hours. Smoke, a popping noise, and even a slight odor are typical and do not pose a fire risk as claimed in the misleading e-mail.

According to Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL), an independent, not-for-profit firm that tests and sets minimum standards for electric-consuming items, about 130-150 million CFLs are sold every year in the U.S. While the bulbs produce 75 percent less heat than their incandescent cousins, differences between the bulbs go deeper than the amount of heat released. As the first wave of CFLs begins reaching the end of their lifespan, consumers are learning the bulbs die differently, too.

“As with any new product, it’s important that consumers understand how it works,” notes John Drengenberg, UL consumer affairs manager. Most folks know traditional incandescent light bulbs



*Don't be fooled; a popping sound or smoke means a CFL's end-of-life mechanism works*

tend to burn out the same way: a pop, a flash, and, when shaken, the familiar rattle confirming the bulb needs to be changed. With CFLs, light dims over time and the lamp may produce a more dramatic pop, emit a distinct odor, and even release some smoke. Sometimes the plastic at the base of a CFL will turn black, which is normal in most cases as safety standards require application of special flame-retardant plastics.

“CFLs are one of the products we regularly test to specific requirements for electrical safety, fire, and shock hazards,” Drengenberg notes. “Any popping sounds or smoke that a consumer might see when a CFLs burns out means that the bulb’s end-of-life mechanism

worked as it should have.”

Consumers should look for the UL mark on packaging when purchasing CFLs. “If a CFL carries the UL mark, consumers know we have investigated it to specific safety requirements,” reports Drengenberg.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories



## Lifetime No Leak Warranty

\*No down payment required for qualifying members

**Call Tideland for details**



## Motivation for Classroom Innovation

Beginning April 1, 2011, Tideland

EMC will be accepting Bright Ideas grant applications. Bright Ideas grants provide funding for a variety of hands-on educational projects. Awards up to \$2,000 are made to K-12 teachers to improve classroom

instruction and encourage innovative teaching methods. Grant proposals that involve the study of energy are highly encouraged including renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Since 1994, the state’s electric co-ops have awarded \$7.3 million to fund 7,000 Bright Ideas projects

reaching more than 1.3 million students. Tideland applications may be submitted online at [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com). Deadline for entries is September 23.

For more information call program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or 1.800.637.1079, extension 1140.

## Recent energy audit finds & reminders



### *Easy on the weed whacking*

Vinyl underpinning is susceptible to wear and tear so opt for old fashioned weed pulling or herbicides.



### *Lint collector*

Make sure your dryer doesn't vent near your outside HVAC unit or soon it will have its own sweater!



### *Can we vent about vents? (part 1)*

Keep your dryer vent clean. Otherwise the flap will stay open, letting unconditioned air inside.



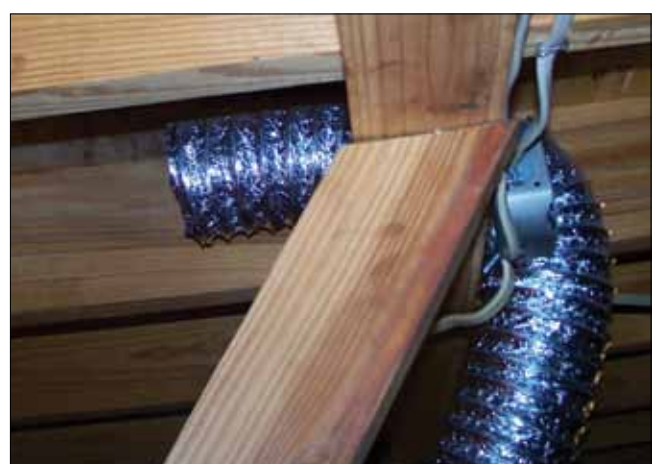
### *Up, up and away*

A droopy, uninsulated attic access creates a direct pathway for conditioned air to escape the home.



### *The eyes have it*

You don't have to be an energy auditor to spot some problems. This downed section of duct work was easy to identify once the sofa was moved.



### *Can we vent about vents? (part 2)*

Exhaust fans should not vent into the attic or under the house. They must exhaust to the exterior.



Sign up for Tideland's Paperless Billing Service and you could win a Kindle 3G Wireless Reading Device and a \$50 gift card from Amazon.com to download your favorite books!

Sign up at [www.tidelandmc.com](http://www.tidelandmc.com) and enjoy the convenience of going entirely paperless. Signing up for E-bill Notification does not automatically enroll you in paperless billing. You must request the paperless option, otherwise you will receive an E-bill 9statement and mailed statement. Sign up by June 30, 2011 to be entered into the Kindle drawing.



## Electrical Fire Safety

About 28,600 home electrical fires occur during a typical year, leading to \$1.1 billion in property losses. Faulty electrical outlets and old wiring are the main causes of electrical fires, as are damaged cords, plugs, switches, and light fixtures.

**The number one priority in a fire is to escape safely.**



Only use a fire extinguisher if:

- 🔥 The fire department has been called.
- 🔥 Everyone has exited the building.
- 🔥 The fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing.
- 🔥 The room is not filled with smoke.

Not all fire extinguishers are alike. Only a Class C extinguisher can be used on an electrical fire.

Remember the word **PASS**:

**P**ull the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you and release the locking mechanism.

**A**im low. Point the nozzle toward the base of the fire.

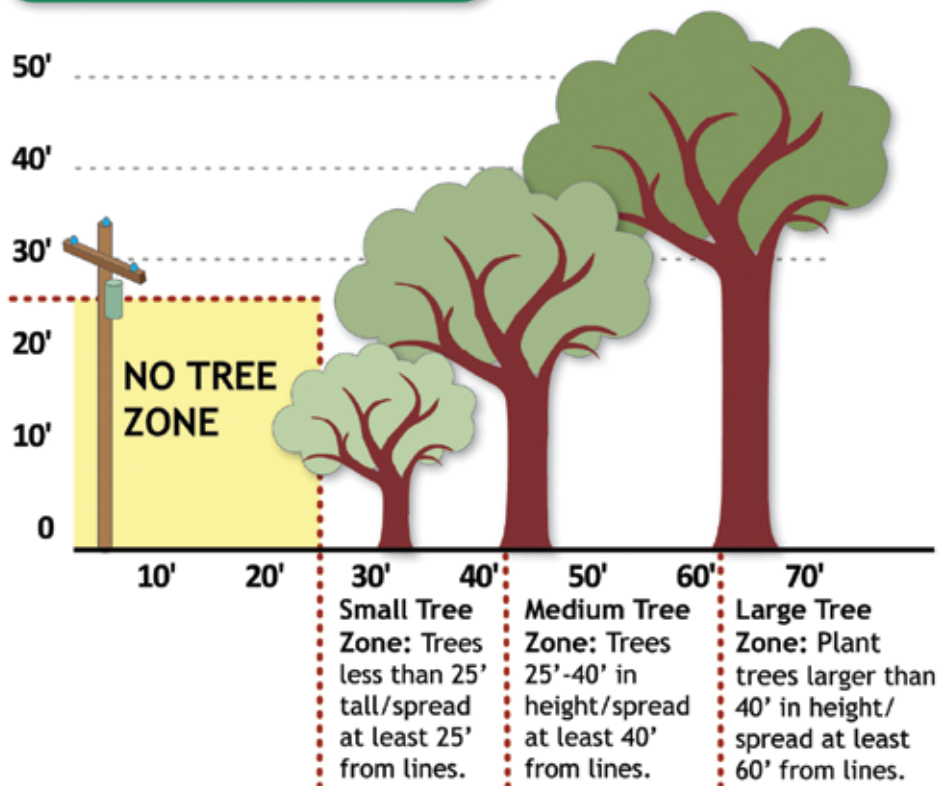
**S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.

**S**weep the nozzle from side-to-side.

**Remember: Know when to go.** Make sure you have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration, National Fire Protection Association

## Tree Planting Guide



Consult your nursery salesperson to determine the mature height and width of trees before making your purchase.

The following trees should be avoided within 70 feet of power lines: ash, beech, birch, cedar, chestnut, chinaberry, southern magnolia, elm, maple, oak, pecan, pine, poplar and black gum.

## Tideland Topics

[www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ray Hamilton, President  
J. Douglas Brinson, Vice President  
Clifton Paul, Secretary  
Paul Sasnett, Treasurer  
Rudy Austin, Leon Bryant,  
Jimmy Burbage, Mark Carawan,  
David Ipock, Garry Jordan,  
& Wayne Sawyer

### INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

Jill Lee

### EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

### Weekday Member Service

8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
252.943.3046  
800.637.1079

### 24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400  
800.882.1001

**HOLIDAY CLOSING: ALL TIDELAND OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, APRIL 25.  
CALL 800.882.1001 TO REPORT OUTAGES.**



## REMINDER TO RESIDENTIAL TIME OF USE RATE PARTICIPANTS

Spring/summer peak hours change after April 15. Beginning Monday, April 18, the on-peak hours will run from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Good Friday, Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day are all off-peak.

Please reset water heater or swimming pool/spa equipment timers accordingly.

Fall/winter peak hours will resume on October 16.

Remember to use Tideland EMC's web based time of use rate calculator to make sure you are continuing to save money year round:

<http://www.tidelandemc.com/TimeOfUseCalculator.aspx>