



# Tideland Topics

**REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.**

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

## MEMBER MATH: WPCA and capital credits exceed \$3.7 million in 2015

In keeping with our not-for-profit cooperative business principles, Tideland EMC issued credits to members and former members exceeding \$3.7 million in 2015.

Of that total, \$1.3 million was in the form of wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) credits that appeared on monthly power bills January through December.

The average monthly WPCA credit for 2015 was 0.385¢ per kilowatt hour (kWh) sold. In December 2015, the WPCA credit peaked for the year at 0.704¢ per kWh which translates into a credit of \$7.04 for every 1,000 kWh billed that month.

The December WPCA credit brought the billed rate per residential kWh down to 9.876¢, well below our published rate of 10.58¢. With unseasonably mild temperatures prevailing through December that month's kWh sales were down fifteen percent from December 2014. Therefore,

we hope all members felt some payment relief as 2015 came to an end.

As was noted in last month's issue of Tideland Topics, the co-op also approved a \$2.4 million capital credit general retirement refund in December.

The new year was off to a good start with a WPCA credit of \$6.64 per 1,000 kWh billed during January 2016. That kept the billed residential rate down to 9.916¢ per kWh as temperatures returned to more seasonable levels.

The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports that since July electricity generated from natural gas-fired power plants has exceeded generation from coal. Before April 2015, coal-fired generation had always outpaced natural gas. This

(continues on page 24)



## Carolina Country Mobile App

Last month, we rolled out the new Carolina Country mobile app for iPad and tablet users. However, we erroneously reported that digital app subscribers would be opted out of the print version of the magazine. Tideland members may access the digital content while continuing to receive the magazine by mail unless a member specifically requests to discontinue the print version.

If you should ever leave the Tideland system, but still want monthly access to Carolina Country magazine, contact Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or via email: [heidismith@tidelandemc.com](mailto:heidismith@tidelandemc.com) to be added to our complimentary list of digital app users.



## Message to our Member-Owners: Community Solar

By Paul Spruill  
General Manager & CEO

### Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

In February, Lucas Tree Experts will complete tree trimming along the Manns Harbor circuit including Old Manns Harbor, Old Ferry Dock, and Mashoes roads along with all sideroads in the area.

Mowing crews will be working along Lynch Beach, Mill Pond, Gibbstown, Florence, and Sanders roads and all sideroads in between.

Please lend your support to these important maintenance operations.

Tideland recently completed phase two of our community solar installation on Highway 32 in Pinetown. Combined, the two installations have a rated maximum output of 200 kW.

Originally the cooperative had planned to make solar subscriptions available to members that wanted to be active participants in renewable energy projects without incurring the substantial costs of installing residential solar. However, thanks to significantly reduced installation costs, which are inherent in larger ground installations compared to small, rooftop installations, we have decided to roll the solar production from the project into our own generating portfolio. While the power we produce at the site is not currently cheaper than traditional generating fuels like natural gas and nuclear, we believe in a few years' time the power costs associated with this installation will be within striking distance.

Therefore, we decided the entire membership would best be served by rolling the output into our own portfolio so all can benefit from our community solar project over the next 20 years.

While our community solar project, which resides on just over one acre, is nowhere near the size of local solar farms, it is important for Tideland to remain innovative and diversify our energy resources to the greatest extent possible while remaining fiscally responsible to our members.

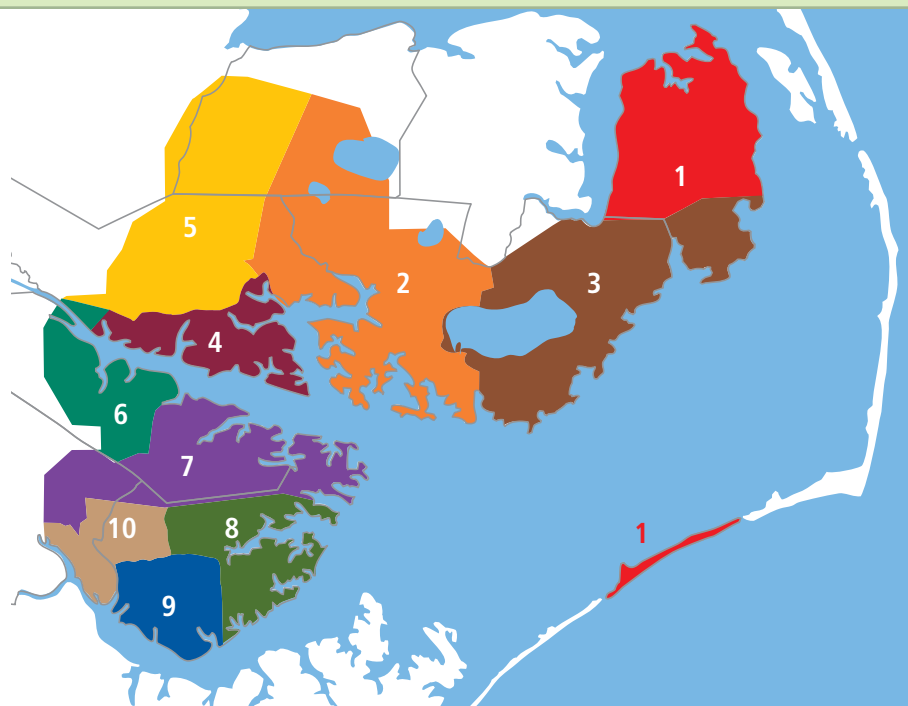
Along those same lines, we will soon kick off a pilot project in partnership with North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation to test the potential for incorporating microgrid strategies into our operational procedures. In its simplest terms, a microgrid is a small-scale power grid that can operate independently or in conjunction with an area's main electrical grid. Microgrids can be intended as back-up power during emergency situations or bolster the main power grid during periods of heavy demand and higher costs.

We look forward to bringing you more details about this exciting opportunity to study next generation utility strategies in the weeks and months ahead.

## Director district map

Tideland EMC members are represented by directors from 10 geographical districts as depicted in the map to the right. Directors are elected to a three-year term of service on a rotating basis.

A more detailed map of the director districts including a description of all district boundaries can be found on the co-op's website: [www.tidelandemc.com/news-info/about-the-co-op/annual-meeting](http://www.tidelandemc.com/news-info/about-the-co-op/annual-meeting).



# Director nominations underway

It is once again time to nominate candidates for Tideland's annual director elections. The nominating committee will meet in Pantego on February 11, 2016, to consider candidates for districts 1, 3 and 9 currently represented by Rudy Austin, Dawson Pugh, and J. Douglas Brinson respectively. Interested candidates should contact a member of the nominating committee prior to the meeting. The committee's nominees will be posted at all Tideland offices on February 12, 2016.

Nominations can also be made by submitting a petition signed by 50 co-op members no later than March 6, 2016. The last day to introduce new business via petition is April 25, 2016. The annual meeting of members will be held at Beaufort County Community College on Thursday, May 26, 2016.

## DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

The following guidelines are excerpted from Board Policy No. 302 and Bylaw 4.02 to ensure quality representation.

### Legal & Personal Requirements

1. A Tideland member & bonafide resident of the directorial district.
2. A member no less than 2 years on the date of election.
3. Willing to promote & protect the co-op's interests.
4. Able to impartially represent the entire co-op membership.

5. Willing to regularly attend board meetings.
6. May not be a close relative of an existing director or employee.
7. Is not employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise.
8. Was not previously employed by TEMC, any other utility/energy company, or any entity which substantially rendered services to a utility/energy company.

### Aspects of Service

1. Put forth the effort to understand the co-op and provide sound judgement to reach decisions.
2. Respect official decisions made by a majority of the board.
3. Objectively evaluate questions and problems facing TEMC.

### Points to Consider

1. Has the member demonstrated sound business judgement?
2. Has the member shown a capacity for leadership & a reputation for honesty & integrity?
3. Has the member shown a capacity for working well with others?
4. What problems might hinder the nominee's success?

For more information or to determine which district you reside in, call annual meeting coordinator Myra Beasley at 943-3046, ext. 1125 or 1-800-637-1079.

## 2016 Nominating Committee

### District 1:

Vincent O'Neal  
PO Box 74  
Ocracoke, NC 27960  
928-5951

### District 2:

Louie Hubers  
7533 NC Hwy 45 N  
Belhaven, NC 27810  
943-3558

### District 3:

Dennis Benston  
31791 US Hwy 264  
Engelhard, NC 27824  
925-2061

### District 4:

Kenneth E. Windley  
29 Fantasy Island Rd.  
Belhaven, NC 27810  
943-4594

### District 5:

Horace Waters  
8098 Slatestone Rd  
Washington, NC 27889  
927-3150

### District 6:

Walter D. Martin  
275 Whitehurst Rd.  
Blounts Creek, NC 27814  
402-9995

### District 7:

L. Thomas Gillikin  
11189 NC 306 S  
Aurora, NC 27806  
322-5597

### District 8:

Vincent Sevenski  
325 Harper Rd  
Bayboro, NC 28515  
670-1448

### District 9:

Buck H. Jones  
35 Roland Rd  
Arapahoe, NC 28510  
249-1541

### District 10:

John Mitchell  
1209 Santa Lucia Dr  
New Bern, NC 28560  
633-9957

[Credentials & Election Committee roster next page](#)



## This month in Tideland history

February 13, 1934: President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 7037 establishing the Rural Electrification Administration

February 21, 1935: Pamlico Ice and Light Company is incorporated in Engelhard

February 17, 1941: Pamlico-Beaufort EMC in Grantsboro received its charter

1952: Pamlico-Beaufort EMC votes to close the co-op office on Saturdays

1963: Woodstock EMC hires meter readers, eliminating the need for members to read their own meters

1967: Woodstock EMC votes to close its office on Saturdays

(present day employees would like to say "thank you" for voting to close our offices on Saturdays!)

# MEMBER MATH

continued from page 21

increased use of natural gas for electricity generation primarily reflects sustained low prices for the fuel.

For the week ending January 4, 2016, natural gas spot market prices (Henry Hub) were \$2.39 per million Btu, a nearly 30% decline from January 2015 pricing. In November 2015 natural gas prices dipped to \$2.09/MMBtu, the lowest price since April 2012.

The EIA anticipates slightly warmer temperatures this winter east of the Rocky Mountains and in the South they forecast 8% fewer heating degree days. A warmer winter combined with favorable generating costs is expected to keep electricity expenditures down from last winter. In the South, 62% of all households use electricity as their primary space heating fuel.

All that being said, the real key to affordable energy bills is the wise and efficient use of electricity by employing smart thermostat strategies and good building envelope air sealing.

## 2016 Credentials & Election Committee

### District 1:

Alton Ballance  
Ocracoke

### District 2:

Johnny Joyner  
Scranton

### District 3:

Brandon Marshall  
Engelhard

### District 4:

Steven Poole  
Belhaven

### District 5:

Ernie Everett  
Pinetown

### District 6:

C. Travis Martin  
Blounts Creek

### District 7:

Darrell B. Cayton  
Aurora

### District 8:

Mike Spencer  
Bayboro

### District 9:

E. Douglas Cahoon  
Arapahoe

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REAL POWER.

## Tideland Topics

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Sasnett, President  
J. Douglas Brinson, Vice President  
Clifton Paul, Secretary  
David Ipock, Treasurer  
Rudy Austin, Mark Carawan,  
Garry Jordan, Dawson Pugh,  
Wayne Sawyer & Charles Slade

### GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Paul Spruill

### EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

### Member Service

252.943.3046  
800.637.1079

### 24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400  
800.882.1001

Tideland EMC is an equal  
opportunity provider & employer



NEED A NEW HEATING SYSTEM? CHECK OUT TIDELAND'S VARIOUS HVAC  
REBATE PROGRAMS AT [WWW.TIDELANDEMC.COM](http://WWW.TIDELANDEMC.COM) BEFORE YOU BUY



### Tideland College Scholarships

*Eligible:* Graduating high school seniors served by Tideland  
Eight \$1,000 non-renewable scholarship for students attending college or community college  
*Deadline To Apply:* March 11, 2016



### Youth Tour to Washington, DC

*Dates:* June 13-19, 2016  
*Eligible:* Rising high school juniors and seniors served by Tideland  
All-expense-paid trip to learn about co-ops as well as our nation's history and governance  
*Deadline To Apply:* March 4, 2016



### UNC & NC State Summer Basketball Camps

*Camp Dates:* June 2016  
*Eligible:* Rising sixth, seventh and eighth grades served by Tideland  
All-expense-paid trip. Girls attend NC State Camp. Boys attend UNC Roy Williams Camp  
*Deadline To Apply:* March 31, 2016

For details & application forms visit [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)