

Tideland Topics

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

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

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER: Plug in with Trickle Star Energy Monitors

Little things can add up. That's why monitoring your home or business plug loads can be a real eye opener.

With that in mind, Tideland EMC has a limited number of Trickle Star Energy Monitors for sale to members. Unlike the Kil-A-Watt monitors we've loaned out over the years, the Trickle Star monitor has a detachable display unit with a 4-foot cord.

The display unit can be placed on a counter or table for easy viewing. This makes monitoring a refrigerator or freezer much easier than before. The monitor also has 360 joules of surge protection.

The Trickle Star displays kilowatt hour consumption, cost, and CO² by day, month and year.

The units are available for purchase at all Tideland EMC offices. The cost is \$29.99 and will be billed to your electric account.



Time-of-use hours change April 17

Tidelanders participating in the co-op's time-of-use rate are reminded that the on-peak hours change on Monday, April 17. The summer on-peak hours are 4 pm to 8 pm, Monday through Friday.

Good Friday, Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day remain off-peak.

All program kWh will continue to be billed at a rate of 6.544¢. May 1 - October 31, the on-peak kW demand rate moves to \$10.35.

If you are a high energy use household and are willing to reduce energy use during a few weekday hours, you may want to give the time-of-use rate a try. The program is discussed in detail on page 31.



Message to our Member-Owners: WPCA Zeroed Out March 1

By Paul Spruill
General Manager & CEO

Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Our tree-trimming crews were called up north to help with outages resulting from Winter Storm Riley. Therefore, they will continue to finish work in the Spring Creek Rd and Vinegar Hill Rd areas of Aurora. That will include all side roads in the area.

Mowing crews will continue to work in Pamlico County in the areas of Straight Rd, Kershaw Rd and Janerio Rd.

Please lend your full support to our right of way maintenance activities. Trees are the No. 1 cause of outages.

In the July 2017 issue of Tideland Topics we included a detailed discussion about the wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA). At the time, our revenue projections indicated the need to continue to bill members a WPCA charge through second quarter 2018 when we anticipated the implementation of a base rate increase.

That was before Winter 2018. Kilowatt-hour sales broke all previous records. Energy markets remained fairly stable, including natural gas prices, which held generating costs in check. The result was a free-falling WPCA, and by March 1, 2018, it zeroed out for all Tideland billed accounts. It is likely to remain at zero several months and a rate increase will not occur in 2018.

As we previously explained, the WPCA reverted to a charge in April 2017 to address our need to collect additional revenues to pay for costs associated with our share of coal ash cleanup in North Carolina, as well as our own infrastructure improvements, namely the construction of two new substations. While those costs have not yet been fully recovered, we were ahead of schedule in current year revenue collections and were able to take our foot off the gas for now.

While those expenses reflect a mix of both short- and long-term liabilities, we believe it is in the best interest of co-op members to get the coal ash clean up costs behind us sooner rather than later. Therefore, we plan to pay down larger portions of the coal ash expense in 2019 and 2020. That means either revisiting the WPCA in late 2018 or early 2019, implementing a base rate increase in 2019 or a combination of the two. Once 2020 is in the rear view mirror, we should have greater rate certainty going forward.

Our optimism is also aided by new housing starts in Tideland territory. We have now almost fully recovered the number of services lost following 2011's Hurricane Irene.

Demand side management via new load control programs also offers opportunities to reduce operating expenses. Member participation will be key to our success as we roll out new peak shaving programs to targeted areas. Based on the success of similar programs in the 1990s I feel confident Tidelanders will rise to the challenge.

DON'T SWEAT IT.
LEVELIZE IT!
AVOID THE **HIGHS** & **LOWS** OF
SEASONAL ELECTRIC BILL FLUCTUATIONS.



To enroll call Tideland EMC at 800.637.1079. Account must have zero balance to activate.

RESIDENTIAL RATE ALTERNATIVE:

Limiting your on-peak energy use could result in savings

WHAT IS TIME-OF-USE?

If you have ever delayed making a phone call until rates were lower, then you've already benefited from a form of time-of-use savings.

Tideland EMC, like you, purchases electricity from a power company. Generally, it is quite inexpensive to generate and buy electricity. However, when electricity is in great demand, older, less-efficient power plants are used to meet the additional load. At these time, called "peak periods," electricity is very expensive to generate and the costs are passed on to Tideland EMC and our members. When we avoid these "traffic jams" by shifting the use of electric appliances to off-peak hours, we have the potential to save money.

The time-of-use rate structure is similar to the way Tideland EMC is charged for power. All of your kilowatt hours will be very inexpensive, only

6.544¢ per kwh. That's significantly lower than our standard residential rates of 10.58¢ in winter and 11.495¢ in summer.

However, by replacing your existing meter with a time-of-use meter, Tideland will be able to monitor your demand during on-peak hours and it will be recorded as kW demand. For example, 10-100-watt light bulbs, when lit at the same time, generate 1 kW of demand. The more electrical appliances you use simultaneously on-peak, the greater your demand charge will be. However, demand is not cumulative. Your demand reading today is not added to your demand reading tomorrow. It is simply the highest peak you reach during a single 15-minute on-peak period. Your monthly kW demand is then multiplied by \$9.40 in winter and \$10.35 in summer. On meter reading day, your demand will be reset to zero.



WHEN ARE THE PEAK HOURS?

In winter the on-peak hours are 6 am to 9 am, Monday through Friday. During summer the hours are 4 pm to 8 pm. Weekends and major holiday are entirely off-peak.

HOW MUCH CAN I SAVE?

We find that time-of-use members typically save the equivalent of 1 to 2 electric bills a year. The amount you save will largely be determined by the commitment you make to maintaining an off-peak lifestyle. For example, you can put timers on some appliances like water heaters, pool pumps, or hot tubs so they never operate on-peak. Simply

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**Available at all
Tideland offices**

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 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!**

Incumbent directors deemed elected

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

Tideland Electric's nominating committee met on February 7 to consider candidates for director districts 4, 5, 6 and 8. Nominated for re-election in their respective districts were incumbents Charles Slade of Belhaven, Paul Sasnett of Washington, Wayne Sawyer of Blounts Creek and Clifton Paul of Grantsboro. 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 four directors will retake their oaths of service at the cooperative's June board meeting.

Co-op members are encouraged to save the date for Tideland's annual meeting. The event will be held on Thursday, May 10 at Beaufort County Community College in Washington.

Member registration will begin at 6:30 pm. The business session gets underway at 7:00 pm. Registered members are eligible for prize drawings including the grand prize of a



Charles Slade
District 4



Paul Sasnett
District 5



Wayne Sawyer
District 6



Clifton Paul
District 8

\$500 electric bill credit. Both the youngest and oldest members in attendance will be awarded gift cards.

Tideland Topics

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



OFFICE CLOSING: All Tideland offices will be closed March 30 for Good Friday. Our 24-hour call center will remain open for member service & outage reporting.

Time-of-use

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signing up for the rate will not automatically lower your electric bill.

IS THIS RATE FOR EVERYONE?

No. Many families have no choice but to run major appliances during on-peak periods. Tideland's time-of-use rate may be a good fit if you can answer yes to the following:

- Are you willing to learn how much electricity you use and when you use it?
- Can you avoid or stagger major appliance use during peak periods?

- Will all the members of your household, including guests, children, and housekeepers, be able to maintain a time-of-use lifestyle?

CAN I TRY THE PROGRAM WITHOUT CHANGING RATES?

Yes. In fact, we prefer not to change your rate until it has been demonstrated that you understand the rate and can incorporate it into your lifestyle without incurring additional costs in the form of on-peak demand penalties.

MUST MY HOME BE TOTAL ELECTRIC?

No. However, savings may be limited depending on the number of non-

electric appliances you have. This rate would be ideal for members with dual fuel heat pumps.

I HAVE A HEAT PUMP WITH AUXILIARY HEAT STRIPS. DON'T THEY CREATE A LOT OF KW DEMAND?

Yes. Therefore, you may want to install a programmable thermostat designed for heat pumps.

If you are interested in learning more about the time-of-use program or would like to give it a try call Tideland at 800.637.1079.