

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Surge solution

Your home, and the major appliances and electronics in it, represent a significant investment that needs to be safeguarded. Start at the meter base with a Tideland-installed surge protector. Each installation includes an inspection of your electric service grounds and placement of a Kenick lightning arrester. The cost is \$290 with on-bill financing available.

For more information, visit the products and services page at tidelandemc.com.

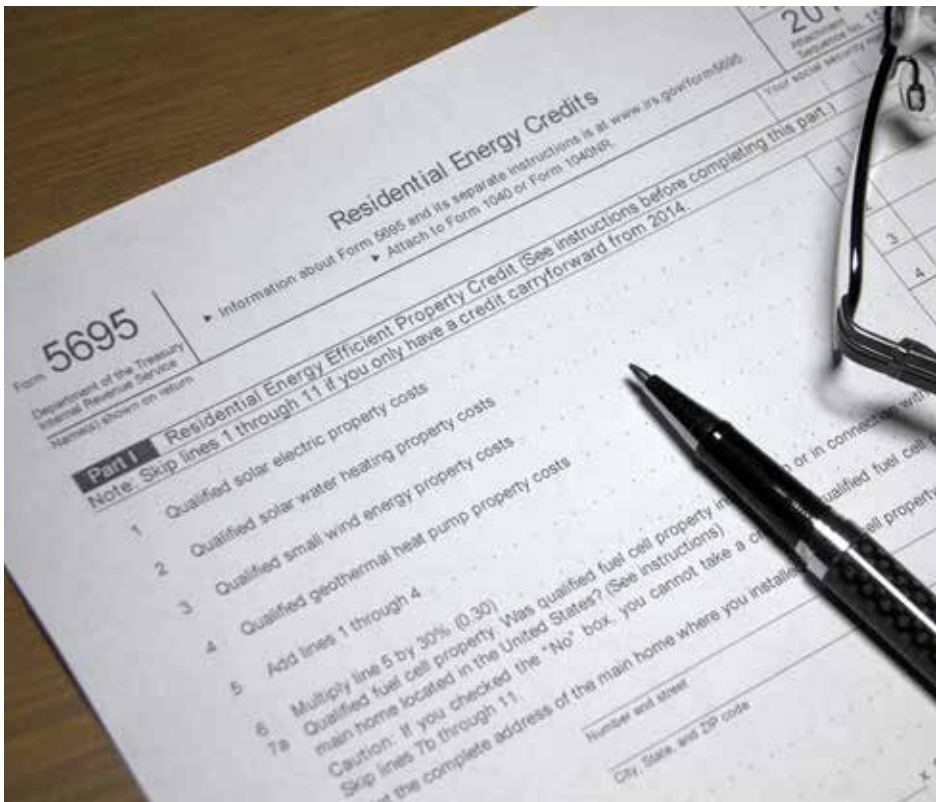


Credit where credit is due

Federal tax credits provide a credit valued at up to 30% of the cost of the following residential projects:

- Solar panels that generate electricity in a home
- Solar-powered water heaters that perform at least half the home's water heating
- Wind turbines that generate energy
- Geothermal heat pumps for heating and cooling
- Fuel cells that generate at least 0.5 kW and have an electricity-generating efficiency of more than 30%

To claim the credit, complete IRS Form 5695.





Dryer safety

While cleaning your lint filter between every load of laundry is recommended, don't ignore the dryer vent. It needs an annual clean out; semi-annually if you have a large family.

A clothes dryer vent clogged with lint not only reduces the unit's energy efficiency, it can also be a fire hazard. Be sure to



immediately replace the vent cover if it is damaged or missing to prevent pests or birds from nesting in the vent.

More than a gallon of water can be extracted during the clothes-drying process, so never vent the dryer into your home, attic or crawlspace. It must be vented to the outdoors.

NC residential building code Energy Updates

North Carolina's energy conservation code has recently been updated. We're particularly pleased to see the code more seriously addressing the issue of duct leakage.

Leaks in forced air duct systems have long been recognized as a major source of energy waste. Studies indicate that duct leakage can account for as much as 25% of total house energy loss, and in many cases has a greater impact on energy use than air infiltration through the building shell. Just as important, duct leakage can prevent heating and cooling systems from doing their job properly, resulting in hot or cold rooms, and humidity problems. Worse yet, duct leaks can create air quality problems.

Leaks in the supply ductwork cause expensive conditioned air to be dumped into the attic, crawlspace or garage instead of into the house.

Return leaks pull outside air (hot in summer, cold in winter) into the duct system, reducing both efficiency and capacity. In humid climates, moist air being drawn into return leaks can overwhelm the dehumidification capacity of air conditioning systems, causing homes to feel clammy even when the air conditioner is running.

Heat pumps are particularly susceptible to comfort complaints from duct leakage, especially during the heating season. Duct leaks can cause the air coming from heat pumps to feel luke-warm or

even cold during the winter. In addition, leaky ductwork has been found to greatly increase the use of electric strip heaters in heat pumps during the heating season.

Leaks in return ducts draw air into the house from crawlspaces, garages and attics, bringing with it dust, mold spores, insulation fibers and other contaminants.

Household depressurization from duct leaks and imbalanced duct



Duct leakage testing equipment

systems can cause spillage of combustion products (from furnaces, water heaters and fireplaces) into the house.

Duct systems lose energy in two main ways: by air leakage through cracks and seams and by conduction of energy through the duct wall.

To address the latter, the code now requires that supply and return ducts in unconditioned space (attic, crawlspace or outdoors) be insulated to a minimum R-8. That's an improvement from R-6 insulation.

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FlexPay Members

Minimum Payment Reminder

Nearly 700 Tideland members now utilize the co-op's FlexPay program and have said "Goodbye!" to monthly electric bills.



Most FlexPay members choose to pay weekly on their account based on prompts received via email or text message. While those prompts may indicate that a payment less than \$10 is needed to continue active service, FlexPay members are reminded that the program guidelines stipulate a \$10 minimum payment. The \$10 minimum is intended to reduce transaction fees associated with credit and debit cards, which are passed along to the co-op. If prompted to pay less than that when making a payment via

the mobile app, automated phone system, or the member portal, please override the auto populated amount and increase it to \$10 or higher.

Last day to submit college scholarship applications is March 8

We are now accepting college scholarship applications from high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties. Applicants must be the dependent of a Tideland EMC member.

Tideland will award eight \$1,000 scholarships. Two of the scholarships will be designated for students who plan to attend community college.

Students have until Friday, March 8, 2019, to apply. An application may be downloaded at tidelandemc.com or see your high school guidance counselor.

Williams selected to represent Tideland during Youth Tour to Washington, DC



Emma Williams

Emma Williams of Pantego has been selected to serve as Tideland's representative during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June. She will join more than 1,500 other teens from electric co-ops across the country during the week-long event.

Emma is the daughter of Chuck and Paula Ruark Williams. She attends Pungo Christian Academy in Belhaven.



Beat the buzzer!

Tideland EMC is currently accepting applications for full scholarships to renowned basketball camps at two North Carolina universities this summer.

Young men can apply for a scholarship to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and young women can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp held at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.*

To apply, students must be a rising sixth, seventh or eighth grade student residing in a Tideland EMC served home. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay.

Applications must be received by March 31. To learn more or to download an application, visit tidelandemc.com.

The Roy Williams camp will be held June 22-26. Dates for the Lady Wolfpack camp are June 9-12.

Right-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right-of-way. During March they will be working in the Washington area.

Osmose crews will be testing poles on the Sidney and Gaylords Bay circuits. Their testing can include minor digging at the base of the pole. Poles are also "sounded" with a hammer to detect any internal decay.

Thank you for your support of these important maintenance activities, which improve system reliability and promote public safety.

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working in an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging.



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Message to members Forging comebacks that are greater than the setbacks

by **PAUL SPRULL**

GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In late January, Tideland hosted a series of workshops focused on energy-improvement opportunities in flood-damaged homes. During one session a member asked why Tideland was reaching out to the community in this way.

We also know that during a major disaster it can be a challenge to know that the work being performed is technically correct, in compliance with today's building codes, and reasonably priced. Member advocacy is certainly a driving force behind the energy services we provide.

But the overarching reason we are taking an active role in disaster recovery is to help our members turn a setback into a major comeback. We want members to be able to return to restored homes that are healthier, more comfortable and more energy efficient than the ones they were forced out of by Hurricane Florence. Achieving all three makes homes more affordable and sound for years to come.



Tideland energy auditor Jim Rapin addresses plumbing cutouts during an energy seminar for flood damaged homes.

From an energy perspective, gutted homes present easy access to problem areas that our energy auditors often see via infrared cameras. It isn't very practical to suggest opening up a wall to air seal during a routine audit. With insulation and drywall removed for remediation, homeowners have the perfect opportunity to address those issues with silicone caulk, low expanding foam and other low-cost items.

Prior to Hurricane Florence, the worst storm in our co-op's history was Irene in 2011. Nearly

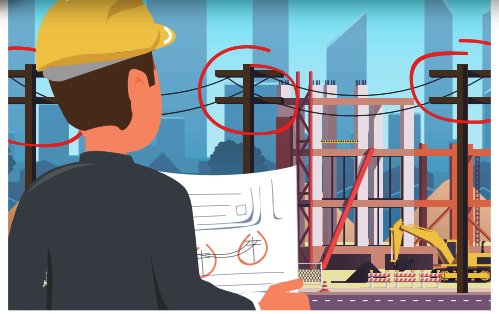
a decade later, many of the homes impacted by that storm have never been reoccupied or replaced. The ripple effects of that on a community and a co-op can be devastating. We refuse to let Hurricane Florence stake a similar claim.

Recovery on a large scale is never a sprint. It's a marathon. We're committed to helping you cross the finish line no matter how long it takes.

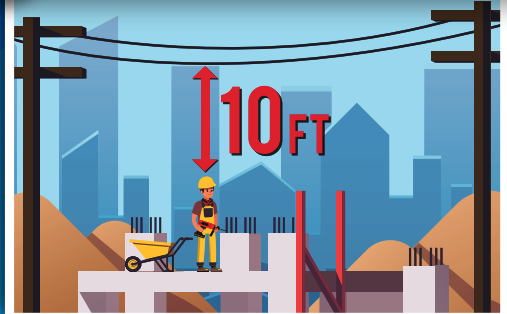
OVERHEAD POWER LINE SAFETY



1 Locate all overhead power lines.



2 Keep self and equipment 10 feet away from all overhead power lines.



3 Do not touch anything that is in contact with the power line.



4 Beware of fencing near power lines.



5 Carry ladders and other equipment horizontally.



6 Lower equipment apparatus before driving.



7 Never spray water near power lines.



8 Stay at least 35 feet away from fallen power lines.



Supply ducts inside semi-conditioned space must be insulated to a minimum R-4. Return ducts inside condition or semi-conditioned space are not required to be insulated. Ducts located inside conditioned space are not required to be insulated other than as may be necessary for preventing the formation of condensation on the exterior or cooling ducts.

The state's 2012 update added to the energy conservation code mandatory duct testing. Air leakage tests must now be performed for any new duct system installed outside of the building's thermal envelope (conditioned space).

A duct leakage performance test involves pressurizing the duct system with a calibrated fan and simultaneously measuring the air flow through the fan and its effect on the pressure within the duct system. The tighter the duct system, the less air you need from the fan to create a change in duct system pressure.

The duct leakage information, including the duct leakage test selected and the results, along with the tester's name, date and contact information must be included on an Energy Efficiency Certificate which is to be provided to the homeowner.

For the test criteria, the report shall be produced in the following manner: perform the HVAC system air leakage test and record the CFM25 (CFM is cubic feet per minute). Calculate the total square feet of the conditioned floor area (CFA) served by that system. Multiply CFM25 by 100, divide the result by the CFA and record the result.

To meet code, the result must be less than or equal to 5 CFM25/100SF (square feet). Previously the requirement was six. Tideland believes it is reasonable to expect a quality job that results in 3 CFM25/100SF

**TABLE 401.9
ENERGY EFFICIENCY CERTIFICATE**

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Builder, Permit Holder or Registered Design Professional Print Name: | |
| Signature: | |
| Property Address: | |
| Date: | |
| Insulation Rating – List the value covering largest area to all that apply | R - Value |
| Ceiling/roof: | R - |
| Wall: | R - |
| Floor: | R - |
| Closed Crawl Space Wall: | R - |
| Closed Crawl Space Floor: | R - |
| Slab: | R - |
| Basement Wall: | R - |
| Fenestration: | |
| U-Factor | |
| Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC) | |
| Building Air Leakage | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visually inspected according to 402.4.2.1 OR | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Air Leakage Test Results (Sec. 402.4.2.2) ACH50 [Target: 5.0] or CFM50/SFSA [Target: 0.30] | |
| Name of Tester/Company: | |
| Date: | Phone: |
| Ducts: | |
| Insulation | R - |
| Total Duct Leakage Test Result (Sect. 403.2.2) (CFM25 Total/100SF) [Target: 6] | |
| Name of Tester/Company: | |
| Date: | Phone: |
| Certificate to be displayed permanently | |

or less. Three is in keeping with the most recent International Energy Conservation Code. Unfortunately, North Carolina code typically lags far behind the IECC.

While we're on the subject of home conditioning, remember NC code requires that a Manual J calculation be performed for new HVAC installations. Manual J is a load calculation method developed by the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA). Not only does Manual J software provide the heating and cooling load for the entire house; it provides the heating and cooling load of each room in the house. Room-by-room calculations are required, because without them, it's impossible to design a home's air distribution system properly.

A Manual J calculation is also required to qualify for a Tideland EMC heat pump rebate.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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Tideland EMC is an equal opportunity provider & employer



**efficiency
Reminder**

Change HVAC system filters monthly!

