

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

*Holiday closing
Monday, May 31*

Summer residential rates begin May 1

Summer residential rates return beginning with May 1 electric bills. While our summer rates are slightly higher (12.48¢) than our winter rates (11.49¢), a wholesale power cost adjustment credit of \$1.79 per 1,000 kilowatt hour (kWh) remains in effect. That means the actual billed cost per residential kWh for May 2021 will be 12.301¢.

The co-op recommends an air conditioning setting of 78°F for an occupied home and 85°F for an unoccupied home. If you find the 78°F setting uncomfortable, check your home's indoor humidity level. If it is above 50%, look for ways to

reduce indoor humidity to allow for a higher thermostat setting. Strategies for reducing indoor humidity include running bathroom exhaust fans while showering, covering pots and pans while cooking, and reducing the number of indoor plants that require frequent watering. Keep in mind that oversized air-conditioning systems will not run long enough to properly dehumidify so avoid the urge to oversize when installing a new HVAC system.

Fans are an economical way to cool off but remember: fans cool people. They do not cool rooms. Therefore, cut fans off in unoccupied rooms. Likewise, you should never operate your HVAC system in the "On" mode which will continuously operate the system blower. Use the "Auto" mode instead.

May Rights-of-Way Maintenance Schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts and Gunnison Tree Service to trim growth in our rights-of-way.

During May, Gunnison will be working in Pamlico Beach and Sidney.

Lucas will be trimming along in the Lake Landing, Lake Comfort and North Lake Road areas of Hyde County.

Osmose crews will be conducting pole integrity inspections throughout the Engelhard operational district east of the Swan Quarter bypass to Manns Harbor. Their testing can include minor digging at the base of the pole. Poles are *continues on page H*

Rethinking laundry



FRONT LOAD OR TOP LOAD?

If you're in the market for a new clothes washer, you should seriously consider purchasing a front-load washer for important benefits that are good for you, good for your clothes, and good for the environment.

Traditionally, top-load washing machines had an agitator, which is a central post that twists back and forth in a full tub of water and rubs against clothes to clean them. In the past decade or so, top-load impeller washers, which have a low-profile cone or disc instead of an agitator, have become popular as a more energy- and water-efficient option

compared to traditional top load washers.

But out of all the options, front-load washers are the most efficient. These washers have drums with side paddles that lift up the clothes and use tub rotation and gravity to tumble them through a small amount of water. They rinse clothes by repeatedly spraying high-pressure water on the clothes rather than soaking them in a full tub of water.

Energy Star-certified front-load washers use about 45% less energy and 50% less water than a top-load agitator washer. Compared to a top-load impeller washer, front-load washers are still 25% more energy and water efficient. Furthermore, front-load washers help save on drying time and energy by spinning clothes much faster than top-load washers to extract more water out of clothes.

To put this all into perspective, there are about 59 million top-load clothes washers that are in use today in the U.S. If those were replaced with front-load washers, we would save about 14.9 billion kWh of energy and 170 billion gallons of water annually. The energy that could be saved is equivalent to the electricity used by approximately 1.3 million homes annually.

Front-load washers have these other benefits as well.

- They clean better and are gentler on clothes. The agitator in a top-load machine can be harsh on clothes and fabrics, causing more wear and tear and stretching of delicate fabrics. Washing your clothes with a front-load washer can help lengthen the life of frequently washed items. Also, many front-load washers can safely clean silk, wool, and other fabrics that usually require handwashing.
- They lead to less plastic pollution than top-load washers. Microfibers and microplastics

what you can do today to make laundry tasks more efficient now

Myth buster: Studies show dryer balls do not reduce drying time but they are good for reducing wrinkles, preventing static and softening clothes

cold

water wash & rinse

lint

filter cleaned every load

vent

cleaned annually

hang

clothes to air dry

- Compact models can be installed in tight spaces and even stacked with a compact washing machine.

HEAT PUMP CLOTHES DRYER

are tiny pieces of plastic yarn from synthetic fabrics (polyester, nylon, and fleece, for example) that make their way into drinking water systems and oceans as plastic pollution, resulting in increased plastic consumption by humans and marine life. Studies have shown that with their gentler washing action, less microfibers shed from synthetic fabrics, thereby being the more eco-conscious choice.

- They can clean more clothes at once. Front-load washers typically have a larger drum than top-load washers, and with no agitator taking up space, they can handle more laundry—between 15-20 pounds of laundry in 4.5 cubic feet of space. That means that more laundry gets cleaned in fewer loads!

A heat pump dryer works as a closed-loop system by heating the air, using it to remove moisture from the clothes and then reusing it once the moisture is removed. Rather than releasing warm, humid air through a dryer vent to the exterior of the home as a conventional dryer does, a heat pump dryer sends it through an evaporator to remove the moisture without losing too much heat. That means your indoor conditioned air is not being exhausted outdoors and being replaced by outside, unconditioned makeup air. Making use of a refrigerant as part of the drying process means less electricity is used to generate heat.

ADVANTAGES

- Easy to install since they don't require ventilation
- Can reduce energy use by at least 28% compared to standard dryers
- Dries laundry at low temperatures, so they are gentler on clothes

Because they don't require a vent, they can be installed in any room with electricity and a water source — making them a great choice for tiny homes, accessory dwelling units (e.g., apartment over the garage), and additions.

Like all Energy Star-certified dryers, heat pump clothes dryers come with moisture sensors, which can help save time and energy and prevent over drying. But the features don't stop there — take a look, and you'll find models with anti-wrinkle technology, smart settings, and even remote smart-phone control.

WATER DRAINAGE

A heat pump dryer's evaporator removes moisture from the air during the drying process, resulting in water that needs to be drained. Potential solutions include manually draining the water tank, using a drain hose (provided by the manufacturer) to discard the water automatically in a nearby sink or drain pipe, or installing a device that allows a heat pump dryer to use the clothes washer drain to remove the water.

Maintenance Schedule

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also “sounded” with a hammer to detect any internal decay.

Construction continues in Pinetown to install new ductile poles. River City crews work on that project will be focused on Braddy and Broad Creek roads during May.

Lee Electric will have one overhead construction crew working on Orchard Creek Road in Pamlico County. Two Lee Electric crews will be working in the Pantego operational district with one on Refuge Road and the other on Shore Drive at Lake Phelps. They will also have a crew working on Spring Hope Church Road in Craven County.

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



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252.943.3046

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Tideland EMC is an equal opportunity provider & employer

ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY



Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

- 1.** Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
- 2.** Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
- 3.** Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
- 4.** Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
- 5.** Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.