



Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Yuletide Refund

At their October meeting, Tideland EMC's board of directors approved an \$800,000 general retirement of member capital credits. Combined with refunds to the estates of deceased members which are likely to reach \$580,490 by year-end 2021, the total amount refunded will reach \$1.38 million. Refunds are made through a combination of checks and electric bill credits issued during the month of December. See Page E for a detailed explanation about capital credits and this year's retirement.



Back to School

After a year-long hiatus, Tideland EMC employees have headed back to local schools. We're sharing important safety lessons and introducing the next generation of leaders to careers in the electric utility industry. If you'd like to schedule an event contact Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or heidismith@tidelandemc.com. We also offer adult safety training that is ideal for first responders.





4 reasons not to use the on setting

Here are 4 reasons to avoid operating your HVAC system in the ON mode:

1. **Higher energy costs:** Since the fan is always running, you're using more energy than when the fan only runs when your system is heating or cooling.
2. **More frequent repairs:** When set to ON, the fan runs more. This can increase wear and tear on your blower and lead to costly blower repairs.
3. **Increases humidity:** Your AC won't dehumidify your home as well as it should, when the fan is set to ON.
4. **Worsens air duct leakage:** Most homes leak about 10% of the supply air and 12% of the return air through their duct system. So if the fan is blowing all the time, you're always losing your conditioned air, running up your energy bills.

Warm up to energy savings

Act now to prevent high winter bills

Do a little. Save a lot. Everything you do, from flipping a switch to selecting a thermostat setting, can add up to big savings for your home or business.

Water heating

- Set water heater temperature at 120°F
- Install water heater wrap per manufacturer's instructions
- Limit showers to 5-7 minutes
- Install low-flow shower heads
- Fix leaks

Air Sealing

- Caulk around plumbing penetrations that come through walls beneath bathroom and kitchen sinks.
- Caulk wiring penetrations that lead from the crawlspace or into the attic.
- Remember to shut fireplace dampers when the fireplace is not in use.
- Weatherstrip and insulate your attic access door.
- Seal rim joist cavities in your crawlspace. Pay special attention to bay windows which can be particularly leaky.
- Make sure all windows are properly shut and locked. Remove window air-conditioning units so those windows can be closed as well. If you don't have storm windows or air insulated windows, inexpensive storm window kits are an ideal way to keep cold air out. Look for kits that include heat shrink plastic.
- Weatherstrip exterior doors and install door sweeps.

HVAC

- Have your unit regularly tuned up for maximum efficiency.
- Change or clean HVAC filters monthly and don't use

heavily pleated filters unless your HVAC system's return was specifically sized for higher rates of filtration.

- Don't close interior doors and air registers when using your central heat and air. Doing so restricts indoor airflow back to the return and will result in increased outdoor air infiltration from cracks around windows and doors and worsen existing duct leaks.
- Have a heat pump? Then "set it and forget it" when setting your thermostat in the winter. We recommend a 68°F setting. If you have an electric furnace or baseboard heat, then practicing thermostat setback at night or when the home is unoccupied is recommended.
- Check ducts for air leakage especially where the boot joins the subfloor. If you live in a multisection manufactured home pay close attention to the crossover duct and make sure it is sealed with a mastic paste or tape (not traditional duct tape).

Laundry

- Opt for cold water wash. Today's detergents are formulated for cold water wash.
- Clean your dryer's lint filter before the start of every load and be sure to clean your dryer vent on a regular basis. A clogged vent will not only significantly increase drying time, it also creates a fire hazard.

Knowledge is power

- Make this the year you routinely log into the Tideland member portal to view both your daily and hourly kilowatt hour consumption.
- Enroll in high energy use alerts to prevent runaway energy use.

Tomorrow's leaders today

Apply now for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses-paid leadership travel opportunity. From the halls of Congress to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, youth tourists will explore the leadership lessons of our nation's history and be immersed in the cooperative principles that define Tideland EMC.

Application Deadline *January 21*

While on Youth Tour, all transportation, meals, admissions to events and lodging will be arranged and paid for by Tideland.

What are we looking for in a Youth Tour candidate? We're looking for someone who is outgoing and has

a demonstrated ability to work well with others. With nearly 1,600 young people from across the country participating in the event, we're looking for candidates eager to form new friendships, exchange ideas and find their own voice about the things they care about.

The Youth Tour dates for 2022 are June 18 through June 24. Applications must be received by Tideland EMC no later than January 21 and a winner(s) will be selected by January 31.

To apply, students must reside in a home served by Tideland EMC and must currently be a high school sophomore or junior.

Applications have been mailed to Tideland area high schools or you can download the application at tidelandemc.com.



Play it Safe

— Shop Smart this Holiday Season!

- Keep deflated balloons away from children younger than 8 years old. Discard broken balloons at once.
- Avoid small balls and toys with small parts for children younger than age 3.
- Get the right size helmets and safety gear for children using bikes, scooters, skateboards and skates. Ensure they are worn properly while riding or skating.
- High powered magnet sets are dangerous and should be kept away from children under 14. Building & play sets with small magnets should also be kept away from small children.

Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way. During December they will continue work on the Rose Bay circuit out of our Ponzer substation.

Gunnison Tree Service will continue to work on the Hyde County circuit out of our Pantego substation.

Lee Electrical construction contractors will be in the following areas:

- Allen Road on the Dowry Creek circuit
- Orchard Creek Road on the Merritt circuit
- Hwy. 264 in Scranton on the Rose Bay circuit

River City construction crews will continue work to install ductile poles on Hwy. 32 and Broad Creek Road in Washington.

Osmore crews will be conducting pole inspections in Manns Harbor and Ocracoke.

Remember to support these importance system maintenance operations. Proper tree care and pole inspections lead to greater system reliability.

Seasonal Reminder

Close crawlspace vents





High School Seniors

Time to apply

Tideland EMC is 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.

The co-op 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 4, 2022, to apply. An application may be downloaded at Tidelandemc.com.

For more information contact program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or heidismith@tidelandemc.com.

Message to members

Member meeting and margins

PAUL SPRUILL
GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On October 21, Tideland convened its first in-person annual meeting since 2019. While the meeting necessarily lacked the fanfare of pre-pandemic events, we appreciate those who made the effort to join us for the abbreviated business session. There was one item of business covered during the annual meeting that was not part of our May 2021 Annual Report to Members that I wanted to mention here.

After 30 years of service as Tideland's general counsel, attorney Robert Page is retiring. If you've attended a co-op annual meeting in the last three decades then you've likely seen Bob in action, but his most important work was always behind the scenes. We appreciate his stewardship on our behalf and wish him well in retirement.

Finally, as we close out the year, I am pleased that the board of directors was able to approve a general retirement of capital credits in the amount of \$800,000. The refund is derived from member margins allocated during the year 1993. If you had service with Tideland that year you are among those who will receive a December refund. Because unclaimed capital credits must be escheated to the NC State Treasurer, it's a good idea to make sure Tideland has your up-to-date address if you should move off-system so future refunds make their way to you.

Thank you as always for the opportunity to serve you and your family. We wish all of you a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to serving you in the new year.

Board Elections

Four elected to another term of service



CHARLES SLADE
District 4



PAUL SASNETT
District 5



WAYNE SAWYER
District 6



CLIFTON PAUL
District 8

At the October annual meeting of members, incumbent directors Charles Slade, Paul Sasnett, Wayne Sawyer and Clifton Paul were each elected to serve an additional three-year term of service on Tideland's board of directors.

How CAPITAL CREDITS work

Tideland Electric Membership Corporation is a not-for-profit member-owned cooperative. Tideland members share in the ownership, construction, maintenance and prosperity of the co-op.

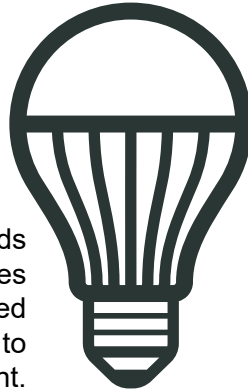


When a person establishes service with us, they become a member and are eligible for capital credits.



Capital credits represent a member's share of the cooperative's margins during the time they have membership.

At the end of each year, any funds (margins) remaining after expenses have been paid are allocated, based on percentage of electricity used, to the member's account.



The allocated funds are used as operating capital for system improvements and maintenance.



ALLOCATION

An allocation is made annually for each member, based on the amount of electricity purchased. An allocation is the member's share of the net margins. The co-op sets this money aside to be used as operating capital for improvements & maintenance over a period of years thus reducing co-op borrowing costs.

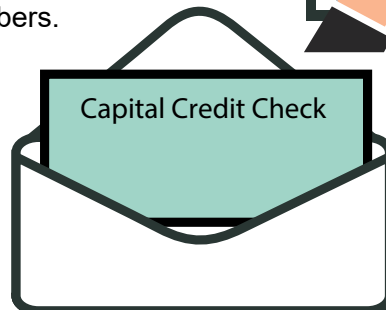


Annually, the board of directors evaluates Tideland's financial condition to determine if we can retire capital credits and if so, what dollar amount. Part of that equation is the amount of capital credits already refunded year-to-date to the estates of deceased members.



When the board elects to retire capital credits, we calculate the amount to pay each member based on a percentage of the member's allocation for the year of service being retired.

Checks are mailed to members due a retirement of \$50 or more. For amounts less than \$50 or in the case of a delinquent account, the credit is applied to the member's December electric bill. Qualifying FlexPay members receive their credit on December 2.



Capital credits represent an important cooperative principle: **MEMBER ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION** along with the return of local dollars to our hometown communities.

RETIREMENT

A retirement is the amount a member receives back as a refund. It is a portion of the total allocation. When capital is no longer needed for operating expenses, it is retired. The amount paid is decided annually by Tideland's board of directors based on the financial needs of the cooperative.



TWELVE HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

1 Keep decorations at least three feet away from heat sources – especially those with an open flame, like fireplaces and candles.



3 If you have a natural Christmas tree water it to keep it fresh and safe.



2 The best decorations are safe decorations, so when you're decorating, make sure not to run cords under rugs or furniture.



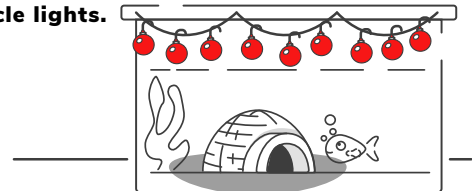
4 Always turn off your decorations when you leave your home and when you're sleeping.



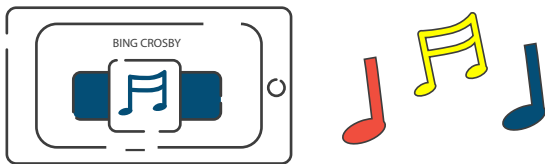
5 If you're using extension cords or adapters that add receptacles, consider having a qualified electrician add more outlets to your home.



6 Only use electronics in dry areas. As tempting as it is, you just can't decorate your aquarium with icicle lights.



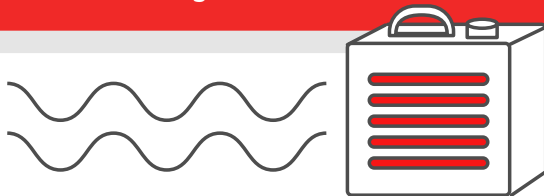
7 Remember that phones and tablets should stay on your nightstand.



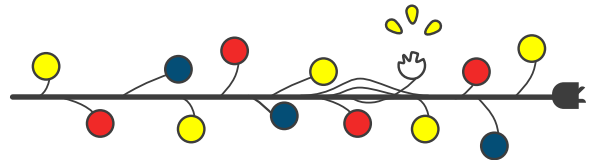
8 Every home needs a working smoke alarm in each bedroom, outside sleeping areas and on every level, including the basement.



9 If you're using a space heater, switch it off before leaving the room.



10 Inspect your decorations and discard any that are damaged or worn out.



11 Keep batteries stored safely in their packaging and out of reach from small children and pets.



12 The best gift for your family is an Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupter breakers or outlets. Many electrical fires that occur every year could be prevented by AFCIs.



Please share this free resource to save lives



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www.youtube.com/ESFI.org

When life hangs in the balance

“Kool, are you alright?”

Those four words signaled the official start of Pantego lineman Matthew Neal’s timed trial during the North Carolina Electric Cooperative’s Pole Top Rescue Competition. It’s a life-saving operation all co-op line personnel must perform within five minutes to remain certified to climb. The



best from each of North Carolina’s 26 electric cooperatives competed for the state title on November 4.

Kool is a 105-pound dummy pre-positioned 20 feet in the air awaiting rescue. A mad dash ensues to the service truck to call for help and collect climbing gear. “MAYDAY, MAYDAY, there is a man hurt at pole number 54321, send Rescue Squad.” Grabbing equipment belt, gloves and climbing gaffs, the lineman races to the pole. After properly adjusting fall protection, he will suit up with over 20 pounds of gear.

Once up the pole, he connects a safety strap to the victim. He hammers a screwdriver into the pole and uses the victim’s handline to create a pulley to lower Kool to the ground. Then the lineman descends, detaches from fall protection, removes his climbing gaffs and gloves before shaking the victim and asking again, “Kool, are you alright?” He then begins CPR, counting aloud while delivering five chest compressions. Time ends.

Matthew Neal completed the day’s competition with a time of 3 minutes and 26 seconds.

Photos by Jim Chrisman



Gift Giving made easy

Want to brighten the Christmas Season for someone special?

Give a H.U.G.
A home utility gift!

We’ll be glad to credit any Tideland EMC member’s account in the gift amount of your choice. Gifts must be paid in full with cash, check or credit card.

We’ll also provide you with a special holiday greeting card to notify the recipient of your gift.

Call 1.800.637.1079 for details or visit any Tideland office.

Rebate deadlines

As the year winds down be sure to complete and submit any rebate forms for qualified purchases and installations made during 2021. Rebates are available for high efficiency heat pumps, heat pump water heaters and Energy Star manufactured homes.

Rebate forms and program guidelines can be found online at tidelandemc.com

Adiso Anual *de No Discrimination*

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Las personas con discapacidades que requieran medios alternativos de comunicación para obtener información sobre el programa (por ej., Braille, letra grande, cinta de audio, lenguaje americano de señas, etc.) deberán comunicarse con la Agenda responsable o con el Centro TARGET del USDA al (202) 720-2600 (voz y TTY) o comunicarse con el USDA a través del Servicio Federal de Transmisiones al (800) 877-8339. Asimismo, se puede disponer de información del programa en otros idiomas además de inglés. Para presentar una denuncia por discriminación en el programa, complete el Formulario de denuncias por discriminación en el programa del USDA, AD-3027, que se encuentra en línea en http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, o en cualquier oficina del USDA, o escriba una carta dirigida al USDA e incluya en la carta toda la información solicitada en el formulario. Para solicitar una copia del formulario de denuncias, llame al (866) 632-9992. Envíe su formulario completado o su carta al USDA por los siguientes medios:

- (1) correo: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; o
- (3) correo electrónico: program.intakeusda.gov.

Tideland EMC es un proveedor, empleador y prestador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
 - (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
 - (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.
- This institution is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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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



Holiday *Closings*

Our offices will be closed December 24 and 27, as well as December 31. Our 24-hour call center will be fully staffed for outage reporting and account management. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

