

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Classroom grant funding

K-12 classroom teachers have until September 15 to submit applications for 2022-2023 Bright Ideas grant funds. Individual awards up to \$2,000 per project will be announced by November 1.

Read more on page H.



Youth Tour representatives

Christian Bowser of Plymouth and Amirea Gibbs of Fairfield represented Tideland EMC on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., this summer.

They joined more than 1,800 students from across the country to learn about American history and the electric cooperative business model.

Read more on page G.





Redesigned time-of-use rate nearing rollout

Meter and billing software testing is nearing completion for changes that will be made to Tideland's existing time-of-use rate. The redesigned rate will include a super-off peak period beginning nightly at 10 p.m., offering deeply discounted energy purchases.

The rate design targets electric vehicle owners for a shift to overnight and early morning charging, when the power grid is most under-utilized. However, the rate could also benefit non-EV owners who have the ability to schedule electric loads for overnight hours. Lastly, the rate will prove beneficial for members considering the installation of residential energy storage systems.

Stay tuned as we hope to have an official rollout of the revised rate in late 2022.

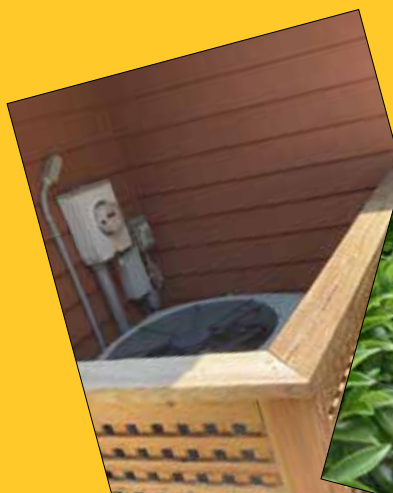
In the meantime, if you currently own an electric vehicle or have one on order, please send an email to gogreen@tidelandmc.com so our energy services team can reach out to you with details about the forthcoming time-of-use rate update and implementation.

Members currently on the time-of-use rate will be notified well in advance of rate change implementation.

caution
caution

caution

More safety inspection finds



Keep meter access by utility crews in mind when landscaping, doing yard maintenance or erecting outdoor structures.



See something. Say something. Safety is a team activity. Let's work together to prevent a potential tragedy.

caution

caution

caution

cauti

Message to members

Considering solar? Let's have a chat first

by **PAUL SPRUILL**
GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

It's nearly impossible these days to go online without encountering an ad for solar panel installation. These introductory teasers are often presented as a "one size fits all" energy solution that will not require any out-of-pocket expense. Unfortunately, members do not always understand the true cost and operational realities prior to purchase. When promotional claims come up short, recourse for a homeowner can be difficult or impossible. Therefore, I would encourage you to please call us at Tideland before you enter into a purchase agreement. We will be glad to work with you and the solar sales team to help ensure a successful transaction.

Nearly eight years ago we constructed our first solar array in Pinetown, and today we host two Hyde County microgrid projects that include both solar arrays and utility scale Tesla batteries for energy storage. You can drive a short distance to see any number of industrial size solar farms located in the counties we serve. Construction of large projects due to economies of scale, carbon credit purchases, and/or subsidy via tax credits will continue to add value as North Carolina pursues carbon reduction goals signed into law late last year as NC House Bill 921: "Energy Solutions for North Carolina."

However, an individual's investment in rooftop solar panels at home demands careful evaluation when considering the improvement purely due to dollars and cents. Homeowners may consider

residential solar or residential solar plus battery storage for reasons other than a promise that the cost will immediately be justified by savings.

With these conversations happening almost daily, we can tell you our members' motivations for solar vary greatly and have been evolving in recent years. Increasingly, members say they are considering solar plus battery installation as an alternative to a traditional generator powered by fossil fuel for the purpose of residential backup power. In those cases, our discussions are solely focused on grid safety to ensure the system is properly isolated from our electric system to avoid potentially dangerous backfeed. We can help with any standby generator, regardless of energy source, to ensure a safe installation that meets National Electric Safety Code standards.

However, if you indicate that your interest in solar is to reduce monthly energy costs, our energy services team will first review your billing history to determine if you have reached peak efficiency. After all, the cleanest and cheapest energy is the energy we don't use. After that review, we may ask to schedule an energy audit to determine if there are more cost effective ways to reduce your energy bill when compared to the cost of a solar installation. In some cases, we may also suggest conversion to our time-of-use rate with the low cost implementation of a water heater timer and smart thermostats.

Continues on Page H

Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

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

During September, Lucas crews will be working on the Duck Creek circuit out of our Five Points Substation before transitioning to the Blounts Creek circuit out of our Edward substation.

Our contract construction crews with Lee Electrical were temporarily reassigned during June and July due to the nearly 2,000-acre Ferebee Road fire in Hyde County that was sparked by lightning. Following that event, the area was too wet to resume a normal construction schedule. As conditions permit, Lee crews will continue work in the Hyde Park Canal and Allen Road areas. Otherwise, those crews will be working on Fentress Farm Road in Maribel. Lee crews are also completing work in our Grantsboro district on poles that Tideland and Duke Power jointly utilize.

Osmose pole inspections have now concluded for the year.

Meter safety inspections continue. Our contractor, Bellwether Management Solutions, has now completed site visits for the following substations:

- Pantego, Sidney, Ponzer, Plymouth and Five Points

At press time, inspections were being conducted on meters served by our Washington substation.

Thank you for your support of all these activities intended to promote greater system reliability and safety.

Peak hurricane season underway

The path of power from delivery point to your meter

Tideland is unique in that we have three different transmission providers serving our eight delivery point substations. North of the Pamlico River transmission is provided by Dominion Resources. South of the Pamlico, Duke Energy Progress is our transmission link. And at Ocracoke, we rely on Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative for transmission from Oregon Inlet to Hatteras.

Beyond five of those delivery point substations, we have eight distribution substations. For example, the Pantego delivery point feeds the Mattamuskeet substation, which in turn feeds the Swindell Fork, Fairfield and Engelhard distribution substations. The Pantego delivery point also feeds our Sidney and Ponzer substations.

Main circuits feed from each substation. When we issue outage notifications via text message we generally do so by circuit for any outage impacting more than 100 members. To report an outage via text you simply send the word OUT to short code 85700. Otherwise, you can report outages by calling 800.882.1001.

You will find area coverage maps for each substation and circuit on our website. A shortcut to those files can be found on our home page at tidelandemc.com.

Keep in mind that the order of operations for restoring electric service begins with transmission service, moves to substations and is followed by each major circuit. Once each circuit is energized, crews can then turn their attention to restoring service to tap lines and finally individual metered services.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Tideland EMC

Real People. Real Power.



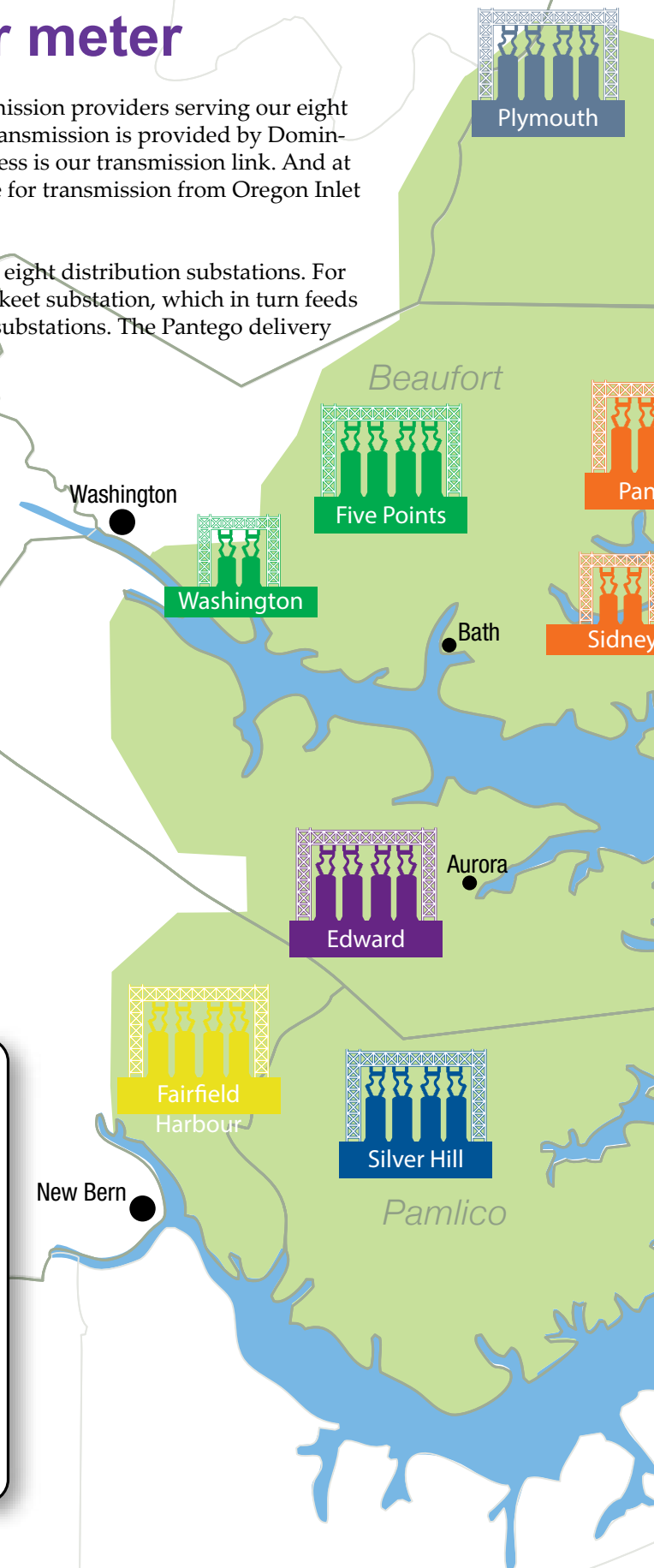
Delivery Point Substation



Distribution Substation



Co-op Service Territory





Washington

Phelps Lake



Manns Harbor

Dare



Hatteras



Ponzer



Mattamaskeet



Fairfield



Engelhard

● Belhaven



Swindell Fork

Lake Mattamuskeet

Pamlico Sound



Hatteras

Ocracoke Island



Ocracoke

2022 Electric Cooperative



Amirea Gibbs



Bernard "A.J." Johnson (left) and Ethan Braddy (right) represented Tideland during Youth Tour 2017

Amirea Gibbs

Following in her big brother's footsteps

When she became eligible to apply for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, Amirea Gibbs didn't have to call the co-op to learn more. She just spoke with her older brother Bernard "A.J." Johnson. A.J. was one of Tideland's Youth Tour representatives five years earlier. After graduation from Mattamuskeet High School, A.J. went on to attend NC Central University and now works for Amazon. But he credits the Youth Tour with drawing him out of his shell and opening up the world to him in a whole new way.

Amirea echoed similar themes. While she had previously visited Washington, D.C., with her family, she said it was really good to be in a position where you "have to put yourself out there and make new friends." In fact, she feels certain she formed a few lifelong friendships and stays in touch with other youth tourists from across the state through social media.

Amirea said in addition to enjoying museum visits and an evening cruise down the Potomac River, her favorite activity by far was the exchanging of state pins with other youth tourists from across the country. It's a long-standing Youth Tour tradition and an excellent ice breaker to spark student conversations from every corner of the country. Amirea says she came very close to receiving pins representing 40 different states.

As for Amirea's younger siblings, it wouldn't surprise us at all if they too eventually apply for Youth Tour. It could very well be a new family tradition.

Amirea is the daughter of Maurice and Chanta Rickard of Fairfield. She is a junior at Mattamuskeet High School.



Youth Tour

Christian Bowser

A quiet young man finds his voice

High school counselor Ruffina Rasonabe had this advice about Christian Bowser, when she learned he had been selected to attend Youth Tour: "Christian is very smart but shy. He just needs more exposure to be more confident to conquer the big world. This is a perfect opportunity for him." And indeed it was.

Chaperone Adam Martin from EnergyUnited proclaimed Christian "the life of the party," while Linda Mathiasen from Jones-Onslow EMC said, "He was the shy, quiet one, hiding behind two other students during the ice breaker activity. Once given the microphone, he transformed into another person." He even earned the nickname "Hollywood."

Christian said his most memorable experience during the trip was touring the Holocaust Memorial Museum.

A budding musician and songwriter, Christian is the son of Morris Bowser of Plymouth. He is a sophomore at Washington County Early College High School.



Christian Bowser and new Youth Tour friends



First official press conference?



Meeting Congresswoman Kathy Manning



Meeting Congressman Greg Murphy

Bright Ideas application deadline is September 15

Tideland is partnering with outstanding educators to bring creative learning to life! Starting this month, teachers can apply for a Bright Ideas education grant of up to \$2,000 to fund projects that enhance student success in K-12 classrooms and would otherwise not be possible.

Applications and more information about the program can be found at ncbrightideas.com. Grants are available in all curriculum areas including art, science, history and

mathematics. Tideland will provide over \$13,000 in total funding during the 2022-2023 school year. Bright Ideas grant applications will be accepted through September 15.

Supported by all 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, Bright Ideas grants have contributed \$14.3 million to N.C. classrooms, funding a total of 13,536 projects that have benefited well over 2.8 million students statewide since 1994.

Let's chat Continued from Page C

If you are considering a residential solar system that would require interconnection with our utility grid, our team will talk with you about the technical specifications. We will explain our "buy-all, sell-all" rate schedule, as well as design options to incorporate a battery for energy storage and the most effective use of energy at home from a solar plus energy storage project. We will also be glad to discuss the catch-all term "net metering" that is often misunderstood when it comes to utility rate schedules.

Lastly, these tips should be considered best practices as you explore solar:

1. Conduct thorough research before investing in a PV system and obtain more than one quote.
2. Ensure that your home is energy efficient before purchasing solar – it may be a wiser investment option due to the speed with which the investment will pay for itself.
3. Understand how a PV system interconnects with Tideland's system – a call to Tideland early in the process is always a good idea.
4. Consider all the costs and review the return on investment.
5. Consult a tax professional to make sure you can actually benefit from any tax credits that may be referenced in the solar proposal since all homeowners may not be able to capitalize on tax credits.
6. Ask your insurance agency how a solar installation may impact your homeowners' coverage. Systems such as solar panel carports or ground-mounted panels may require an add-on or separate policy.
7. Establish a project partnership between you, your contractor, and Tideland before installation. Tideland's interconnection documents and applicable rate schedules can be found online at tidelandemc.com.
8. Follow all safety precautions.
9. Choose a reputable contractor/installer – check reviews and ask for references. Make sure they are licensed, insured and bonded for the work they will perform
10. Maintain good records, including financial records and notes from conversations.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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



Labor Day Closing

Our offices will be closed Monday, September 5 for the Labor Day holiday.

To report an outage, call 800-882-1001 or text OUT to short code 85700. For 24-hour member service call 800-637-1079.

Please celebrate safely!