

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

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

LUCKY LADY: Manns Harbor member wins Kindle contest

Congratulations to Tideland EMC member Brenda Outlaw! She was announced the winner of the Kindle 3G Wireless Reading Device and \$50 Amazon Gift Card as part of our paperless billing promotion.

More than 760 members are now participating in our free

electronic billing service. Nearly 300 of those members have taken it one step further by opting to go entirely paperless.

To enroll in electronic and/or paperless billing visit www.tidelandemc.com.



Brenda Outlaw of Manns Harbor



Electric co-ops to air television special

Tideland and The Electric Cooperatives of Eastern North Carolina will air "What To Do When the Lights Go Out" on two local television stations. The half hour program focuses on



Sunday • August 21
12:30 p.m.

hurricane preparedness and what to do following a disaster. One of the most important topics covered during the program is how to properly oper-



Sunday • September 4
1:00 p.m.

ate an emergency generator. Most injuries and deaths following a hurricane are attributed to carbon monoxide poisoning or electrocution as a result of improper generator use.



Message to our Member-Owners: Warm co-op welcome

Paul Spruill
Chief Executive Officer &
General Manager

Right-of-Way Update

Tideland has hired Lewis Tree Service to trim and cut trees in our right of way. In August they will work in the following areas:

- Hwy 264 from Scranton to the Swan Quarter bypass
- Hodges Rd
- Germantown
- Loop Rd
- Makleyville
- Beulah
- Turnpike Rd
- Hyde Park Canal Rd

The trimmer will run between the ICW Bridge and Turnpike Rd in Scranton, Sladesville & Germantown. We will mow in Aurora, Hickory Point and Hwy. 33 East to Lowland.

On July 5, I had the pleasure of reporting to work as Tideland EMC's chief executive officer and general manager. While it is much too soon in my tenure to report on things of much consequence to the co-op membership, I would like to share some initial impressions that speak to the quality of the Tideland organization and the reputation it has earned.

As a native of Bertie County, I have long been aware of electric cooperatives and the unique role they play in providing utility service to rural areas. During the eight years that I served as Beaufort County manager, I had several occasions to interact with Tideland staff on matters pertaining to economic development and human services. Over time a consistent theme emerged regarding Tideland's unyielding commitment to service. Tideland's board of directors and employees believe in a corporate culture where our day to day service is not measured by profit making, but excellent service to customers who are actually members of an organization with a rich history. I've also witnessed first hand the goodwill the general public, members and non-members alike, feels towards

Tideland. In fact, there are more than a few folks who would like to be Tideland members if geography were simply in their favor.

As I begin to tackle a steep learning curve at Tideland, I know enough already to confirm that outward appearances do indeed reflect internal realities. Your cooperative is led by a group of individuals who are passionate about member service. The average Tideland employee has been with the co-op 14 years in part due to a feeling that here your workday contribution benefits not only yourself, but a team of members, directors and fellow employees.

The coming months will be filled with a great number of questions and answers while I learn more about Tideland and the six counties that make up our service territory. I look forward to new faces and places as I get to know you and you get to know me.

I thank the entire Tideland team for a warm co-op welcome. I am honored to be here and look forward to working with you and for you.



Rebecca Blackburn (left) and Madison Hudson.

Electric Co-op Youth Tourists

Rebecca Blackburn and Madison Hudson represented Tideland EMC during the annual Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., on June 11-17.

Rebecca, a rising senior at Northside High School, is the daughter of Ricky and Sherry Blackburn of Washington. Madison, also a rising senior, attends Terra Ceia Christian School. She is the daughter of Roger and Janet Hudson of Pantego.

Since 1964, the nation's electric cooperatives have sponsored more than 40,000 high school students for visits to their U.S. congressional delegations and to learn more about the cooperative business model. This year special guest speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medalist and two-time wheelchair basketball world champion told the youth tourists "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out."

Radiant Attic Barrier Savings Claims

Rising energy prices coupled with shrinking household incomes and economic uncertainty inevitably give rise to marketing campaigns that promise what may or may not be realistic energy savings. Often these sales pitches are made during a free dinner at a local restaurant.

Several co-op members recently attended such a dinner meeting and subsequently phoned Tideland to inquire about energy savings associated with radiant attic barriers.

Radiant barriers use reflective foil to block radiant heat transfer from the roof. In an attic, a properly installed radiant barrier that faces an air space can block up to 95% of the heat radiating down from a hot roof. This helps reduce heat gain in the conditioned space due to solar radiation in the summer. However, at present, there is no standardized method for testing the effectiveness of radiant barriers in reducing energy bills.

The energy and cost savings depend on numerous factors, including the specific application (ceiling vs. floor-mounted), the attic square footage, the amount of existing attic insulation and ventilation, the color of the roof, indoor thermostat settings, outdoor temperatures, shading, and the tightness of the building envelope. The greatest opportunity for energy savings from a radiant barrier would be in an attic where there is little to no insulation. However, it would be much more cost effective to maximize the insulation (by

blowing in insulation or adding more batts) which would also help reduce winter heating bills.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the Florida Solar Energy Center tested radiant barriers in both Tennessee and Florida. The tests showed that in attics with R-19 insulation, radiant barriers reduced the air conditioning load resulting from heat transfer through the ceiling by 16% to 44%. Since ceiling heat gains only represent about 20% of the total cooling load for a house, the study showed that a radiant barrier could reduce whole house cooling energy consumption by 3% to 9%. So if your average summer electric bill is \$150 and half of that is for cooling (\$75) you would expect to save between \$2.25 and \$6.75 per summer month. That's between \$11.25 and \$33.75 annually.

The same studies also found:

- roof shingle temperatures increase between 5 and 10° F when radiant barriers are installed under the roof deck
- dust accumulation over time will reduce the effectiveness of a radiant barrier installed on the attic floor

Best advice: Enjoy the free dinner but when it's time to dish out your hard earned money invest in something with more bang for the buck like R-38 insulation, air sealing (caulk, foam, weatherstripping) or CFLs.

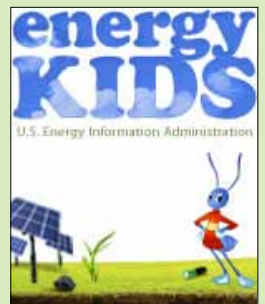
ENERGY WEBSITES FOR KIDS



www.loseyourexcuse.gov



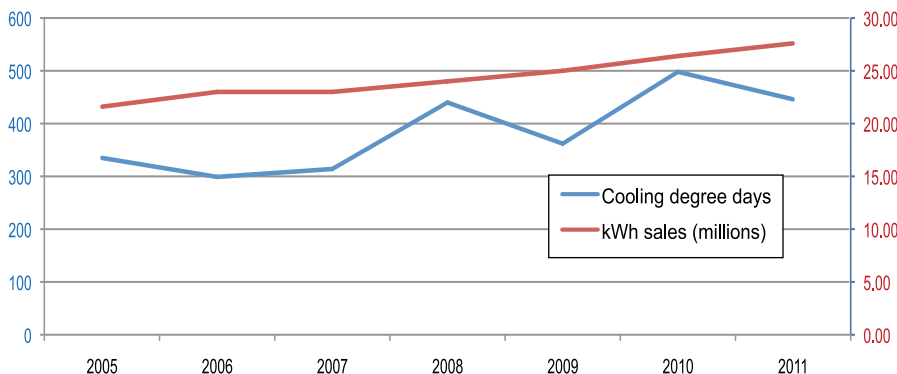
www.energystar.gov/kids



www.eia.gov/kids

JUNE TRENDS: Sales increasing despite education and efficiency gains

June kWh Sales and Cooling Degree Days



Despite the co-op's efforts to educate members about wise energy choices, June kilowatt hour sales have steadily increased in the past 6 years. In June 2005 the average use per Tideland member was 995 kilowatt hours (kWh). This year the average was 1,208 kWh, a 21 percent increase. Sales aren't necessarily mirroring cooling degree day trends either which means additional loads such as consumer electronics and increased square footage are likely culprits. The best way to lower your bill is to decrease energy use.

Energy Star Manufactured Housing Rebate increased to \$1,500

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252.943.3046

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The North Carolina State Energy Office recently increased the rebate for all new Energy Star manufactured homes sold and installed by December 31, 2011.

The rebate was previously capped at \$500. The changes, announced June 13, increase the rebate to \$1,500. A list of qualifying home retailers can be found at www.NCPlusProgram.org/retailers.html or by visiting www.tidelandemc.com.

In addition to the immediate cash back, Energy Star homeowners can expect to save about \$74 a month --- or \$888 a year --- on utility bills compared to similarly sized non-Energy Star rated homes.

- More insulation
- Tight construction
- Tight ducts
- Advanced windows
- High efficiency (minimum 14 SEER), right-sized cooling equipment
- Energy efficient lighting
- Constructed by a certified home builder and inspected by an independent energy expert



ATTENTION TEACHERS: SUBMIT YOUR BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT APPLICATION BY THE EARLY BIRD DEADLINE OF AUGUST 15 AND YOU COULD WIN A \$500 VISA GIFT CARD.

Don't generate a deadly accident

If you connect a portable generator to the main electrical supply coming into your house, the electrical generator could feed back onto the cooperative's electric system and electrocute workers who are repairing power lines.

To avoid back-feeding electricity onto utility systems, a licensed electrician must install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch (see illustration) between the generator and utility power

in compliance with all state and local electrical codes. A minimum of 10-gauge wiring must be used.

Remember to operate generators in well ventilated areas. Make sure you have a working carbon monoxide detector in your home if you own a generator. Carbon monoxide poisoning accounts for most accidents following a hurricane.

