

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

# Tideland Topics

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

## FACEBOOK OUTLOOK: What you're missing if you haven't liked our page

If you are utilizing Facebook but haven't liked Tideland EMC's page yet, you are missing out on some informative and even entertaining posts. Here's just some of what you've missed out on since the first of the year:

- The top 8 energy strategies every homeowner can use to save money
  - Wave energy converter test off Dare County's coast
  - How to diagnose and manage window condensation
  - Breaking news about a car accident that left 1,000 members without power
  - A list of the 10 best places to view the night sky in NC (that included 2 Tideland-served areas)
  - A video on how to test your water heater elements
  - A chance to win free tickets to the East Carolina Wildlife Arts Festival
  - Beaufort County wind project still up in the air
  - Charlotte Bobcats player pays electric bills for single moms working to regain independent lives
  - Rainy day games and coloring activities for kids
  - Service updates on the January 31 wind storm
  - The pros and cons of geothermal heat pumps
  - 2013 Solar Decathlon updates from the UNC-Charlotte team
  - Promising advancements for commercial HVAC
  - A discussion about mini-reactors. Are they the future of nuclear power?
  - Super Bowl appetizers from the Carolina Country recipe archives
  - And yes, you did indeed miss out on detailed instructions to make your own Valentine's Day Bacon Bouquet.
- So what are you waiting for? Like us today!

## *Co-op credited over \$213,000 in January*

Tideland EMC billed members for over 28 million kilowatt hours of energy consumption in January 2013. Those sales multiplied by a wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) of  $-\$0.00743$  per kilowatt hour resulted in the co-op crediting back over \$213,000 for the first month of 2013.

Kilowatt-hour sales for January 2013 were up nearly 7 percent over January 2012. On the surface that jump in kilowatt-hour sales appeared to contradict weather data, which indicated a warmer January this year compared to January 2012. January 2013 had 509 heating degree days whereas January 2012 had 513 heating degree days. Two factors appear to be responsible for the increase in sales: 1) an unusual warm spell mid-month that resulted in 6 cooling degree days and 2) more members turning to electric heating sources in place of propane and other fuels.

The WPCA remained a credit through February at a rate of  $-\$0.00507$  per kilowatt hour.



## Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lewis Tree Service to trim trees in our right-of-way. In March they will be working in the following areas:

- Lowland Circuit along Lowland Rd
- Pungo Circuit from Hwy 99 north of Pantego to the Pike Rd intersection

and other small roads and lanes adjacent to these roads.

Mowing crews will be working in the Swan Quarter and Oyster Creek area and along Hwy 12 in and around the village of Ocracoke.

# Message to our Member-Owners: Power cost credit continues for now

**By Paul Spruill**  
General Manager & CEO

The cooperative has been fortunate enough to pass along to our members wholesale power cost credits for the first part of 2013.

In February the WPCA represented a credit of 0.507¢ for every kilowatt hour of energy billed during the month. That brought the billed kWh rate for residential consumers to 10.52¢ compared to our published winter rate schedule of 11.027¢. During February 2012 the billed kWh rate for residential consumers was 10.72¢.

By more accurately designing our rate schedules to collect fixed business expenses through the basic facilities fee we have been able to keep energy

(kWh) rates in check, thus keeping electricity more affordable when you need it most. The table below illustrates the minimal impact of the new rate schedules for the typical Tideland member.

RESIDENTIAL RATE 1 COMPARISON			
kWh billed	Feb 2012	Feb 2013	Difference
1,200	\$153.43	\$155.87	\$2.44
2,000	\$241.78	\$242.55	\$0.77
2,800	\$330.13	\$329.24	-\$0.89

We anticipate issuing another WPCA credit in March but it will be lower than the January and February credits. Beyond March current forecasts indicate that the WPCA will be zeroed out for the rest of the year. Natural gas prices rose mid-February following a nor'easter that dumped

two to three feet of snow of large parts of New England. That coupled with a rush by utility generators to use cheaper natural gas in place of coal which has been rising in price due to export markets will

no doubt push natural gas prices even higher.

Once winter is over natural gas prices are likely to stabilize again albeit at slightly higher levels than last year when new domestic production records were set.

## Basketball camp scholar recognized during NCSU game

Brittany Franklin of Washington County Union Middle School was recognized for receiving a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarship from Tideland EMC during a special halftime presentation at a North Carolina State University women's basketball game. Brittany reunited with 18 other

basketball camp scholarship winners Feb. 3 at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh to watch the Wolfpack take on Wake Forest University.

Due to her outstanding application and essay, Brittany was selected out of numerous candidates to attend the Kellie Harper Women's Basketball Academy at N.C. State last July. Brittany is the daughter of Deborah Franklin.

Scholarship winners and their guests were given tickets to attend the game and enjoyed a catered lunch. At halftime, the young

women were recognized on the court, receiving a certificate of achievement.



Tideland scholar Brittany Franklin

# Having a ball thanks to Tideland grant

Sitting at a desk for 1,025 hours annually can take its toll on a back... even when you're a third grader. That's why Northeast Elementary teacher wrote a Tideland EMC Bright Ideas grant application requesting funding to purchase stability balls for her students.

ensure their longevity for years to come. Wallace will eventually introduce the students to various exercises that can be done using the stability balls.

Local teachers will be able to begin applying for the next round of Bright



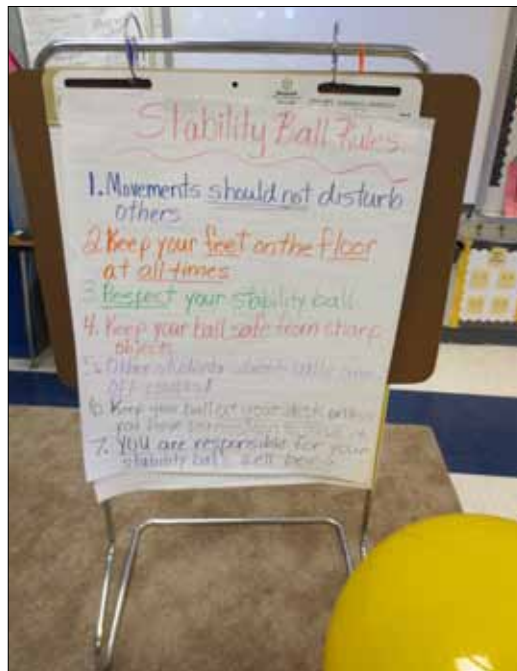
Autumn Wallace's 3rd grade students are literally on the ball at Northeast Elementary

Stability balls have long been used by physical therapists to help patients build strong core muscles which not only tones the midsection but can also help prevent back pain.

Now they are gaining popularity in classrooms and offices, which both require long hours of sitting. With no chair back to slouch into or armrests to lean on, you're forced to keep your back straight in turn improving posture. Because the stability balls encourage active sitting studies show improved circulation, greater mental alertness and even a better utilization of calories.

Wallace says the stability balls also discourage students from laying their heads down on their desks which many would do during writing assignments.

Each stability ball was inflated to match the individual student's height. Classroom rules for proper use and care of the stability balls were posted to



Ideas grant funding on April 1, 2013. To learn more about the grant program visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

## 4 PRODUCTS WE'RE TESTING

1.

### LED OUTDOOR LIGHTING

We've been testing several different models and hope to choose one soon to put into service.

2.

### LED INDOOR LIGHTING

A new line of bulbs from Insignia promises 22 years of service and is mercury free.

3.

### NIAGRA SMART SURGE PROTECTOR

Claims to save up to \$84 a year by eliminating phantom power loads. We'll see.

4.

### GILA WINDOW FILM

Don't try to apply this product by yourself. It definitely requires two (or more) sets of hands and even then you need to take your time. And read the directions before you start. Noticeably reduced heat gain but we wasted a good bit of product before getting it right.

# Electricity remains a good value

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many items you purchase. In fact, the national cost of electricity today,

price increase, by percentage, of consumer goods over the last decade and the value of electricity truly shines. That's particularly



when adjusted for inflation, is lower than it was in 1980. Very few commodities have remained such a good value. Average the 12-month

important when deciding what type of heating system to purchase. For reliable service at a reliable price electricity delivers.

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[www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

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ATTENTION 6TH, 7TH & 8TH GRADERS: APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS ARE DUE BY MARCH 30, 2013

## Rebate reminders

Heat pump rebates up to \$300

Visit [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com) for details

Heat pump water heater  
rebate of \$300

or call program manager Heidi Smith @ 252.944.2410

Energy Star manufactured home  
rebate of \$1,250



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