



Tideland Topics

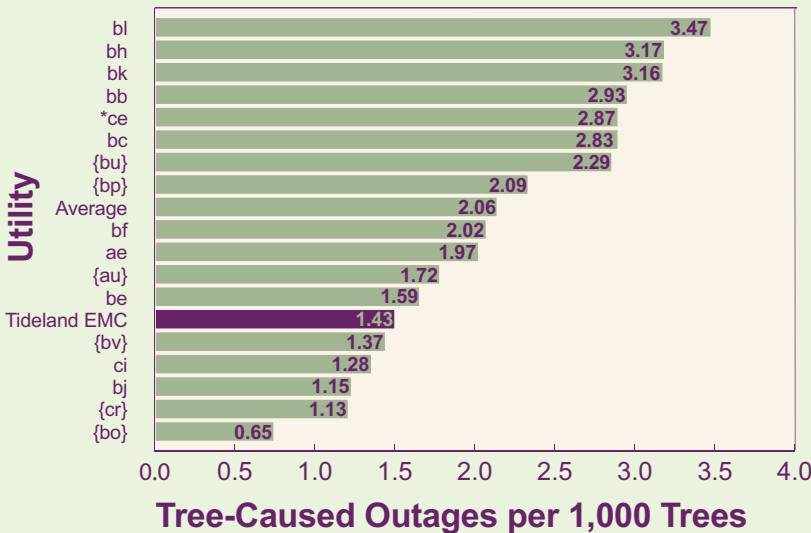
REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

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

A BETTER WAY FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY: Adding another tool to the toolbox

Tideland maintains 1,589 miles of primary overhead power lines. Our maintenance responsibilities include vegetation management underneath the lines and up to

In 2005, due to the frequency of tree-related outages, Tideland accelerated trimming operations, moving from a seven-year cycle to a five-year cycle. As a result,



15 feet on either side. Within that right-of-way are approximately 91,630 trees that the co-op must manage with side trimming, and at times, removal when a tree is diseased or dying.

we have significantly decreased the number of tree-related outages per 1,000 trees along our right-of-way.

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Caution traveling on Broad Creek Road

As construction begins on the new Fairfield Harbour substation east of Bridgeton, Tideland will also build a new feeder line along Broad Creek Road in New Bern to connect with the substation. Due to its proximity to end-users, the new substation will greatly improve service reliability to members in Craven County who are currently served by the Silver Hill substation in Grantsboro.

We have hired Lee Electrical Construction to build the new feeder. Construction will start at the intersection of Hwy. 55

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Message to our Member-Owners:

2016 Member Allocation

By Paul Spruill
General Manager & CEO

Right-of-way Schedule

Lucas Tree Experts will be trimming Tideland right-of-way in the Blounts Creek area.

We will conduct right-of-way mowing in the communities of East Lake and Manns Harbor.

Trees are the No. 1 cause of power outages. Therefore, we ask that you support our tree-trimming efforts to improve service reliability.

Please observe proper distances when planting trees and shrubs. Padmount transformer cabinets must also be kept clear of vegetation for crew access.

At the conclusion of our annual financial audit, the board of directors approved the allocation of member margins for the year ending 2016.

As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, Tideland EMC's year-end margins are allocated to each member-owner for future refund. This is in keeping with our mandate to deliver electric service at cost. Margins represent those dollars remaining after all our expenses have been paid. In 2016, Tideland had net operating margins of \$2,446,055.

Allocated margins appear as an entry on Tideland's permanent financial records and reflect your ownership equity. Margins represent an interest-free loan of operating capital by the membership to the co-op. This helps Tideland keep electric rates low for everyone. As member equity builds we incrementally retire previous years' margins. When margins are retired, a check or electric bill credit is issued and your equity in Tideland is reduced.

The timing of margin retirements is dictated by the co-op's overall financial

ALLOCATION OF 2016 MEMBER MARGINS			
If you paid this much for power in 2016:	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$2,400
Your share of 2016 member margins is:	\$57.41	\$86.12	\$114.83

The total amount allocated to your member account is based on the amount of energy you purchased from the cooperative during 2016. For 2016 margins, the allocation factor is 4.7848¢ per \$1 of revenue received. Sample allocations based on typical residential energy billings are provided in the table above.

picture and capital requirements and is subject to the approval of the federal government's Rural Utilities Service. In 2016, Tideland EMC returned capital credits totaling \$676,000. To date Tideland EMC has refunded over \$15.5 million to members and former members of the cooperative.

Touchstone Energy basketball camp scholars

Two Tideland-area students received scholarships from Touchstone Energy to attend summer basketball camp.

Attending Coach Roy Williams' camp at The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill was Michael "M.J." McBride, II. He is a rising sixth grader at John Small Elementary in Washington. M.J. is the son of Gwyn McBride and Michael McBride.

Asia Steverson attended the Lady Wolfpack camp at North Carolina State University. She is also a rising sixth grader at John Small Elementary. Asia is the daughter of Ramona Marley and Artenas Steverson, Jr.

The camps are open to rising sixth, seventh, and eighth graders and to apply for a scholarship students must attend a middle school in one of the six counties served by Tideland EMC.



Michael "M.J." McBride with coach Roy Williams



Asia Steverson with NCSU Lady Wolfpack head coach Wes Moore

POWERING FUTURE LEADERS:

Two represent Tideland on annual youth tour

High school students Bernard “A.J.” Johnson of Engelhard and Ethan Braddy of Bath represented Tideland EMC during the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour week in Washington, D.C. The two traveled with the

and their governance structure, and toured historic sites and museums. They also saw a Broadway musical at the Kennedy Center and participated in a riverboat dinner cruise along the Potomac.



A.J. Johnson (left) and Ethan Braddy (right) represented Tideland during Youth Tour to D.C.

North Carolina delegation where they joined more the 1,700 teens from across the nation.

During the tour, Johnson and Braddy participated in leadership training, engaged in one-on-one conversations with their elected officials, learned about electric cooperatives

This was the largest North Carolina delegation to participate in the event since the program began in 1967.

Jodie Grace Horne of New Bern and Madisen Raeen Spears of Oriental will represent Tideland during the 2018 Youth Tour.

Hiring a home performance contractor

Have plans to improve the energy efficiency of your home? The simplest energy-saving measures, such as installing a few LED lightbulbs or wrapping a water heater, make good weekend projects. Bigger tasks, such as installing a high-efficiency heat pump, require professional training and tools. A home performance specialist could help turn these larger tasks into reality.

Home performance contractors specialize in analyzing and improving existing homes, with a focus on comfort, efficiency and durability. In performing home assessments, they use specialized tools and procedures to identify energy waste and prioritize remodeling tasks. If you plan to hire a home performance contractor, be sure to ask if the following procedures will be included in their services:

- A blower-door test to measure air leakage through the building shell
- A duct-blower test to measure duct leakage



- A combustion safety test to assess the function of heating equipment and chimneys
- An efficiency assessment of heating and cooling equipment to determine if an upgrade would be cost-effective
- An inspection of attic and wall insulation to determine if more insulation is needed
- An assessment of ventilation levels to assure that excess moisture does not encourage the growth of mold or mildew

POWER-RELATED HURRICANE PREP TIPS

1

Secure outdoor items that could be blown into power lines. Several companies make trampoline anchor kits.

2

As bad weather approaches, lower the temperature setting on refrigerators and freezers. They will stay cold longer if power goes out. Remember, a full refrigerator/freezer will stay cold longer. Filling plastic jugs with water and chilling/freezing them in advance will help.

3

Have electrician contact info handy. If your meter base is damaged during a storm, a licensed electrician will have to make repairs before Tideland can restore power.

4

Enroll in outage text messaging. Text TEMC to short code 85700. Reply with your account number so we can assign you to the correct substation group. We'll keep you informed about major outages and approximate restoration times.

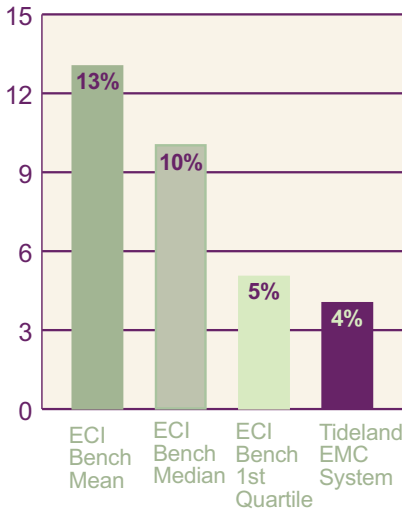
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Download Tideland's account mobile app. It serves as a communications dashboard with direct links to our social media feeds, outage map and website.

Right-of-way

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Tree contact with primary conductors at Tideland EMC compared to 80 other utilities in North America



Brush in our right-of-way is mowed on a two-year cycle. Much of that we never mow because it is either actively cultivated or maintained by another party. That leaves a total of 810 acres of brush that we exclusively maintain in the six counties we serve. Currently, vines growing on poles are cut and removed, but not treated to inhibit future growth. Our use of herbicides has previously been limited to areas not accessible by mechanical mowers.

While mowing visibly clears our right-of-way for a short period of time, it is not selective and removes “good” plants and degrades wildlife habitat. Mowing also leaves the underlying mature root system intact. This root system produces new growth that is even more dense, crowding out desirable plants, and can be several feet tall



Warmer temperatures and higher humidity levels have extended growing seasons leading to explosive vine growth

before the next mowing cycle. In the meantime, that growth can pose considerable problems for our crews responding to outages, forcing them to leave trucks behind and traverse overgrown areas on foot. That in turn increases the risk of injury and delays outage restoration times.

To help address this problem, we will expand our herbicide program along our right-of-way through low-volume application. The initial application will be made after an area has been mowed as woody growth begins to re-emerge. The herbicide will be applied by contractors wearing backpack containers using handheld wands to target application on brush, saplings, vines and other woody stemmed species to control only those specific types of vegetation. Grasses, wildflowers, and shrubs will be left untouched.

Contractors will repeat the application the following year to make sure those species have not re-established and that grasses and wildflowers are thriving thus providing ideal habitat for wildlife.

A great deal of work has gone into assessing Tideland’s right-of-way, making special note of wetland areas. Working with our spraying contractor, Progressive Solutions, we have selected a suite of products that have been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. The four products we will use are Dow Agrosiences’ Rodeo and Milestone, BASF Agricultural Products’ Arsenal, and Bayer’s Escort XP. You can visit our website to link to the safety data sheets for each of these products.

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REAL POWER.

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252.943.3046
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252.944.2400
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Tideland EMC is an equal opportunity provider & employer



Construction

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and Broad Creek Road and continue for approximately 3.5 miles east of the intersection.

During construction, flagmen will set up a one-lane road to ensure the safety of both construction crews and passing motorists. Travelers should therefore expect weekday delays along Broad Creek Road. Construction will begin in late July and, depending on weather, should conclude no later than December 2017.

We appreciate your patience while we work to improve service.