

# Tideland Topics

## REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

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

### **ENERGIZED:** Power flowing at new Fairfield Harbour substation

On Tuesday, February 6, Tideland energized its new Fairfield Harbour substation, located in the King Neck Road area of Craven County. The co-op moved 2,911 metered services to the new substation. Most of those services had previously been served by the co-op's Silver Hill substation in Grantsboro, while 350 received power from the Edward substation in Beaufort County.

In recent years, the demand for power during cold weather events began to tax Silver Hill's capacity. The new substation not only alleviates those concerns it also

eliminates many miles of line between the servicing substation and end-of-line members in Fairfield Harbour and Ernul.

In addition to substation construction, the \$6 million project included new feeder circuits built along Broad Creek Road in New Bern. "We appreciate our members bearing with the traffic delays so construction crews could work safely on that busy stretch of road," said Tideland chief executive officer Paul Spruill.



### *Looking for college scholarships?*

Tideland Electric awards eight \$1,000 college scholarships annually.

#### Award Criteria:

- Scholastic Achievement 50%
- Financial Need 25%
- Extra-Curricular Activities 25%

Applicants must be the legal dependent of a Tideland EMC member and must be graduating from a high school in one of the six counties served by Tideland EMC. Applicants may not be the dependent of a Tideland EMC employee or director. Winner must have been accepted by an accredited community college, four-year college or university. Application deadline: March 9





## Message to our Member-Owners: A January Like No Other

By Paul Spruill  
General Manager & CEO

### Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

In March, Lucas Tree Experts will complete tree trimming in the Spring Creek Rd and Vinegar Hill Rd areas of Aurora. That will include all side roads in the area.

Mowing crews will continue to work in Pamlico County in the areas of Straight Rd, Kershaw Rd and Janerio Rd.

Please lend your full support to our right of way maintenance activities. Trees are the No. 1 cause of outages.

As predicted, January kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales smashed all previous Tideland records. When it was all said and done, co-op members used over 45 million kWh during the first month of the year. You have to go all the way back to 2014 to find the next highest January when members used 40.6 million kWh.

The upside of increased sales has been our ability to lower the wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) at a much more brisk pace than anticipated. At press time, all indications were that the WPCA would zero out on March 1, further reducing the billed rate per kilowatt hour.

That may come as cold comfort to so many still grappling with the effects of January heating bills. We've worked with hundreds of members since mid-January to find ways to pay account balances down without an interruption of service. Many of you have now signed up for our levelized payment plan to reduce seasonal billing fluctuations. Others have opted to convert to our Flexpay program which offers maximum control over day to day energy costs.

We've seen a noticeable increase in the number of members utilizing the online portal to analyze both their daily and hourly energy consumption. Most portal

users are now taking time to set up a high energy use alert to prevent future billing surprises.

Some common problems were spotted during many of our energy audit visits:

- Crawlspace vents left open. They should be closed now and opened during air conditioning season.

- Windows left open. It's always worth double and triple checking windows for proper closure. We found multiple windows cracked open at several homes.

- Improper heat pump thermostat operation. Some were accidentally put in E-heat mode; others had the fan in the ON position instead of AUTO.

- Dripping hot water faucets to prevent frozen pipes while the water heater breaker was still on. We calculated that as running the electric bill up an extra \$12 per day.

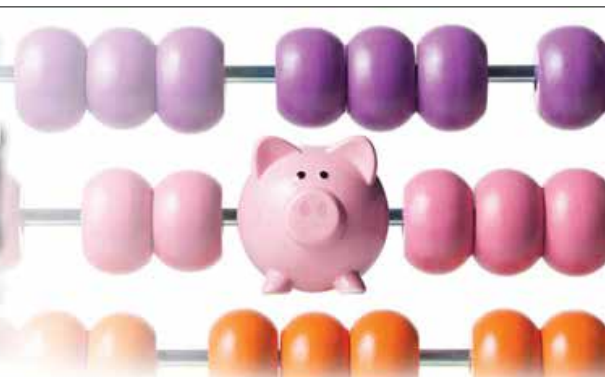
- Electric space heater operation. Plug in portable space heaters are expensive to operate (16.5¢ an hour) and can overheat household wiring.

Attention to detail can yield real savings so leave no stone unturned in your quest to reduce energy use and costs.

WINTER HEATING COSTS ADDING UP?

**DON'T SWEAT IT.  
LEVELIZE IT!**

AVOID THE **HIGHS** & **LOWS** OF  
SEASONAL ELECTRIC BILL FLUCTUATIONS.



**ENROLL IN LEVELIZED BILLING TODAY!**

Call (800) 637-1079 or visit [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com) to get started!



**Tideland EMC**  
Real People. Real Power.

# Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit [www.ArborDay.org](http://www.ArborDay.org).

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

## LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Birch
- Oak
- Sweetgum
- Spruce
- Linden
- Pine

## MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

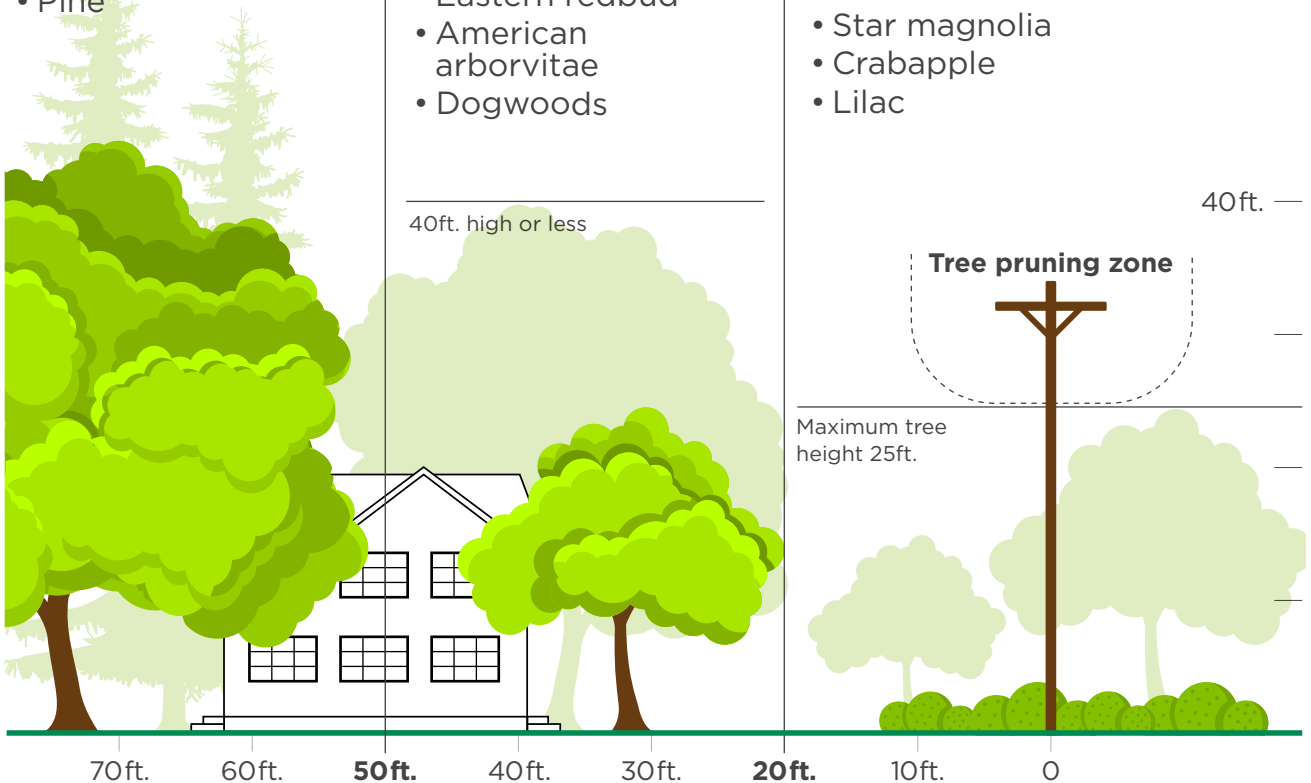
- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenraintree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

## SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



**Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.**

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



# \$1,250 REBATE: Energy Star perks for manufactured housing purchases

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

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

Purchase a new Energy Star Manufactured Home during 2018 and you could qualify for a one-time electric bill credit of \$1,250. A copy of the home's Energy Star certificate and the dealer's sales invoice MUST accompany the rebate application which can be found online at [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com).

Every Energy Star certified manufactured home receives a blue Energy Star label that is usually on the home's electrical panel or

next to its HUD data plate. Buyers, please make sure your sales contract with the manufactured housing dealer clearly states that they will be delivering and installing an Energy Star-certified home.

Prior to ordering your new home, it's recommended that you contact Tideland's energy efficiency program manager Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 to ensure program guidelines are met to qualify for the rebate.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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



**CORRECTION:** Last month we referred to Hubert and Bob Collins as twins. They were in fact born several years apart. Our apologies for the error.

# Feeling Drafty?

The typical house has enough air leaks to equal two open windows year round. However, most air leaks aren't attributed to windows. Here's what contributes to whole house air leakage:

**Floors, walls and ceilings 31%**

**Heating/cooling ducts 15%**

**Fireplaces 14%**

**Plumbing penetrations 13%**

**Doors 11%**

**Windows 10%**

**Fans and vents 4%**

**Electrical outlets 2%**

Home improvement priorities should begin with adding insulation, air sealing ductwork, closing fireplace dampers and spraying inexpensive expanding foam to seal plumbing/wiring penetrations.