

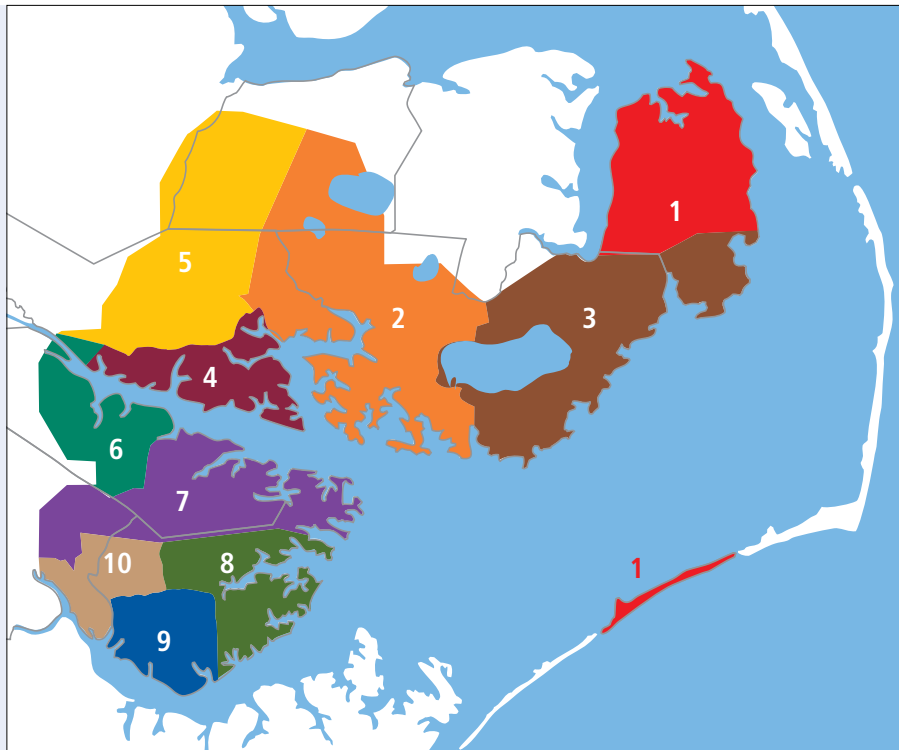
Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Member representation

Tideland EMC members are represented by directors from 10 geographical districts as depicted in the map to the right. Directors are democratically elected to a three year term of service on a rotating basis.

Read more about director qualifications and the current year nominating process on page G.



Rebates extended

All Tideland EMC rebate programs have been extended through December 31, 2021. The rebates are applicable for qualifying heat pump purchases, heat pump water heaters, Ecobee thermostats, and Energy Star manufactured homes.

Rebates for qualifying 2020 purchases must be turned in no later than March 31, 2021.





Little but
expensive

While inexpensive to purchase, space heaters can be quite costly to operate. Space heaters usually have up to three settings: 600, 900 or 1,500 watts. Assuming the 1,500-watt setting is used, every hour of operation costs 17.2¢.

Run it for eight hours a day and the cost is \$1.38. Do that everyday for a month and that lone space heater will add \$41.36 to your electric bill. If you were to use that space heater 24 hours a day the monthly cost of operation would be \$124.08. If you have multiple space heaters the bill just continues to climb.

That being said, limited space heater runs can be cost justified if you want to use them for a very short period of time in an area where you temporarily want to raise the temperature without warming the entire house such as the bathroom while you shower or bathe.

The best defense... Is a good offense

There are plenty of good reasons to take control of your energy lifestyle. Does that mean you have to sacrifice comfort and convenience? Not at all. In fact, an energy efficient home is more comfortable, more affordable and can even be more healthy. Just think of it as doing more with less.

This issue of Tideland Topics is intended to help you learn more about your personal energy use and where savings opportunities exist. Most often you'll find that the best ways to save energy cost very little to implement.

Today the average home uses six times more electricity than in 1960. So how is all that residential energy being used?

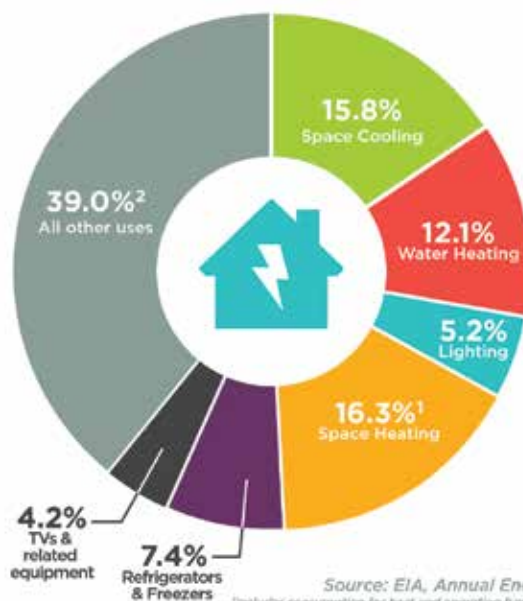
When combined, space heating and cooling typically consume the greatest portion of your residential energy dollars. Water heating is generally the second-largest single energy user followed by refrigeration, lighting and home entertainment equipment.

Where we have seen explosive growth is in the area labeled "all other uses," which includes a multitude of products. Plug by plug, kilowatt hour by kilowatt hour, it all adds up.

Complete exercises 1 and 2 on pages C and E to determine WHAT your energy consumption actually is, WHERE it is being used, WHEN you consume the most energy and WHY you use the energy you do.

How Americans Use Electricity

The latest data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows the combined use of clothes washers and dryers, computers, dishwashers, small appliances and other electrical equipment (noted as "all other uses" below) accounts for nearly 40% of electricity consumption in American homes.



Source: EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2020
¹Includes consumption for heat and operating furnace fans and boiler pumps.
²Includes miscellaneous appliances, clothes washers and dryers, computers and related equipment, stoves, dishwashers, heating elements, and motors.

What to tackle first this winter

Remove window air-conditioning units. While there are kits to wrap them, the best solution is to store them away so you can close the window during winter.

Speaking of closing windows, it may seem silly, but we highly encourage you to inspect every window. You'd be surprised how often windows

are not completely closed. During a recent energy audit we found the sashes down on five windows. Those drafts add significantly to heating costs.

Many older homes have storm windows. It is important to ensure that both your inner and outer windows

are shut. If you still have drafts around your windows, invest in an inexpensive plastic storm window kit from your local hardware store. A double-backed adhesive tape holds the plastic sheeting in place and after heating it up with a blow dryer you'll get a nice,



tight seal that will considerably improve indoor comfort.

Other items we want to close this winter: crawlspace vents and fireplace dampers.

Closing crawlspace vents will keep floors warmer and decrease the chance of frozen pipes during a temperature plunge.

When your fireplace is not in use, close the damper to prevent your home's heated air from going up and out the chimney. Keep in mind that a fire in an open hearth is only 10 percent efficient, which means 90 percent of the heat energy you've paid

for goes up the chimney. Heated room air is drafted up as well, so your main heating system actually works harder to keep the house warm. Glass fireplace doors raise the efficiency somewhat but only to about 20 percent.

Right-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way. During February, tree crews will be working in Manns Harbor, Stumpy Point and East Lake.

Gunnison Tree crews will be working in Pantego, Sidney and the Smithton community.

Overhead line construction crews from Lee Electric will be working along Shore Road at Lake Phelps and along Trent Road in Merritt.

Underground crews from Lee Electric will be working systemwide.

Thank you for your support of these important maintenance and construction activities which improve system reliability and promote public safety.

Exercise #1: Where does my energy go?

WHERE DOES MY ELECTRICITY GO?

The following exercise will help you obtain a fairly accurate idea of your base energy consumption and your home heating and cooling expenses. If you heat with gas, oil or any other non-electric method, please contact your home heating energy provider to obtain billing information.

Step 1: Obtain your monthly electric bills for a one-year period (Available via the Member Portal).

Step 2: Find the three months with the lowest consumption. Drop the lowest month. Average the remaining 2 months. This is your base consumption minus heating and cooling expenses.

Step 3: Subtract the base consumption from each of the remaining months.

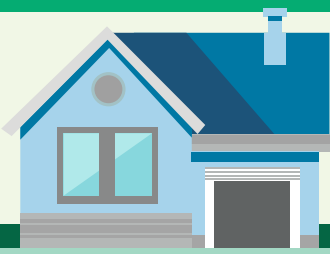
Step 4: Add the amount you spent ABOVE the base consumption in winter. This is your estimated home heating expense.

Step 5: Add the amount you spent ABOVE the base consumption in summer. This is your estimated home cooling expense.

BASE CONSUMPTION _____

HOME HEATING _____

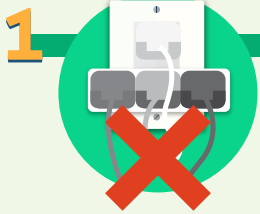
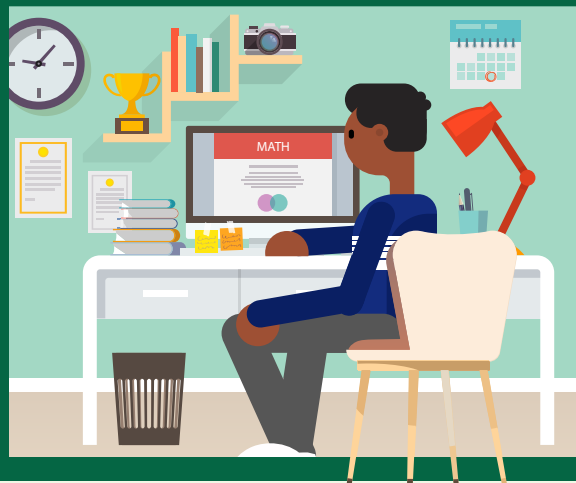
HOME COOLING _____ (This may also include seasonal swimming pool energy use)



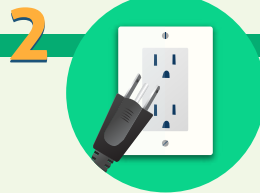
AT HOME LEARNING ELECTRICAL SAFETY



Attending **school at home**? Follow these **electrical safety tips** to keep you, your family, and home safe from electrical hazards.



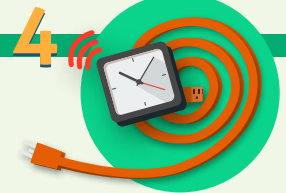
1 Avoid **overloading outlets**.



2 **Unplug appliances** when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock and fire.



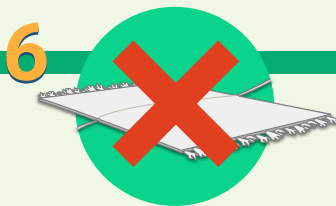
3 **Regularly inspect** electrical cords and extension cords for damage.



4 Extension cords should only be used on a **temporary basis**.



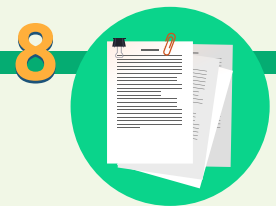
5 Never plug a space heater or fan into an **extension cord** or **power strip**.



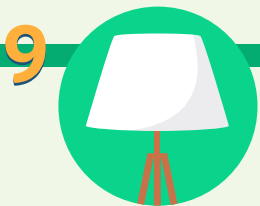
6 Never run cords under **rugs / carpets, doors, or windows**.



7 **Plug in smartly**. Make sure cords do not become tripping hazards.



8 Keep papers and other potential combustibles at least **three feet away** from space heaters and other heat sources.



9 Make sure you use **proper wattage** for lamps / lighting.



10 Make sure your home has **smoke alarms**. Test them monthly, change batteries yearly, and replace the unit every 10 years.

*Wherever you are learning, it's always important to be **safe**.*

Please **share** this **free** resource to save lives

Thermal barriers and air infiltration

We've already determined that heating and cooling generally consume the largest percentage of our home energy dollars. The first step towards heating and cooling efficiency and increased comfort within your home is to keep conditioned air in and unconditioned air out. That means establishing a good thermal barrier.

CRAWLSPACE/FLOOR

- Ensure proper grading prior to construction to keep water from entering the crawlspace or damaging the slab due to poor drainage
- Install an adequate vapor barrier that covers all ground surfaces and is well bonded to the foundation walls with mastic which is a durable, adhesive paste
- Restrict access to the crawlspace to prevent torn ductwork and displacement of floor insulation
- Make sure all plumbing and utility penetrations are caulked and sealed; tell contractors they own the holes

- they make and must seal them up to stop air infiltration
- We highly recommend completely sealed crawlspaces, which are now allowed by North Carolina building code. For more information visit crawlspaces.org

floors and ceiling so good insulation is a must

- Insulation should fit snugly between studs; faced insulation should be stapled to the edges of the wall studs

ROOF/ATTIC

- Use the lightest-colored roof shingles possible to minimize solar gain
- Minimize the use of recessed lighting and only install Energy Star-rated fixtures
- Verify that insulation coverage is thorough and consistent throughout the attic
- Make sure your attic access is well insulated to prevent conditioned air from being pulled into the attic
- Avoid the use of powered attic ventilators



DID YOU KNOW?

The typical home has enough air leaks to equal two open windows year round! These air leaks include plumbing and wiring penetrations, fireplace dampers, chimneys, attic access hatches, recessed lights, electrical outlets and switches on exterior walls, windows, doors, baseboard moldings, dropped ceilings, and kneewalls in finished attics. Caulk is best for cracks up to 1/4". Select a high-quality caulk that will remain flexible. Use expanding foam for larger gaps. Weatherstrip windows and doors.

WALLS

- Walls usually represent more total exterior surface than

METER READING CHART

A great way to learn about your energy usage patterns is to keep a daily meter reading chart. Fill in your meter readings every 24 hours. Note the day's average temperature. Remember to note any unusual or significant activities such as multiple loads of laundry, baking or hot tub use. Compare your notes to detailed usage data on the Member Portal.

KWH Reading	Water Reading	Indoor Temp	Outdoor Temp	Unusual/Significant Activities

Exercise #2: Daily Meter Readings



Last call for college scholarship applications

Tideland EMC is now accepting college scholarship applications from high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties. Applicants must be the dependent of a Tideland EMC member.

The co-op will award eight \$1,000 scholarships. Two of the scholarships will be designated for students who plan to attend community college.

Students have until Friday, March 5, 2021, to apply. An application may be downloaded at tidelandemc.com or ask your high school guidance counselor for a copy of the form.

For more information, contact program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or heidismith@tidelandemc.com.

Message to members

Guard against high bills with portal access and alerts

PAUL SPRUILL
GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This issue of Tideland Topics discusses ways you can take control of your energy use with an emphasis on the winter season. One of the best tools at your disposal year round is access to the Tideland EMC Member Portal. If you haven't already activated your Member Portal login, I encourage you to do so by visiting tidelandemc.com and clicking on the link to the secure site.

The Member Portal is much more than a repository for your billing information. Under the MY USAGE tab is a Usage History option. That opens up a page that allows you to access incredible details related to your energy consumption. All members can access their daily energy consumption. Depending on the age of your meter and rate type, you can access your hourly energy consumption or your energy use in 15-minute intervals.

There are any number of data-points you can pull up and overlay on your consumption data to better understand what may drive your energy use. They include cloud cover, wind speed, the outdoor temperature, heating degree days, and cooling degree days.

There's also a notation feature that allows you to document events that may have impacted your energy consumption. For example, if you had guests over you could create a note for the day they arrived and another for the day they departed. You could doc-

ument the date of a new HVAC system installation or the day you left for vacation.

While you are logged into the Member Portal be sure to visit the MY ALERTS tab. Here you can set up alerts and reminders to ensure you meet your energy use goals. There are three types of energy use alerts. You can choose to have them sent via text or email or both.

The first option is a daily energy use alert. Every afternoon you will receive a message that tells you how much energy you used the previous day. This is a particularly helpful alert if you have just moved into a new home and want to get a feel for what energy costs are running.

Another option is to sign up for high energy use alerts. To set up this alert you will need to type in a DAILY dollar threshold. For example, if your goal is to not have an electric bill that exceeds \$210, then you would want to divide that amount by 30 days and type in \$7.00 as your high use alert. You would only receive a notice on the days that you exceeded \$7.00 in kWh consumption.

And yes, there is also a low use alert. That may seem odd but if you are an absentee homeowner you may want to know if something is no longer working at your home and the low use alert could do just that.

Make 2021 the year that you embrace the Power of the Portal. Your wallet will be glad you did.

Director nominations underway

Annual meeting scheduled for May 2021

It is once again time to nominate candidates for Tideland's annual director elections. The nominating committee will meet in Pantego on Thursday, February 11, 2021, to consider candidates for districts 4, 5, 6 and 8 which are currently represented by Charles Slade, Paul Sasnett, Wayne Sawyer and Clifton Paul, respectively. Interested candidates should contact Myra Beasley at 252-943-3046, ext. 1125 to schedule a time to speak with a nominating committee representative. The committee's nominees will be posted at all Tideland offices on February 12, 2021.

Nominations can also be made by submitting a petition signed by 50 co-op members no later than February 15, 2021. The annual meeting of members will be held in May 2021.

DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

The following guidelines are excerpted from Board Policy No. 302 and Bylaw 4.02 to ensure quality representation.

Legal & Personal Requirements

1. A Tideland member & bonafide resident of the directorial district.
2. A member no less than 2 years on the date of election.
3. Willing to promote & protect the co-op's interests.
4. Able to impartially represent the entire co-op membership.
5. Willing to regularly attend board meetings.

6. May not be a close relative of an existing director or employee.
7. Is not employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise.
8. Was not previously employed by TEMC, any other utility/energy company, or any entity which substantially rendered services to a utility/energy company.

Aspects of Service

1. Put forth the effort to understand the co-op and provide sound judgement to reach decisions.
2. Respect official decisions made by a majority of the board.
3. Objectively evaluate questions and problems facing TEMC.

Points to Consider

1. Has the member demonstrated sound business judgement?
2. Has the member shown a capacity for leadership & a reputation for honesty & integrity?
3. Has the member shown a capacity for working well with others?
4. What problems might hinder the nominee's success?

For more information regarding candidate nominations, director qualifications or to determine which district you reside in, call annual meeting coordinator Myra Beasley at 252-943-3046, ext. 1125 or 1-800-637-1079.

Credentials & Elections Committee

District 2:
Johnny Joyner, Scranton

District 4:
Steven Poole, Belhaven

District 5:
Ernie Everett, Pinetown

District 6:
C. Travis Martin, Blounts Creek

District 7:
Donald Toler, Ernul

District 8:
Michael E. Spencer, Bayboro

District 9:
E. Douglas Cahoon, Bayboro

Nominating committee

District 1:
Vincent O'Neal
PO Box 74
Ocracoke, NC 27960

District 2:
Louie Hubers
6949 NC Hwy 45
Belhaven, NC 27810

District 3:
Brandon Marshall
33239 US Hwy 264
Engelhard, NC 27824

District 4:
Barry Eborn
4621 Sidney Rd
Belhaven, NC 27810

District 5:
Horace Waters
8098 Slatestone Rd
Washington, NC 27889

District 6:
Walter D. Martin
275 Whitehurst Rd.
Blounts Creek, NC 27814

District 7:
Harry Nesbit
409 Bergin Rd.
Aurora, NC 27806





District 8:
Vincent Sevenski
325 Harper Rd
Bayboro, NC 28515

District 9:
Buck H. Jones
35 Roland Rd
Arapahoe, NC 28510

District 10:
John Mitchell
1209 Santa Lucia Dr
New Bern, NC 28560

10 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking to lower your bills this winter?
Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.

-  Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
-  Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
-  Turn off lights when not in use.
-  Lower your water heater temperature. The Dept. of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
-  Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.
-  Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
-  Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.
-  Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.
-  Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
-  Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

HOME HEATING COSTS WEIGHING YOU DOWN?

Sign up for levelized billing

Levelized billing provides you with a way to guard against large fluctuations in your monthly electric bills. Program participants pay a rolling average of their previous 12 months electric use. While you can expect fluctuations in the amount due every month, the changes are minimal. If your usage is trending up the levelized amount will increase. If usage trends down the levelized amount will decrease. Levelized billing helps members with month to month budgeting while at the same time alerting members to increased kilowatt hour (kWh) consumption.

Levelized billing is a free service. Participants must keep their electric account current. Failure to pay by the due date will result in the loss of levelized billing privileges.

To enroll or for more info: 1.800.637.1079

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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



happy
Valentine's Day!



Show your HVAC system
some love. Change or
clean your filters monthly.