

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

On Pungo Creek aboard the tugboat Margaret E. bound for Durant's Point. Photo by member Paul Edwards

Electrification incentives

Saving energy is always a win-win, but the financial equation got much sweeter on Jan. 1, 2023, with new and expanded energy efficiency rebates and tax incentives. From upgrades to your electrical panel and home wiring to the installation of heat pumps, windows and doors, there's more reason than ever to electrify your life. We take a deep dive into the particulars starting on page D.



Scholarship deadline March 3

High school seniors have until Friday, March 3, to submit their college scholarship applications to the Tideland Electric Care Trust. The Trust will award eight scholarships: six to students attending a four-year college or university and two to students attending a community college or trade school. To apply visit tidelandemc.com/my-community/college-scholarships.





March maintenance

Tideland has contracted with Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way. During March, a Lucas crew will be working on the village circuits at Ocracoke. A second crew will be trimming along the Bonnerton circuit in Beaufort County south of the Pamlico River.

Lee Electric overhead construction crews will be working on the Merritt circuit in Pamlico County in the Maribel area. Another Lee Electric crew continues work on the Rose Bay circuit out of our Ponzer substation.

Bellwether Management Solutions is currently in the field conducting our metered service inspections. At press time they were completing work in Merritt. The inspector will then move on to inspect services at Ocracoke.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

The case for levelized billing

Monthly temperature swings not indicative of overall season

Were it not for the unusual winter windstorm that hit Tideland territory on Dec. 23, there's a good possibility many wouldn't have remembered the extreme temperature lows we experienced as 2022 came to an end. Not only did the windstorm push temperatures down, it drove kilowatt-hour consumption up for those using some form of electric heat. In fact, consumption was up

that included late December energy use. Fortunately, December 2022 was sandwiched between two lower-than-normal usage months, November and January, which contributed to overall lower heating requirements for the three-month period.

It is based on this frequent fluctuation of temperatures that we highly encourage members with

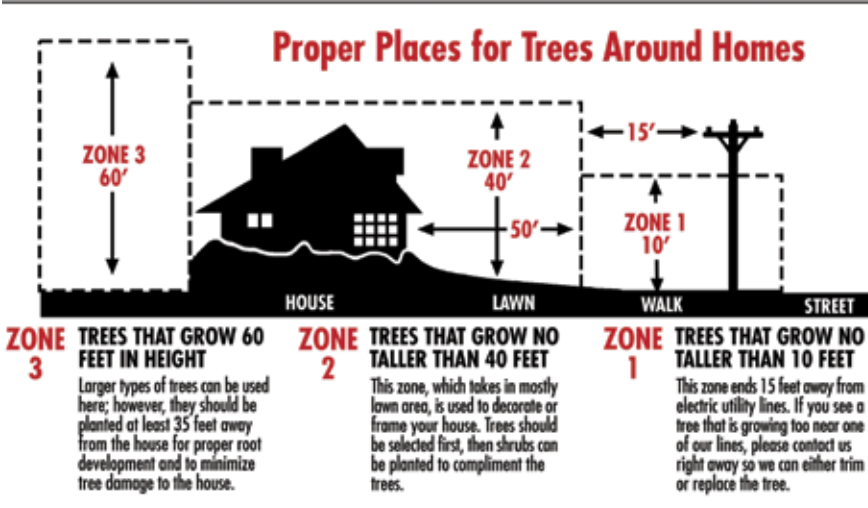
Heating Degree Day Analysis

Season	Nov HDD	Dec HDD	Jan HDD	Total HDD
2022-2023	234	552	437	1223
2021-2022	387	305	698	1390
2020-2021	214	575	650	1439
2019-2020	407	440	465	1312
2018-2019	328	479	630	1437

so much that many areas of North Carolina were subject to utility conservation measures that Tidelanders were able to avoid.

As a result, you may not have been caught off-guard by a higher than usual bill for period of time

post-paid accounts to take a serious look at levelized billing. It's also why all residential members should enroll for a high use alert notification. Reach out to us to enroll or you can self-enroll via the member portal.



Message to members

WPCA reverts from credit to charge following frigid weather

by **PAUL SPRUILL**

GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Last month I reported to you the total year-end credits issued to members in 2022. Those credits were generated via capital credit refunds and wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) credits.

In that article I mentioned that the WPCA had been a credit since March 2020. In 2022, the average monthly credit was -0.2631¢ per kilowatt hour (kWh) sold, ranging from a high of -0.527¢ in August to a low of -0.135¢ in June. As we entered the New Year, the WPCA remained a credit of -0.156¢ for all bills rendered in January. That generated a \$52,817.40 credit to the membership.

Due to several factors impacting both domestic and global energy markets and our own wholesale cost for power, the WPCA reverted back to a charge on Feb. 1, 2023, with a billed adjustment of 0.156¢ per kWh. At this time we expect the WPCA to remain a charge for the better part of 2023.

Thanks to wise financial management by our generation and transmission provider, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, Tideland was somewhat isolated from earlier fluctuations in the natural gas market. Understandably, however, the Dec. 23-26 unusually cold weather resulted in energy supplies exceeding our historical average need at a time when much of the nation was in the grip of cold temperatures.

The last period of time that we billed the WPCA as a charge

was from April 2017 through Feb. 2020 in response to increased long run cost pressure from planned coal ash mitigation measures.

While we anticipate our WPCA to remain a charge in 2023, our cost pressure at this time is primarily driver by weather events and short periods of high demand for heating and/or cooling.

Based on Tidelanders' average monthly energy use of 1,080 kWh, a WPCA factor of 0.156¢ would result in a \$1.68 charge above our base published rate. There are several steps you can take to more than offset that additional expense. Here are some suggestions:

- Lower your water heater thermostat setting to 120°
- Reduce your home heating thermostat setting by 1°-2°
- During the cooling season, rely more on fans when you are home so you can raise your thermostat setting
- Choose appropriate refrigeration settings of 0° for your freezer compartment and 40° for the refrigerator compartment
- Opt for water and energy saving showers over baths
- Hang clothes to dry and when you do use the dryer clean the lint filter and use the moisture-sensing option to reduce overall drying times.

As always, we are here to help you keep energy purchases both efficient and affordable.



Beat the buzzer to apply for the 2023 Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship Program

Rising 6th and 7th grade boys and girls have until March 31 to apply for a spot in our summer basketball camp training with some of today's best college coaches and players. Two students will be selected to participate from the Tideland EMC service area: one boy and one girl.

Applications for both camps are being accepted online through March 31. Visit tidelandemc.com for details.

Winners of the Wolfpack Girls Basketball Camp Scholarship will attend the overnight camp in Raleigh, June 18-22. Winners of the Carolina Boys Basketball Camp Scholarship will attend the overnight camp in Chapel Hill, June 17-21. Campers must have permission from a parent or guardian to attend and must provide their own transportation to and from the camp. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extra-curricular activities and an essay and short answer question.

The head coaches of each team will use the help of their staff and current players to conduct the camps. Both camps will work closely with each camper to develop skills that will benefit the young athletes both on and off the court.

From the windows, to the walls:

Energy Efficiency Rebates and Tax Credits for 2023: New incentives for home electrification

New energy efficiency rebates and tax credits are available for all kinds of home electrification purchases including heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, stoves, and dryers, and upgrades like new windows, insulation, and electrical panel improvements.

There's a lot on the table (and some off the table such as roofing and attic fans) and it is important to know what savings you may qualify for before embarking on a project. There are two types of incentives: rebates and tax credits.

Energy Efficiency and Electrification Rebates for 2023

The High-Efficiency Electric Homes and Rebates Act (HEEHRA) allocates \$4.5 billion to the states to create point-of-sale rebates for home electrification projects for low- and moderate-income households. In North Carolina the rebates will be offered through two programs: the HOMES program and the High-Efficiency Electric Home rebate program (HEEH). The NC HOMES program will allocate over \$98 million to address whole-house energy efficiency upgrades. The program is intended to offer rebates of up to \$4,000 depending on how much energy the project saves once it is complete, increasing up to \$8,000 for families making up to 80% of median income in their area. HOMES program rebates will also extend to multifamily unit owners on a per-unit basis.

The NC HEEH program will allocate another \$98 million to help low-to-moderate income families purchase efficient appliances including heat pumps and electric cooking equipment. Additional funding exists for upgrading wiring, electrical panels, insulation and air sealing.

Point-of-sale means the rebate is transferred to the customer at the time of purchase, effectively discounting the price of the appliance or upgrade. Qualifying households will be able to use up to \$14,000 in HEEHRA rebates for the following appliances and energy efficiency upgrades.

HEEHRA rebates for appliances

Appliance	Maximum Rebate
Heat pump water heater	\$1,750
Heat pump	\$8,000
Electric range	\$840
Heat pump clothes dryer	\$840

HEEHRA rebates for non-appliance upgrades

Non-appliance Upgrade	Maximum Rebate
Upgrade electrical panel	\$4,000
Electric wiring	\$2,500
Insulation, air sealing, ventilation	\$1,600

This program will expire on Sept. 30, 2031.

We will publish specific guidance on the NC HOMES and HEEH programs as soon as it becomes available.

Who qualifies for energy efficiency rebates?

Not all households will qualify for HEEHRA rebates. These energy efficiency and electrification rebates are reserved for households making less than 150% of the area median income (AMI) as defined by the Department of Urban Housing and Development (HUD).

Households making less than 80% of AMI can use the rebates to cover 100% of the cost of equipment and installation for energy efficient appliances and home upgrades.

Households making between 80-150% can use the rebates to cover 50% of the equipment and installation costs.

So, for example, if a 50-gallon heat pump water heater costs \$1,500 and installation is another \$750, the grand total would be \$2,250.

If your household income is less than 80% of AMI, you could use the entire \$1,750 heat pump water heater rebate to bring the purchase price down to \$500.

If your household income is between 80-150% AMI, you could only use \$1,125 of the rebate to cover the maximum 50% of the all-in cost, and the other \$1,125 comes out of your pocket.

Co-op members would also qualify for a \$300 rebate from Tideland EMC which is not income dependent.

That's a great deal for a brand new heat pump water heater that can save you hundreds of dollars per year in energy costs and reduce your carbon emissions.

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Making Our Homes More Efficient: Clean Energy Tax Credits for Consumers

Equipment type	Tax Credit Available for 2022 Tax Year	Updated Tax Credit Available for 2023-2032 Tax Years
Home Clean Electricity Products		
Solar (electricity)		30% of cost
Fuel Cells		
Wind Turbine		
Battery Storage	N/A	30% of cost
Heating, Cooling, and Water Heating		
Heat pumps	\$300	30% of cost, up to \$2,000 per year
Heat pump water heaters		
Biomass Stoves		
Geothermal heat pumps		30% of cost
Solar (water heating)		
Efficient air conditioners*	\$300	30% of cost, up to \$600
Efficient heating equipment*		
Efficient water heating equipment*	\$150	30% of cost, up to \$600
Other Energy Efficiency Upgrades		
Electric panel or circuit upgrades for new electric equipment*	N/A	30% of cost, up to \$600
Insulation materials*	10% of cost	30% of cost
Windows, including skylights*	10% of cost	30% of cost, up to \$600
Exterior doors*	10% of cost	30% of cost, up to \$500 for doors (up to \$250 each)
Home Energy Audits*	N/A	30% of cost, up to \$150

*Subject to cap of \$1,200/year

New incentives

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If you make more than 150% AMI, then you won't qualify for HEEHRA rebates. Not to worry, there are still energy efficiency incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act for you!

Energy Efficiency Tax Credits for 2023

If you don't qualify for energy efficiency rebates, there are new and expanded tax credits that can reduce the cost of home electrification projects. The Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit is basically a reboot of the Nonbusiness Energy Property Credit that expired in 2021 and was worth only 10% of the project costs. The new credit will be in effect from Jan. 1, 2023, to Dec. 31, 2032.

Unlike a point-of-sale rebate, a tax credit does not reduce the purchase price of the project. Rather, it's claimed when you file your taxes and can increase your refund or reduce the amount of tax you owe. Members are encouraged to consult a tax professional to determine if they can qualify for tax credits.

Beginning in 2023, the Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit will be worth 30% of the total cost of eligible projects up to \$1,200 per year (or \$2,000 per year for heat pump water heaters and heat pump space heaters).

That means you will be able to spread out your home electrification projects to claim the tax credit in multiple years.

Can you combine energy efficiency tax credits and rebates?

HEEHRA rebates and Energy Efficient Home Improvement tax credits are two separate incentives. Only in very limited cases would a household be able to utilize both programs. Consult a tax professional if you are interested in utilizing tax credits.

Project Specific Guidance

Heat pump space heating and cooling incentives

Save up to \$8,000 on a heat pump for space heating and cooling. For some, that may cover 100% of the cost of a major appliance that will also save them hundreds of dollars a year in energy costs when compared to propane, fuel oil and electric resistance heat.

- **Households with income less than 80% of AMI:** \$8,000 rebate up to 100% of equipment and installation costs
- **Households with income between 80-150% AMI:** \$8,000 rebate up to 50% of equipment and installation costs

- **Households with income at or above 150% AMI:** 30% tax credit worth up to \$2,000 per year

The tax credit also applies to biomass stoves and boilers and is an exception to the \$1,200 yearly limit.

Heat pump water heater incentives

Water heating is another area of major energy-savings potential. The IRA creates substantial incentives that put heat pump water heaters in reach for Americans at all income levels.

- **Households with income less than 80% of AMI:** \$1,750 rebate up to 100% of equipment and installation costs
- **Households with income between 80-150% AMI:** \$1,750 rebate up to 50% of equipment and installation costs
- **Households with income at or above 150% AMI:** 30% tax credit worth up to \$2,000 per year

Electrical panel upgrade incentives

For many households, the first step toward electrification and energy savings is upgrading the electrical panel or breaker box.

- **Households with income less than 80% of AMI:** \$4,000 rebate up to 100% of equipment and installation costs
- **Households with income between 80-150% AMI:** \$4,000 rebate up to 50% of equipment and installation costs
- **Households with income at or above 150% AMI:** 30% tax credit worth up to \$600 per year

Electrical wiring incentives

In some houses, new electrical wiring may be required before making additional energy efficiency upgrades.

- **Households with income less than 80% of AMI:** \$2,500 rebate up to 100% of equipment and installation costs
- **Households with income between 80-150% AMI:** \$2,500 rebate up to 50% of equipment and installation costs
- **Households with income at or above 150% AMI:** Electrical wiring may be included in the 30% tax credit worth up to \$600 per year for electrical panel upgrades.

Insulation, air sealing, and ventilation incentives

Insulation, sealing, and ventilation are part of the home envelope – the structures that make a home airtight. A secure envelope can lead to major energy savings over the long term.

- **Households with income less than 80% of AMI:** \$1,600 rebate up to 100% of equipment and installation costs.

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Safety inspector's notebook



Meter base repairs required



Vegetation clearing needed



Meter base unstable; Unsafe placement of other items

Meter base safety inspections by our contractor, Bellwether Energy Management Solutions, have outpaced our original timeline and in March, the inspector will move on to Ocracoke. Fortunately, we will be able to conclude the island's inspections well ahead of peak tourist season which should allow ample time for any needed consumer repairs.

Here are a few images from inspections we have already completed on the mainland. Access to the meter has been the most-frequent area of concern due to overgrown vegetation or the erection of structures. General housekeeping around the meter base is also cause for concern. Lastly, a handful of services have needed immediate repairs by a licensed electrician to bring the meter base back into compliance.



Needs to declutter area around meter base



Meter base repairs required

caution

caution

caution

caution

New incentives

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- **Households with income between 80-150% AMI:** \$1,600 rebate up to 50% of equipment and installation costs
- **Households with income at or above 150% AMI:** N/A

Exterior windows and doors incentives

Energy savings can literally fly out the window if windows and doors aren't air tight. The Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit can help you upgrade windows and doors.

- **Households with income less than 80% of AMI:** 30% tax credit worth up to \$600 per year for exterior windows and skylights, \$250 per year for one exterior door, and \$500 per year for all exterior doors
- **Households with income between 80-150% AMI:** 30% tax credit worth up to \$600 per year for exterior windows and skylights, \$250 per year for one exterior door, and \$500 per year for all exterior doors
- **Households with income at or above 150% AMI:** 30% tax credit worth up to \$600 per year for exterior windows and skylights, \$250 per year for one exterior door, and \$500 per year for all exterior doors

Electric stove, cooktop, range, and oven incentives

Gas stoves emit nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, and formaldehyde into the air, which can trigger breathing problems, especially in young children. Luckily, there are incentives for switching to electric stoves, which are cleaner and more cost effective over time.

- **Households with income less than 80% of AMI:** \$840 rebate up to 100% of equipment and installation costs
- **Households with income between 80-150% AMI:** \$840 rebate up to 50% of equipment and installation costs
- **Households with income at or above 150% AMI:** N/A

Heat pump clothes dryer incentives

Heat pump clothes dryers are more efficient than conventional dryers and create water as a byproduct instead of exhaust.

- **Households with income less than 80% of AMI:** \$840 rebate up to 100% of equipment and installation costs
- **Households with income between 80-150% AMI:** \$840 rebate up to 50% of equipment and installation costs
- **Households with income at or above 150% AMI:** N/A

Home energy audit incentives

Maybe you don't know where to start with upgrading your home's energy efficiency and want to hire a professional energy auditor. All households, regardless of income, receive a 30% tax credit up to \$150 per year. Visit hersindex.com/find-a-hers-rater/ to find an auditor.

Although these incentives will be around for the next decade, energy efficiency is about long-term savings. The sooner you invest in home electrification, the more time you have to compile savings and reduce your energy footprint. Call our energy services team if you need guidance in bringing a project to fruition.

Tideland Topics

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efficiency *Reminder*

Change
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