



JUNE ■ 2008



REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER. Tideland Topics

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

GRASSROOTS PUSH: We need your voice to tell our story

Legislators on Capitol Hill are looking for answers to climate change. Tideland EMC believes good answers start with good questions. That's why we need **your** help to make sure 3 consumer-focused questions are satisfactorily addressed by any legislative action that will impact our energy future.



On pages 10 and 11 you will find a discussion of the "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign along with 2 business reply cards. When you complete and mail in the cards you are authorizing the cooperative to ask legislators to focus on the following questions on your behalf:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

REAL SAFETY:



Hold on tight to objects in flight

While a proposal to ban helium-filled Mylar balloons failed to become law in California, it only fell 5 votes short of passage. That points to the very real problems created by the shiny balloons when they come in contact with electric utility structures.

The problem had in fact become so severe in Burbank, California, that Mylar balloons were the 4th leading cause of outages in 2007.

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**DOWN TO
EARTH
SAFETY
ADVICE**

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 21

During the same year Pacific Gas and Electric experienced 211 balloon related outages. Fortunately, where legislation fails, common sense can and should prevail.

All helium-filled balloons should be properly weighted down and never released outdoors. Even if the balloon is not made of Mylar, the string could become entangled with utility structures. Passing birds may try to retrieve the string and inadvertently cause an outage in the process.

If a balloon or kite gets caught on utility structures do not attempt to remove the object. Report it to the cooperative.

Message to Our Member-Owners: Planning for operational success



*Robbie Rouse
Operations Manager*

June 1 marks the start of hurricane season, but Tideland EMC prepares all year long for the unexpected.

Our emergency response plan (ERP) is updated annually to include every operational scenario imaginable in the restoration of electric service. The plan assigns specific tasks to all cooperative personnel, everything from handling media inquiries and requisitioning supplies to housing and feeding line workers. The ERP contains emergency contact information for all who may be needed during a major outage including the cooperative's power suppliers, line construction and tree clearing contractors, crane operators, Department of Transportation officials and the emergency management coordinators in all 6 counties we serve. We also maintain a

directory of the restaurants, hotels, and stores in each of our 4 districts to expedite meals, lodging and other items that may be needed to accommodate personnel coming to assist from across the state or nation.

North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives all take part in a mutual aid agreement. This is one of the most treasured resources we have because linemen, warehousemen and any other co-op personnel can be dispatched to our service area at a moment's notice. When mutual aid workers arrive they are ready to jump in and perform the same job they do at their own co-op with no training required.

The ERP also lists crew assignments for line assessment, the first step we undertake after a major storm. Starting at the substation each circuit is visually inspected to determine the resources

that will be required to restore service. A spare equipment list is maintained so we can quickly determine availability of infrequently used items.

The ERP also contains a list of all circuits and the number of consumers served by each. We can also access outage totals by county to help emergency management officials in their planning. Outages by county are often part of the disaster declaration process.

This is a quick overview of the planning we do to be ready if a major or minor storm happens to hit the area we serve.

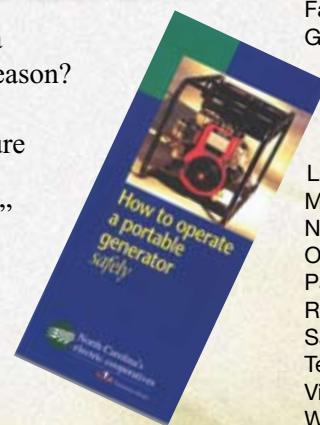


'Tis the season

Own or plan to purchase a generator this hurricane season?

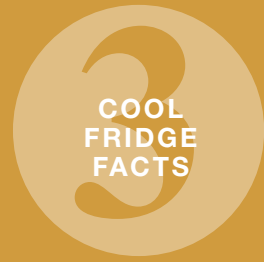
Then you need our brochure "How to Operate a Portable Generator Safely."

Call 1.800.637.1079 or email mailroom@tidelandemc.com for a free copy.



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Paloma
Rene
Sally
Teddy
Vicky
Wilfred

REAL ENERGY SAVING SOLUTIONS: ENERGY STAR ENCOURAGES RECYCLING OLD REFRIGERATORS



The Energy Star “Recycle My Old Fridge Campaign” is a new, nationwide effort, brought to you by the U.S. Department of Energy and the government’s Energy Star program. The campaign encourages every American who owns an old, inefficient refrigerator to save money, energy, and the environment by recycling old refrigerators and, when a replacement is needed, to buy a new Energy Star-qualified refrigerator.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO OPERATE AN OLDER MODEL REFRIGERATOR?

A 19.0-21.4 cubic foot refrigerator with the freezer on top, manufactured prior to 1980, costs approximately \$225 annually to operate; \$288 per year if it’s a side-by-side. The larger the unit the higher the cost.

HOW MUCH CAN I SAVE WITH A NEW ENERGY STAR MODEL?

Replacing the aforementioned models with a new Energy Star refrigerator would reduce

energy costs approximately \$910 and \$1,100 respectively over a 5-year period. If energy costs continue to increase you’ll save even more.



An old refrigerator/freezer can be difficult to part with until you realize how much it costs to operate. *Istockphoto.com*

A 2008 Energy Star refrigerator is 61% more energy efficient than models meeting the 1990 federal standard.

HOW DO I RECYCLE MY OLD REFRIGERATOR?

Refrigerators contain refrigerants, oils, and other compounds that, by federal law, must be removed and recovered. Then, the steel, nonferrous metals, and other selected parts can be recycled. Some recycling programs also capture the foam insulation inside the refrigerator doors for added environmental benefits. Ask your appliance retailer if they will pick up and recycle your old fridge when you purchase a new one.

TIDELAND APPLIANCE IS YOUR ENERGY STAR PARTNER

Tideland Appliance, located at 800 Hwy. 70 East in New Bern, is an Energy Star partner and has dozens of energy efficient refrigerators from which to choose. Tideland EMC members qualify for a 3% discount everyday. For more information call 252.636.2080.

1.

11% OF THE NATION'S RESIDENTIAL ENERGY IS USED TO KEEP FOOD COLD

2.

NEARLY 11 MILLION AMERICANS HAVE 2 OR MORE REFRIGERATORS

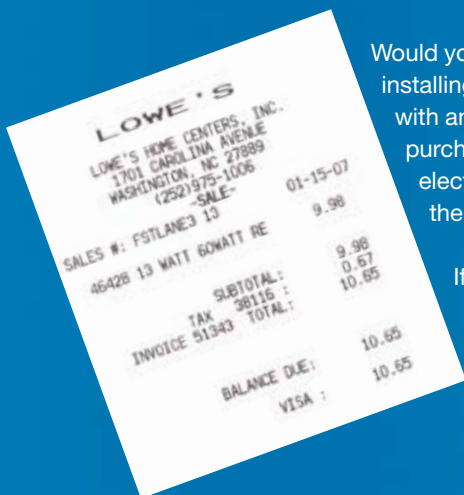
3.

WE WOULD SAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO LIGHT 8.1 MILLION HOMES FOR A YEAR IF EVERY AMERICAN HOME REPLACED ITS PRE-1993 REFRIGERATOR WITH AN ENERGY STAR MODEL

FOR MORE INFO: WWW.RECYCLEMYOLDFRIDGE.COM

TIDELAND'S SECOND ANNUAL CHANGE A LIGHT CONTEST YOU COULD WIN A \$300 ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT

Would you change one light bulb if it meant saving up to \$30 per year? That's the potential of installing just one ENERGY STAR bulb in a high use fixture. Tideland EMC is sweetening the pot with an additional incentive. Simply mail in your receipt showing a compact fluorescent bulb(s) purchased after May 25, 2008, and you're entered in our drawing for a \$300 credit on your electric bill. Remember to write your name, account number and daytime phone number on the receipt and mail it to Tideland EMC, PO Box 159, Pantego, NC 27860.



If every homeowner changed just one bulb to an ENERGY STAR-rated bulb, the U.S. would save enough energy to light 7 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to that of 8 million cars.

MAIL IN YOUR PROOF OF PURCHASE BEFORE OCTOBER 10, 2008



Our Energy, Our Future A Dialogue With America

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

1. What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need as we reduce green house gas emissions in the future?
2. What are you doing to fully fund the research required to

make emissions-free electric plants an affordable reality?

3. How much will all this increase my electric bill, and what will you do to make it affordable?

You can participate in this important discussion in 1 of 2 ways. Fill out the business reply cards found between pages 10-11 and return by mail or visit www.ourenergy.coop and select "Contact Elected Officials" to send a letter to legislators in Washington, D.C.



REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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DON'T FORGET TO COMPLETE THE "OUR ENERGY, OUR FUTURE" REPLY CARD AND RETURN IT BY MAIL SO YOUR VOICE IS HEARD BY ELECTED OFFICIALS



Photos by Steven Barber

TIDELAND RAISES \$4,712 FOR BEAUFORT COUNTY RELAY

Tideland employees raised \$4,712 for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event in Beaufort County. Official team members were:

Kennith Neal, Dana Andrews, Heather Garrish, Mary Waters, Linda Carawan, Karen Heffley, Tonya Little, Donna Woolard, Pam Foster, Myra Beasley,

Robbie Rouse, Edward Everett, Steven Barber, TW Allen, Laura Willis, Brad Cox and Bob Van Der Have. Our thanks for their hard work and dedication.

