



JANUARY ■ 2009



REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER. Tideland Topics

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

OUT WITH THE OLD: Mercury vapor lights being phased out

Outdoor Lighting Rate Schedules

175-watt mercury vapor:
\$9.16 *NO NEW INSTALLS*

400-watt mercury vapor:
\$12.80 *NO NEW INSTALLS*

100-watt high pressure sodium:
\$11.00 per month

400-watt metal halide:
\$13.50

Additional pole charge:
\$1.55

OUTDOOR LIGHTING OPTIONS DWINDLE WITH LEGISLATIVE CHANGE

The Energy Bill of 2005 mandated the eventual phasing out of mercury vapor bulbs and ballasts. Since that time Tideland EMC has relied on existing inventories of bulbs and ballasts to keep the lights in service. However, we have now depleted our supply of mercury vapor ballasts and will no longer offer that lighting option for new installations.

We still have access to mercury vapor bulbs and will replace them as needed on existing fixtures. If the mercury vapor ballast is in need of repair the member will need to upgrade to a high pressure sodium fixture.

Light produced by a mercury vapor bulb appears white or blue. Light produced by a high pressure sodium bulb appears yellow or amber.

As technology improves we hope to bring you more lighting options in the future.

REAL INCENTIVES:



Tax Credits Back in '09

The "Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008" revived tax credits for energy-efficient home improvements (windows, doors, roofs, insulation, HVAC, and non-solar water heaters). Tax credits for these residential products, which had expired at the end of 2007, will now be available for improvements made during 2009. Improvements made during 2008 are not eligible for the credit.

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TAX CREDITS
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PREVIOUS PAGE

The bill also extended tax credits for solar energy systems and fuel cells to 2016.

New tax credits were established for small wind energy systems. Tax credits for builders of new energy-efficient homes and tax deductions for owners and designers of energy efficient commercial buildings were also extended.

Starting January 1, 2009, there is a new tax credit for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, starting at \$2,500 and capped at \$7,500. The first 250,000 vehicles sold get the full tax credit.

For more info:
www.energystar.gov

Message to our Member-Owners: What's Around the Bend

This is my first article to you, our member-owners, as your general manager and CEO. I am delighted to be at Tideland and back in eastern North Carolina.

Over the past two months, I have been meeting our employees, trying to understand our processes, and meeting with North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), the generation and transmission co-op for the state's distribution co-ops including Tideland.

As we move into the new year, we have made a few internal organizational changes to prepare us for the anticipated future growth in our region, as recovery from the current recession is expected to begin in 2009. Some of our key actions will be:

Focus on rates

In our current economic environment we are very focused on trying to contain any rate increase so it

is as small as possible. Of course, we have little control over the cost of generating fuels such as uranium, coal, and natural gas. We will also do a formal cost of service study, sometimes called a rate study, in first quarter 2009 to review in detail our rates to be certain that they accurately reflect current and future forecasted costs.

Focus on new cost effective technologies and changed processes for improved productivity

A good example already underway is barcoding for Inventory Control, which has been implemented in two of our districts. Such new technologies must be cost effective, improve system reliability, and enhance member service and value.

Focus on new national energy initiatives

We will explore energy efficiency tax credits and renewable sources of power such as wind, solar, and



Cecil O. Smith, Jr.
General Manager & CEO

biomass. Through NCEMC, we are working hard to be in compliance with NC's Senate Bill 3. In particular, there is much focus on wind power in our region. (There is a good article on an operational wind farm on page E of Tideland Topics).

Focus on our employees

The strength and reputation of Tideland EMC rests with our employees. We will always invest in their talents and abilities so Tideland can continue its reputation for reliable, cost effective, and friendly service.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your general manager. I look forward to meeting many of you over the next few months.

Camp Scholarships: Give It Your Best Shot

Tideland EMC will provide an all-expenses-paid scholarship for one girl to attend the Kay Yow Basketball Camp in Raleigh and one boy to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill this summer. The camps will work closely with each camper to develop fundamental skills that will help them excel on and off the court.

Rising sixth through eighth graders are eligible to apply and Tideland EMC will begin accepting applications on January 5, 2009. The deadline to

apply is March 27, 2009. Applicants will be judged on academics, extra-curricular activities and written essay.

Students can download an application at www.ncelectriccooperatives.com. Find out more about the Kay Yow camp at www.kayyowcamps.com. For Roy Williams camp details visit www.roywilliamsbasketballcamp.com. For application information call Heidi Smith at Tideland EMC at 252.944.2410.



REAL INSPIRING TEACHERS: 2008-09 BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT RECIPIENTS



6
ENERGY SAVING
RESOLUTIONS

TEACHERS INTERESTED IN APPLYING FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF BRIGHT IDEAS FUNDING MAY VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT WWW.NCBRIGHTIDEAS.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION. HERE ARE OUR MOST RECENT WINNERS. CONGRATULATIONS!

Emily Harper and Yvonne Hardison
Arapahoe Charter
"Wild, Wonderful, Words"

Students will receive intensive, individualized instruction using the "Wordmaker" reading skills program.

Roxanne Beeman
Eastern Elementary
"We've Got Rocks In Our Head!"

A wide variety of materials will be purchased to establish a rock, fossil and mineral library.

Joy Russell
Vanceboro-Farm Life
"North Carolina Treasures"

A North Carolina history section will be established in the school's media center.

Rita Thiel, Linda Willis, Cassie Galbier, Mary Ellen Piland, Evlena Mutro and Claudia Mooto
Ocracoke School
"Discovery Tubs"

Materials will be purchased to create three "Discovery Tubs" related to earth science, life science and physical science.

Josephine Munda
Mattamuskeet Elementary
"Project Robotics"

Students will gain experience in computer programming and real world problem solving by creating their own robots.

Crystal Swindell
Pungo Christian Academy
"CSI: PCA"

Students will gather and process evidence from a simulated crime scene. The ethical and legal implications of DNA technology as they relate to the victim, the accused and the innocent will also be explored.

Melanie Simmons and Donna Woolard
Northeast Elementary
"Another Quiz on Senteo? Awesome!"

Building on a previous Bright Ideas grant called "Classroom Jeopardy" students will incorporate the Senteo interactive response system into learning activities.

Alida Sawyer
John C. Tayloe Elementary
"Now, We're Talking Math!"

Exceptional needs students will create talking photo albums to help master math vocabulary words and in turn promote word problem solving.

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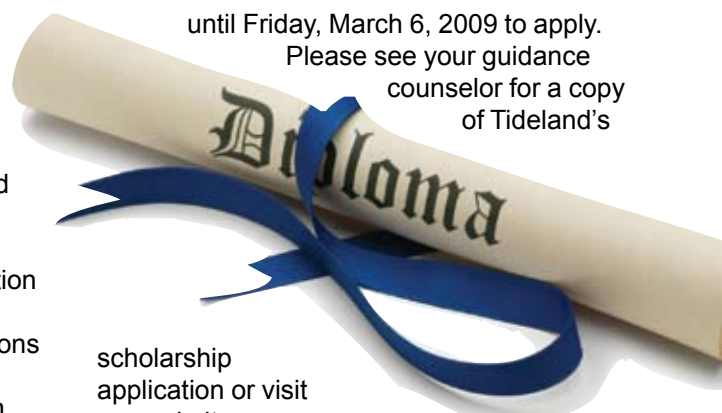
IN 2009 I WILL:

1. ONLY INSTALL ENERGY SAVING LIGHTBULBS
2. ONLY WASH CLOTHES IN COLD WATER
3. INSTALL A WATER HEATER BLANKET
4. CHANGE HVAC FILTERS MONTHLY
5. TURN OFF OR UNPLUG ALL ELECTRICAL ITEMS WHEN NOT IN USE
6. MAINTAIN ENERGY SAVING THERMOSTAT SETTINGS

CASH FOR THE CLASS OF '09

Tideland EMC is accepting college scholarship applications from all high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties. The co-op will award eight \$500 scholarships. Applications are scored using the following criteria: Scholastic Achievement 50%, Financial Need 25% and Extracurricular Activities 25%. In addition to the application, scholarship candidates must include 1) a letter detailing their reasons for applying for the scholarship and their future plans; 2) a letter of recommendation from their principal, guidance counselor or academic advisor; 3) a complete transcript of high school courses and grades; and 4) SAT or ACT scores if applicable. Students have

until Friday, March 6, 2009 to apply. Please see your guidance counselor for a copy of Tideland's



scholarship application or visit our website: www.tidelandemc.com and click on the Bright Ideas tab. For more information call Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410.

Amy Barsanti
 Pines Elementary
 "Science P.L.A.C.E. (Portable Lab for Active, Creative Experiments)"
 Students will design and conduct science experiments while maintaining the portable lab as part of an after-school club.

Wendy Ventresca
 Eastern Elementary
 "Music Around The World"
 Students will learn about countries around the world through a multicultural carpet and instruments.

Patricia Morris, Lee Kirkman, Brenda Laughinghouse, Hope Mauney and Terrill Hardy
 West Craven High School
 "WCHS Beautification Project"
 Students will create a courtyard area between the school's cafeteria and newly built performing arts center. The project will be a joint effort of the horticulture, construction trade and occupational preparation classes.



2009 Bright Ideas Grant Recipients with Tideland EMC's general manager Cecil Smith, Jr. and board members Wayne Sawyer and Ray Hamilton

www.tidelandemc.com

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TIDELAND EMC WILL BE CLOSED THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 FOR THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY. WE WILL RESUME NORMAL OFFICE HOURS ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 2.

Watch Those Watts

The initial cost of portable electric space heaters makes them quite popular with consumers; that is until the electric bill arrives. Before plugging in that kilowatt consuming beast take a moment to consider the true costs.

Electric Space Heater Usage & Costs								
Heat Setting (watts)	Daily Hours of Operation							
	1	2	4	6	8	10	12	24
600	\$0.06	\$0.12	\$0.23	\$0.35	\$0.46	\$0.58	\$0.69	\$1.39
750	\$0.07	\$0.14	\$0.29	\$0.43	\$0.58	\$0.72	\$0.87	\$1.73
900	\$0.09	\$0.17	\$0.35	\$0.52	\$0.69	\$0.87	\$1.04	\$2.08
1350	\$0.13	\$0.26	\$0.52	\$0.78	\$1.04	\$1.30	\$1.56	\$3.12
1500	\$0.14	\$0.29	\$0.58	\$0.87	\$1.16	\$1.44	\$1.73	\$3.47

Heat Setting	Cost/Week	Cost/Month
600	\$ 9.71	\$ 41.60
750	\$12.13	\$ 52.00
900	\$14.56	\$ 62.40
1350	\$21.84	\$ 93.60
1500	\$24.27	\$104.00

When selecting a space heater, remember that a \$50 "big box store" heater performs as well as a \$400 nationally advertised model of the same wattage. Be wary of ads featuring "special" electric technology; a watt is a watt.
 Also be sure to buy a unit with a tip-over switch so it turns off if it falls or is knocked over. Always turn off the heater when you leave the room.

Note: If the heater also has a fan, the actual cost may be more than the amounts shown.

Source: Lisa Taylor Galizia, Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

NC Co-ops Sign On To Iowa Wind Project

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), the power supply organization for the majority of the state's electric cooperatives including Tideland, is participating in a wind farm located in Story County, Iowa, and operated by a subsidiary of FPL Energy.

NCEMC, a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative, joins five other G&Ts across the country in the historic joint project, believed to be the first time several cooperative utilities from different regions of the country have banded together to reap the benefits of a large-scale wind project.

The Story County Wind Energy Center is comprised of 100 General Electric 1.5 megawatt turbines. At maximum capacity, the facility will

be capable of generating enough electricity for approximately 37,500 average size homes.

The participating G&Ts will purchase the entire output of the 150 MW Wind Energy Center. NCEMC's share will be 12 megawatts. The G&Ts will also share Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from the project, which they may use for their own account or sell into the REC marketplace.

The Story County facility began commercial operation in November. The energy generated by the facility will be consumed in the region served by the Midwest ISO, an independent, regional transmission organization responsible for maintaining balance and reliability of the area's electric grid system.


North Carolina's electric cooperatives are committed to furthering the development of renewable energy. This project, while located in Iowa, presents an opportunity to gain further insight into utility scale wind energy resources that may one day find a home in North Carolina. The Iowa project is an important addition to the cooperatives' portfolio of renewable resources.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives' newly formed company, GreenCo Solutions, will manage the RECs associated with the output of the facility. The RECs may be used to assist the NC cooperatives in complying with North Carolina's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, established in Senate Bill 3 by the state legislature, or may be sold into the REC marketplace.





The cleanest energy
is the energy we never use.



Energy efficient electric technologies along with sensible building design and construction methods hold more promise for our energy future than all renewable resources combined. Enlighten your mind. Empower your life. Embrace efficiency.



Tideland EMC

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Attend One Of Tideland's **FREE** Residential Energy Workshops
Thursday, January 15, 2009 • 7 pm
Tideland EMC Corporate Office • 25831 Hwy. 264 East • Pantego
Thursday, February 5, 2009 • 6:30 p.m.
Ocracoke Community Center • Ocracoke Island