



# REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER. Tideland Topics

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

## CASH CROP: Take advantage of our new Energy Star rebate programs

Tideland EMC is picking up two Energy Star incentive programs that recently ended.

On December 31, 2011, the heat pump water heater federal tax credit expired. In its place Tideland EMC will offer a \$300 rebate to offset the purchase of a qualifying model. Additional details can be found on page 27.

The co-op will also implement a new Energy Star home rebate worth \$1,250 to pick up where the state's Energy Star Plus Manufactured Housing rebate program left off on January 31, 2012. Tideland's rebate will apply to both manufactured housing and site built homes. See page 28 for more information.



Learn About Co-ops

### Credit Unions Build a Better World

Financial Cooperative



More than 7,300 credit unions in all 50 states provide 90 million members with lower fees and better rates. [www.aSmarterChoice.org](http://www.aSmarterChoice.org)

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- Credit unions are the largest cooperative sector in America.
- Members save \$6.7 billion a year in lower fees and better rates—\$75 in savings per member.

#### CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY:

In 2011, credit unions raised \$300,000 to assist with disaster recovery efforts in North Dakota, Missouri, and Alabama.

### Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World

A message from America's Electric Cooperatives



## Message to our Member-Owners: Dead serious about copper theft

### Right of Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lewis Tree Service to trim trees in our right of way.

In March they will work in Ocracoke village and the following areas in Bath:

- South Boyd Rd
- Jackson Swamp Rd
- Springdale Village
- Possum Hill Rd
- Creek Rd
- Stell Rd
- Turnage Rd
- Hawkins Beach Rd
- Camp Leach Rd
- Duck Creek Rd

and all small roads & lanes off of the above listed roads.

**By Paul Spruill**  
General Manager & CEO

*In October 2011, Ameren electric utility employees in southern Illinois were sent to repair an outage and found the cause—a man had cut into an energized wire while attempting to steal copper. He was dead, and his two accomplices fled the scene.*

Two months earlier a North Carolina man broke into an electric cooperative's substation in Robeson County to steal copper. He was perched atop a high-voltage regulator when he apparently cut a wire. The jolt of electricity knocked him 10 feet away from the regulator, and he was pronounced dead at the scene.

In West Virginia, two people face first-degree murder charges because of a botched copper theft attempt in an Appalachian Power substation. Three thieves broke in and were stealing copper wire when one was severely burned. The current left a large hole in his leg where it left his body. He was surrounded by copper wire. He died a day later, and his accomplices, who were engaged in the felony that resulted in his death, are facing murder charges.

Members of Oklahoma Electric Cooperative are facing an estimated \$1 million repair bill because copper thieves wrecked a substation for just \$100 worth of copper. The damage caused an outage and

destroyed regulators and a large transformer valued at \$600,000.

As the value of copper has doubled in recent years, the metal is becoming more tempting to would-be thieves. While Tideland has been the victim of such theft itself we're fortunate that no one has been injured or died in the pursuit of copper .... so far. It's clearly a dangerous game of Russian roulette that could unintentionally result in a death sentence.

If you notice suspicious activity around substations, poles, towers, transformers, and storage sites please report it to Tideland or local law enforcement immediately.

## Tideland EMC camper honored during halftime

Toni Swain of Washington County Union School was recognized for winning a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarship from Tideland EMC during a special halftime presentation at a North Carolina State University Wolfpack Women's basketball game. Swain reunited with 22 basketball camp scholarship winners at Reynolds Coliseum in Raleigh to watch the Wolfpack Women take on the Lady Tar Heels on Jan. 22.

Swain was selected out of numerous applicants to attend the Kellie Harper Women's Basketball Academy at N.C. State University last July on an all-expense-paid scholarship from Tideland EMC.

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# What Are My Lighting Options?

Starting in 2012, lightbulbs must be more energy efficient.

The three most common bulb options consumers will find on store shelves are:



## Halogen incandescents

**Energy Savings:**\* 25 percent

**Lifespan:**\* Three times longer

**Annual Energy Cost:** \$3.50



## Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

**Energy Savings:**\* 75 percent

**Lifespan:**\* 10 times longer

**Annual Energy Cost:** \$1.20



## Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)

**Energy Savings:**\* 75-80 percent

**Lifespan:**\* 25 times longer

**Annual Energy Cost:** \$1

## Get \$300 back when you install a qualifying heat pump water heater

If you are in the market to replace your existing water heater, consider a technology upgrade with an Energy Star rated heat pump water heater (HPWH). Up to 62% more efficient than a standard electric model, the average homeowner could expect to save approximately 2,683 kilowatt hours a year. That translates into \$24 a month off your electric bill and nearly \$3,000 in energy savings in the first 10 years of ownership.

Tideland participated in a project with other eastern North Carolina co-ops to conduct real world testing

of GE's GeoSpring HPWH to validate savings claims. The GeoSpring was installed in 2010 in a Habitat for Humanity home occupied by an adult and three children. A separate electric

meter was installed to isolate and measure the energy used by the HPWH. The water heater thermostat was set at 120° F. During the first year of operation the water heater consumed 1,366 kilowatt hours of electricity costing the family of four less than \$150. That outperforms the manufacturer's own test data which was based on a cooler climate than that of eastern North Carolina.

While typical water heaters use energy to generate heat, HPWHs get their high efficiency ratings by transferring ambient heat that

naturally exists in the atmosphere to heat the water. During periods of high demand, HPWHs are also equipped with heating elements to ensure temperature consistency and rapid recovery.

How do operating costs compare to other forms of water heating?

### Estimated daily energy costs

HPWH	\$0.668*
Marathon (electric)	\$1.405*
Propane (storage)	\$1.851**
Propane (tankless)	\$1.400**

\*Assumes kWh price of 11.1¢

\*\*Assumes propane price of \$2.52 per gallon



Hybrid heat pump water heaters, like this GE GeoSpring, are available at local home improvement stores

### Rebate Details:

- Valid for qualifying HPWH purchases made between March 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012.

- Limit one rebate per primary residence.

Vacation homes and rentals do not qualify.

- Unit must replace an existing electric resistance water heater. New construction does not qualify.

- Energy factor  $\geq$  2.0

- Minimum tank size: 50 gallons

- Member must submit a rebate request form available online at [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

For more information contact Tideland rebate program manager Heidi Smith at 252-944-2410.

\* As compared to traditional incandescent bulbs

# \$1,250 rebate for Energy Star homes

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

In 2011, the North Carolina Energy Office along with the US Department of Energy and state utilities teamed up to offer rebates for Energy Star manufactured homes. In Tideland territory few members utilized the program until Hurricane Irene struck. Between December and January eleven Tideland EMC members replaced their hurricane damaged dwellings with Energy Star certified homes and in the process qualified for a \$1,500 rebate. The state program, which was extended an extra month, officially expired January 31, 2012.

With the program proving to be so helpful to Tideland members the co-op has decided to continue the program through the end of 2012 with a rebate of \$1,250. The rebate will include Energy Star manufactured homes as well as new "stick built" homes that obtain Energy Star certification. A certificate of occupancy must be obtained no later than December

31, 2012. The Tideland rebate applies to primary residences only. Vacation and rental homes do not qualify. Homes purchased prior to January 31, 2012 do not qualify for the rebate.

Home buyers and/or builders should contact the co-op's rebate program manager Heidi Smith at 252-944-2410 before beginning the buying/building process to ensure compliance with rebate program guidelines.

A rebate request form and additional information about Energy Star construction standards can be found on the co-op's website: [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com).



## Camper recognized

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She won the scholarship because of her outstanding application and accompanying essay and is the daughter of Lisa and Tony Swain.

Macy Morgan of Pungo Christian Academy also attended the Kellie Harper

Women's Basketball Academy on a Tideland EMC scholarship last summer but was unable to attend the Jan. 22 basketball game. She is the daughter of Mike and Marcy Morgan.

## Tideland Topics

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

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**MARCH 16 IS NC ARBOR DAY: GIVE YOUR TREE THE CHANCE TO LIVE A LONG, HEALTHY LIFE BY PLANTING OUTSIDE THE UTILITY RIGHT OF WAY**

## Last shot to apply this year

This summer Tideland EMC will provide all-expenses paid scholarships for one girl to attend the NC State Girls Basketball Camp in Raleigh (June 24-27) and one boy to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill (June 16-20). The camps will work closely with attendees to develop fundamental skills to help students both on and off the court.

Rising sixth through eighth graders are eligible to apply.

The application deadline is March 30.

Applicants will be judged on academics, extra-curricular activities and written essay.



Applications have been mailed to all middle school coaches in Tideland's six county service territory. Students can also download an application at our website: [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com). For more information call program coordinator Heidi Smith at Tideland EMC at 252.944.2410.