

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

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

GOOD NEWS & BAD NEWS:

Heat pump water heater update

It's rare that Tideland Topics goes to press with bad information. And in this case the information wasn't bad, just dated by the time the magazine arrived in member mailboxes.

Last month we announced the state's decision to offer another round of Energy Star appliance rebates to the tune of \$1.5 million. To participate, consumers had to reserve their rebates online. Apparently the rebate reservations went faster than MegaMillions lottery ticket sales because by the time the April magazine came out all the funds had been reserved. We apologize for getting your hopes up, especially about the potential to get up to \$600 back when purchasing a heat pump water heater (HPWH). Nevertheless, the Tideland EMC HPWH rebate is good through December 31, 2012.

Furthermore, in response to member inquiries, Tideland has decided to open the HPWH rebate up to members switching from propane water heating. While we are only able to claim state energy efficiency credits for those HPWHs that replace electric storage tanks, we want to help members coping with high propane prices make the transition to state of the art hybrid electric water heating technology.

Fortunately, retail prices for HPWHs have dropped \$300 to \$400 since their debut on the retail market. Combined with the \$300 Tideland rebate that makes owning a HPWH even more cost effective.

For more information visit www.tidelandemc.com or call rebate program manager Heidi Smith at 252-944-2410.

Every Degree=Dollars

SAVE! Don't let summer heat burn your budget. When home, set your thermostat to 78°.

Going out for the day? By turning your thermostat up 10°-15° when you're out of the house, you can cut your electric bill by up to 15 percent. That's a savings of up to 1 percent for every degree you raise your thermostat (based on eight hours).

78°

Source: EnergySavers.gov



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Allocation of 2011 member margins

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

As a not-for-profit, member owned cooperative, Tideland EMC's year end margins are allocated to each member-owner for future refund. This is in keeping with our mandate to deliver electric service at cost. Margins represent those dollars remaining after all our expenses have been paid.

The total amount allocated to your member account is based on the amount of energy you purchased from the cooperative during 2011. For 2011 margins, the allocation factor is 4.455¢ per \$1 of revenue received. The following table illustrates allocations based on typical residential energy use:

2011 Member Margins Allocated to Members			
If you paid this much for power in 2011:	\$1200	\$1800	\$2400
Your share of 2011 member margins is:	\$53.46	\$80.19	\$106.92

Allocated margins appear as an entry on Tideland's permanent financial records and reflect your ownership equity in Tideland. Margins represent an interest-free loan of operating capital by the membership to the cooperative. This helps the cooperative keep electric rates low for everyone. As member equity builds we incrementally retire previous years' margins. When margins are retired, a check or electric bill credit is issued and your equity in Tideland is reduced.

The timing of margin retirements is dictated by the cooperative's overall financial picture and capital requirements and is subject to the approval of the federal government's Rural Utilities Service. To date Tideland EMC has refunded over \$9.85 million to members and former members of the cooperative. Early retirements are made to the estates of deceased members and should be requested by the clerk of court or executor upon a member's passing.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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YOU'RE INVITED: ATTEND TIDELAND EMC'S ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS ON THURSDAY, MAY 17 AND YOU COULD WIN A \$350 ELECTRIC BILL CREDIT



ENTRY DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 21

Motivation for Classroom Innovation

Tideland EMC is currently accepting Bright Ideas grant applications. Bright Ideas grants provide funding for a variety of hands-on educational projects.

Awards up to \$2,000 are made to K-12 teachers to improve classroom instruction and encourage innovative teaching methods.

Grant proposals that involve the study of energy are highly encouraged including renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Since 1994, the state's electric co-ops have awarded \$7.9 million to fund 7,700 Bright Ideas projects reaching more than 1.4 million students. Tideland applications may be submitted online at www.ncbrightideas.com. Deadline for entries is September 21.

Teachers who submit an application by August 17 will be entered into an early-bird prize drawing for a \$500 Visa gift card.

For more information call program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or 1.800.637.1079, extension 1140.