

FEBRUARY ■ 2009



REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER. Tideland Topics

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

POWER BUY: QVC and co-ops install state's largest solar farm

Tideland EMC, through its member owned cooperative GreenCo Solutions, has partnered with multimedia retailer QVC, to install a 1-megawatt solar farm at the shopping network's distribution center in Rocky Mount, N.C. The project began commercial operation in November 2008. It is expected to generate approximately 1.6 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually.

Through a 10-year agreement,

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation will purchase the energy produced by the facility and GreenCo Solutions will purchase the renewable energy credits.

Under the state's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard electric co-ops must obtain up to 10 percent of their energy through renewable resources or energy efficiency measures by 2018.



REAL FRIENDS:



Friends of Pocosin Lakes

A friend in need is a friend indeed. Fortunately, when the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge needs a friend it doesn't have far to look. Refuge staff can call on the Friends of Pocosin Lakes.

The group formed after a protracted and successful campaign to stop construction of an outlying landing field in Washington and Beaufort counties. Young and old alike developed a new appreciation for the refuge and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

SEEDS OF
FRIENDSHIP

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 17

its resident wildlife after realizing that nature's balance could be so easily disrupted.

In September, carpentry students at Washington High School answered a unique duck call sounded by Friends of the Pocosin. They volunteered to build 40 wooden duck houses to replace nests destroyed by the Evans Road Fire last summer. The Pocosin NWR encompasses more than 110,000 acres in Hyde, Washington and Tyrrell counties. Since its establishment in 1990, more than 200 species of birds have been identified within the refuge.

To join the Friends of the Pocosin visit their new website: www.pocosinlakes.com

Message to our Member-Owners: The integrity touchstone

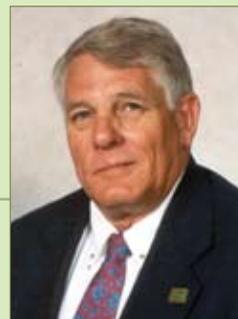
Editor's Note: This is the first installment of a four-part series by Tideland EMC's board officers discussing the unifying principles of Touchstone Energy cooperatives.

A touchstone is defined as a test of excellence and quality. It derives from the ancient practice of using a black siliceous stone to test the purity of gold and silver by the color of the streak produced on it by rubbing it with either metal.

The Touchstone Energy brand was created 10 years ago to give cooperatives a unifying measure by which to gauge individual performance and to establish a core set of values that form the basis of service excellence. At the time utilities were facing the possibility of widespread deregulation and electric cooperatives knew that turbulent times require steadfast beacons if they

hoped to successfully navigate change. It was by design that integrity was established as the core principal by which Touchstone Energy cooperatives are expected to operate.

Corporate integrity does not happen by chance. It starts at the highest levels of an organization and fosters that quality in each of its employees and agents. Since the collapse of Enron we have seen an alarming increase in the harm that arises when corporate integrity is lost. Only in the last five years has Harvard Business School required that ethics be made a core part of required curriculum. Previously it was taught as an elective.



Ray Hamilton
President

Sir Francis Bacon correctly said, "It is not what we profess but what we practice that gives us integrity." To the greatest extent possible Tideland EMC develops written policies and clearly defines corporate goals so our expectations for unwavering integrity are clear and carried out by every member of the organization.

Acting with integrity does not ensure success in everything we do but without it failure is certain. Like that ancient test of purity the proof of our character is found in the mark we leave behind. We hope it is always one of integrity.

FOR AFFORDABLE COMFORT

Think Outside The Thermostat



Try these heat boosting tips this winter to avoid turning up the thermostat.

- Drink hot liquids using your coffee maker or microwave to heat the water
- Prop your oven door open after you've finished baking to let the residual heat escape

- At a recent Tideland energy workshop one attendee recommended making a rice sock. Put a pound or two of rice in a tube sock, tie off the end or stitch it closed, and microwave it for a minute. It makes the perfect bed warmer and reportedly works wonders on sore, aching muscles!

Chasing the sun with solar tracking technology

4
FACTS ABOUT
THE QVC
SOLAR FARM

QVC selected SunPower Corporation to design and install its 1-megawatt solar power farm in Rocky Mount. The system, which covers a five acre area, employs a sophisticated tracking technology that substantially boosts energy production. Benefits of the tracking technology include:

Higher Energy Delivery

The SunPower Tracker delivers 25 percent more energy per land area than fixed solar systems

Single-Axis Design

Fewer moving parts and motors means greater reliability and lower operating and maintenance costs

No Panel Shading

Sophisticated algorithms avoid panel shading which increases energy production



Efficient Use of Land

Requires 1/2 the land area of conventional tracking systems

With demand for solar installations at an all time high it's no small achievement that the QVC project was completed on

budget and brought on line ahead of schedule.

More Solar Bound for NC

With all of the state's utilities under a legislative mandate to become more green and efficient there are a number of solar projects on the horizon. Software developer SAS has installed a 1-megawatt project in Cary. A 1.2-megawatt project is headed to Wilmington. And soon Davidson County will be home to the nation's largest

solar project, an 18-megawatt farm that will sell power to Duke Energy.

Illustration courtesy of SunPower Corp.

1.

1 MEGAWATT IS ENOUGH ENERGY TO POWER 150 HOMES

2.

WILL REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS BY 3.1 MILLION POUNDS, THE EQUIVALENT OF REMOVING 259 CARS FROM THE ROAD ANNUALLY

3.

USING SOLAR TRACKING TECHNOLOGY THE SYSTEM CAN CAPTURE UP TO 25 PERCENT MORE SUN THAN FIXED SOLAR SYSTEMS

4.

THE FACILITY IS EXPECTED TO GENERATE 1.6 MILLION KILOWATT HOURS ANNUALLY



Pictured with N.C. STATE MASCOTS Mr. and Mrs. WUF are NCEMC's Morgan Lashley (left) and Tideland's camp scholar Kiara Smith (right).

Kiara Smith of Washington was among 21 young ladies recognized for receiving a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarship to attend the 2008 Kay Yow Basketball Camp at N.C. State University. Kiara's scholarship was sponsored by Tideland EMC. Kiara was honored during halftime at the Wolfpack Women's basketball game on December 7 against the University of Florida. Kiara is a 7th grader at P.S. Jones Middle School.

Scholarship winners and their guests were treated to a catered lunch when they arrived at Reynolds Coliseum. At halftime, the campers were recognized on the court, receiving a certificate of achievement. Kiara was selected as a scholarship winner based on her outstanding application and written essay.

Director Nominations Underway

It is once again time to nominate candidates for Tideland's annual director elections. The nominating committee will meet February 9, 2009 to consider candidates for districts 4, 5, 6 and 8 represented by Jimmy Burbage, Paul Sasnett, Wayne Sawyer and Clifton Paul respectively. Interested candidates should contact a member of the nominating committee prior to the meeting. The committee's nominees will be posted at all Tideland offices on February 10, 2009.

Nominations can also be made by submitting a petition signed by 15 co-op members no later than February 24, 2009.

DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

The following guidelines are excerpted from Board Policy No. 302 and Bylaw 4.02 to ensure quality representation.

Legal & Personal Requirements

1. A Tideland member & bonafide resident of the directorial district.
2. A member no less than 2 years on the date of election.
3. Willing to promote & protect the co-op's interests.
4. Able to impartially represent the entire co-op membership.
5. Willing to regularly attend board meetings.

6. Can not be a close relative of an existing director or employee.
7. Is not employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise.
8. Was not previously employed by TEMC, any other utility/energy company, or any entity which substantially rendered services to a utility/energy company.

Aspects of Service

1. Put forth the effort to understand the co-op and provide sound judgement to reach decisions.
2. Respect official decisions made by a majority of the board.
3. Objectively evaluate questions and problems facing TEMC.

Points to Consider

1. Has the member demonstrated sound business judgement?
2. Has the member shown a capacity for leadership & a reputation for honesty & integrity?
3. Has the member shown a capacity for working well with others?
4. What problems might hinder the nominee's success?

For more information or to determine which district you reside in call corporate services manager Myra Beasley at 943-3046, ext. 1125 or 1-800-637-1079.

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ray Hamilton, President
J. Douglas Brinson, Vice President
Clifton Paul, Secretary
Paul Sasnett, Treasurer
Rudy Austin, Leon Bryant,
Jimmy Burbage, Mark Carawan,
David Ipock, Garry Jordan,
& Wayne Sawyer

GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Cecil O. Smith, Jr.

EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

24-Hour Customer Service
252.943.3046
800.637.1079

Outage Reporting &
Automated Services
252.944.2400
800.882.1001

FREE HOME ENERGY AUDIT CALCULATOR: [HTTP://HES.LBL.GOV/](http://HES.LBL.GOV/)

2009 ANNUAL ELECTION COMMITTEES

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

CONTACT PRIOR TO 02/09/09 TO BE CONSIDERED FOR NOMINATION

- District 1: Frank Allen • 8053 NC 99 N • Pantego, NC 27860 • 935-5269
District 2: Olian Williams, Jr. • 1150 Puddin Hill Rd • Scranton, NC 27875 • 926-1811
District 3: Dennis Benston • 31791 US Hwy. 264 E • Engelhard, NC 27824 • 925-2061
District 4: Mike Paul • 2264 Yeatesville Rd • Bath, NC 27808 • 964-2250
District 5: Horace Waters 8098 Slatestone Rd • Washington, NC 27889 • 927-3150
District 6: Leroy Sadler • 950 Stilley Town Rd • Blounts Creek, NC 27814 • 322-5261
District 7: L. Thomas Gillikin • 11189 NC 306 S • Aurora, NC 27806 • 322-5597
District 8: Vincent Sevenski • 325 Harper Rd • Bayboro, NC 28515 • 745-5513
District 9: Buck H. Jones • 4391 Don Lee Rd • Arapahoe, NC 28510 • 249-1541
District 10: John Mitchell • 1209 Santa Lucia Dr • New Bern, NC 28560 • 633-9957
District 11: Vincent O'Neal • PO Box 74 • Ocracoke, NC 27960 • 928-5951

ELECTIONS & CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Bruce Bowen • Plymouth
Ben Watford • New Bern
Sue Conway • Bath
Ernie Everett • Pinetown
R. Del Franklin • Ernul
Darrell Cayton • Edward
E. Douglas Cahoon • Oriental
David Styron • Ocracoke
Melvin Blount • Engelhard