

DECEMBER 2010

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

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

MERRY MARGINS: Your capital credit refund is on the way

Tideland EMC's board of directors has authorized a general retirement of capital credits totaling \$436,639. The refund applies to members served during the years 1984 and/or 2009. Active members with a past due account or a refund of less than \$50 will have the credit applied to their December electric bill. All other active members will be mailed a check.

As a not-for-profit, member-owned cooperative, Tideland provides service at cost. Any funds remaining after expenses have been paid are eventually returned to members through a

series of capital credit refunds. The amount returned to each member is based on the total amount he or she paid for electric service during the year for which the refund is made.



During the first 10 months of 2010, Tideland had already refunded capital credits totaling \$314,610 to the estates of deceased members. That means by year end the total refunded to members in 2010 will exceed \$751,249.

Members are reminded that when moving off system, make sure the cooperative has your forwarding address for future capital credit retirements.

REAL GIVING:



Tis the season for a H.U.G.

Want to brighten the Holiday Season for someone special? Give a H.U.G. ... a Home Utility Gift!

We'll be glad to credit any Tideland EMC member's account in the gift amount of your choice. Gifts must be paid in full with cash, check or credit card.

We'll also provide you with a special holiday greeting card to notify the recipient of your gift. Call 1.800.637.1079 for details.



Message to our Member-Owners: Optimistic end to 2010

By Cecil O. Smith, Jr.
General Manager & CEO

Tax Credit Deadline:

Federal tax credits for energy savings windows, doors, roofs, insulation and conventional heating and air conditioning systems are set to expire December 31, 2010.

Be sure to obtain the manufacturer's certification statement for qualifying products so you can claim the credit.

As 2010 draws to a close, there are signs of optimism in what had looked to be an increasingly dark year.

That's not to say that there aren't still challenges and struggles ahead. We know many Tideland members are hurting in these rough economic times. That's why we have diligently worked to assist members struggling to make ends meet. Many of you have made that help possible by contributing to our Operation Round Up program which funds heating and cooling assistance for the needy.

Member interest in energy savings and renewable energy remains at an all time high. We are on track to complete over 170 free energy audits by year end, helping members identify the most economical ways to save energy. And by November we had interconnected with 3 member owned solar photovoltaic

systems and are pleased to do our part to be supportive of appropriate green energy projects.

We're particularly pleased to end the year with a capital credit refund to members who received service during years 1984 and/or 2009. It serves as a reminder that the co-op is not just a member owned organization but a member focused one as well.

That's why we've waged what occasionally seems like an uphill battle to keep rates affordable. With many of our business expenses dictated by outside forces we've had to dig deep internally. Part of our financial analysis revealed long term savings associated with conversion to automated metering technology around which we will interconnect to the smart grid. As we went to press with this newsletter, more than 10,000 smart meters had been installed.

Already we've reduced our reliance on contract meter readers and by 2012 our system will be fully automated.

We remain proactive about tree trimming. It represents a sizeable expenditure yet our more aggressive approach has resulted in fewer outages.

Perhaps the largest cloud looming in the horizon has been the regulation of utility emissions by the Environmental Protection Agency. We feel confident that elected officials will preempt EPA regulation in the short term and return to the table to discuss a balanced, affordable and science based approach to climate issues.

With the holidays approaching, we appreciate and thank each of you as our members. As we end 2010, let's remember to be helpful to one another since that is, after all, the co-op way.

Winter heating outlook bright

The Department of Energy has issued an optimistic outlook for the winter heating season. Households heating with electricity can expect to spend less this winter thanks to greater stability in natural gas prices. That will help contain electric utility generating expenses. Domestic natural gas production has reached levels not seen in more than 35 years due largely to low-cost shale gas.

Forecasters also predict a relatively mild winter which will reduce consumer demand for energy. "A mild winter, coupled with abundant supply, should help keep prices moderate," says Federal Energy Regulatory Commission staffer Chris Ellsworth.

So enjoy the warmer winter weather but remember to be energy wise!



AVOID A VISIT FROM THE GHOST OF KILOWATT HOURS PAST

What would the holidays be without electricity? After all the very essence of Christmas cheer is captured in holiday lights, home baked goodies, mugs of hot cocoa and a warm place to celebrate with family and friends. Unfortunately, thirty days later many will get a visit from the Ghost of Kilowatt Hours Past.

Now we're not saying you have to be a Scrooge when it comes to electric use. You just need to make wise choices.

- Heat pump owners: set your heat pump thermostat at one setting and leave it; raising the temperature more than two degrees will activate the unit's inefficient heat strips.

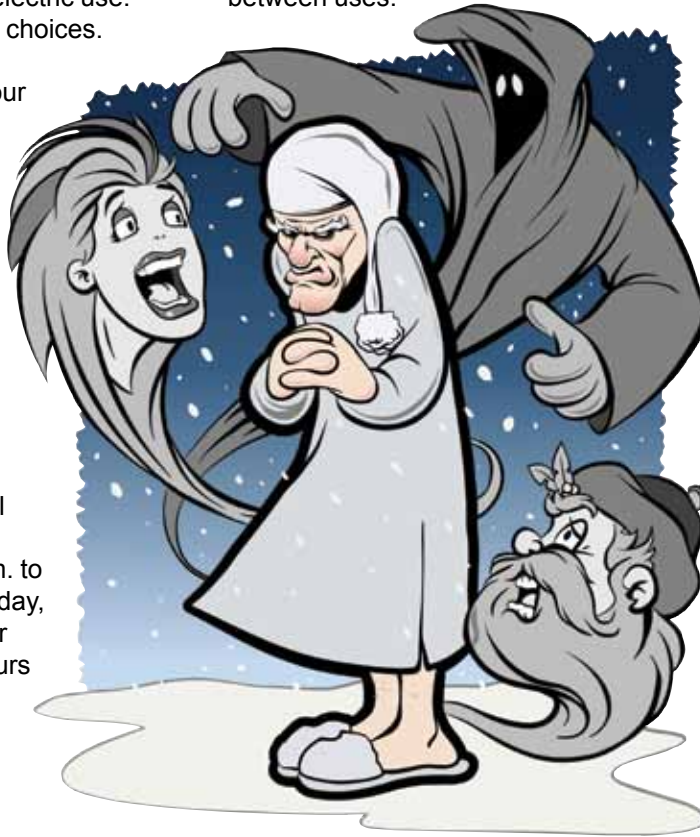
- Electric furnace owners: turn your thermostat down when you are away from home or sleeping.

- Give Tideland's residential time-of-use rate a try. The winter peak hours are 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday, so if you're able to shift your energy use to non-peak hours you could trim 10-20% off your electric bill. And Christmas day is always off peak!

- In your eagerness to save money, don't make the mistake of closing off interior doors or air registers. Doing so robs your central heating system of adequate return air. To compensate, the system will pull in unconditioned air from outside. This unconditioned air enters the home through cracks around doors and windows and even down the chimney. So instead of reheating indoor conditioned air as it circulates back through the return, you are pulling in cold, dirty air.

- Bundle up. Don't re-gift those tacky Christmas socks and sweaters. Put them on while you're around the house! No one will see you and when that low electric bill arrives it will seem like Christmas all over again.

- Two words about heating your home with a wood burning fireplace: Bah! Humbug! Most fireplaces rob your house of heat because they draw air from the room and send it up the chimney. You may be warm sitting 6 feet away, but the rest of your house is getting colder as outdoor air leaks in to replace the air going up the chimney. If a fire is a must, limit it to special occasions and then close the damper between uses.



- Open drapes on south facing windows to let in the sun's natural warmth but remember to close them at night to act as a thermal blanket.

- If you opened your crawlspace vents over the summer, make sure they are closed now that cooler temperatures have arrived.

- If removing your window air conditioner is not an option, make sure you wrap it with plastic to reduce outdoor drafts.

So stay warm this winter, lower those energy bills and in the words of Tiny Electric Bill Tim, "God bless us everyone!"

68

How much can you reduce heating bills this winter by keeping your thermostat at 68° F?

12%
If your usual setting is 70°

24%
If your usual setting is 72°

36%
If your usual setting is 76°

54%
If your usual setting is 78°

And don't forget to change your heating system filter monthly. A dirty filter can increase heating costs 10%.



Bring a new, unwrapped toy to any Tideland EMC office by Thursday, December 9, and we'll make sure it is delivered to a needy child in the local community.

Toy donations are distributed by: The Salvation Army and the Department of Social Services in Hyde, Pamlico & Washington counties.

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REAL POWER.

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www.tidelandemc.com

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Weekday Customer Service
252.943.3046
800.637.1079

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252.944.2400
800.882.1001

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING: OUR OFFICES WILL CLOSE DECEMBER 24 AND REOPEN ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28. TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE CALL 1.800.882.1001

Statement of non-discrimination

Tideland Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participa-

tion in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Myra Beasley, Manager of Corporate Services. Any individual or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administra-

tor of the Rural Utilities Service, Washington, DC 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Cecil O. Smith, Jr.
General Manager and CEO
Tideland EMC
Pantego, NC

BEST
WISHES
FOR A
SAFE AND
HAPPY
HOLIDAY
SEASON

