



REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER. Tideland Topics

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

OUR ENERGY STAR: CFL contest winner practices what he teaches

On December 1, Fairfield Harbour resident David English was named the winner of Tideland EMC's third annual "Change a Light" contest. His reward was a \$400 electric bill credit.



DAVID ENGLISH
CHANGE A LIGHT CONTEST WINNER

English has a history of being attentive to energy costs both personally and professionally. As an environmental science professor at Campbell University's Camp Lejeune campus, English leads his students through an exercise that

requires each to monitor and track his or her own energy use.

English himself has been on Tideland's time-of-use residential rate schedule since 2002. In the past year alone, he and wife Judy have saved \$376.15 with the rate. That's the equivalent of eliminating two power bills a year. English's success is tied to his ability to keep his use of electricity to a minimum during peak periods. For the most recent 12 months, English's on-peak demand has averaged 2.95 kilowatts of demand (kWd). That means he keeps his use of electricity to no more 2,950 watts during peak hours.

Our thanks and congratulations to all who entered the 2009 contest. Nearly 800 CFL purchases were documented and entered into the drawing. Fortunately, we're all winners when we save energy!



TREE TRIMMING SCHEDULE

Tideland EMC has contracted with Lewis Tree Service to trim trees in our utility right of way in the following areas during February:



- Arapahoe Area
- Kennels Beach Rd.
- Bennett Neck Rd.
- S. Neuse Rd.
- Seafarer Rd.
- Buckland Rd.

All small roads & lanes off of the above listed roads will be including in the schedule.

ONLY THE SHADOW KNOWS?

While the groundhog has an abysmal rate of success predicting winter's end, it can't hurt to hope his shadow is no where in sight February 2. Early spring weather would be a relief in Tideland territory.



Message to our Member-Owners: Refocusing our energy on energy

by Cecil O. Smith, Jr. • CEO & General Manager

In the mid-1990s, the electric utility industry was dominated by talk of deregulation across all service levels: generation, transmission and distribution.

While North Carolina ultimately did not mandate deregulation, the state's utility providers prepared themselves for possible legislation.

Electric cooperatives like Tideland faced the potential of becoming a wires only company where consumers conceivably chose their own generating supplier and paid the co-op for just the physical infrastructure needed to deliver power from the grid to their home or business. That would have resulted in a great deal of stranded investment for all retail electricity providers.

To guard against such financial upheaval, many utilities looked to diversifi-

cation to bolster finances. In Tideland's case, we chose to enter the arena of appliance sales and service in 1998.

By late 2001, deregulation hit a brick wall with the infamous fall of Enron and states began to repeal laws that had resulted in high electric rates and a serious lack of investment in the nation's transmission and generation infrastructure.

The effects of the deregulation experiment are still with us. Distracted by the real estate boom and the uncertainty of climate change legislation, investors have shied away from utilities leaving the nation's transmission and generating assets in a serious state of neglect.

Today efforts to modernize electric service from the point of generation to the individual electric meter are all encompassing and

require an "all hands on deck" approach. Therefore, Tideland has completed the sale of Tideland Appliance to former store employee Jim Thompson. Operating as Thompson Appliance, Jim and staff will continue to perform all warranty work for previous Tideland Appliance customers.

While we enjoyed a successful run in the appliance business, our energies are best utilized by fully focusing on innovation and automation of our core business. We're already well underway with the installation of the first 482 smart grid electric meters. Another 3,000 will be installed by early spring. In addition, we are working hard in the areas of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources.

So while one chapter closes in the co-op's history, we are actively moving to create the next one.

HOME HEATING COSTS WEIGHING YOU DOWN?

Sign up for levelized billing

Levelized billing provides you with a way to guard against large fluctuations in your monthly electric bills. Program participants pay a rolling average of their previous 12 months electric use. While you can expect fluctuations in the amount due every month, the changes are minimal. If your usage is trending up the levelized amount will increase. If usage trends down the levelized amount will decrease. Levelized billing helps members with month to month budgeting while at the same time alerting members to increased kilowatt hour (kWh) consumption.

Levelized billing is a free service. Participants must keep their electric account current. Failure to pay by the due date will result in the loss of levelized billing privileges.

To enroll or for more info: 1.800.637.1079



Window treatments can help cure the common cold

CHEAP WAYS TO STAY WARM

Window treatments and coverings aren't just for decoration—they can also go a long way in saving energy. Some carefully selected window treatments, such as draperies and insulating panels, can keep heat from escaping through window panes in winter.

A drapery's ability to reduce heat loss and gain depends on several factors, including fabric type (closed or open weave)

and color. Although it's difficult to generalize about energy performance, when drawn during cold weather most conventional draperies can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10 percent. In winter, you should keep draperies that don't receive direct sunlight closed during the day, and close all draperies at night.



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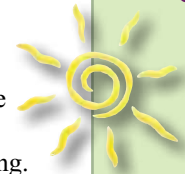
Draperies should be hung as close to windows as possible to reduce heat exchange and should fall onto a

windowsill or floor. For maximum effectiveness, install a cornice at the top of a drapery, or place the drapery against the ceiling. Then seal the drapery at both sides with Velcro or magnetic tape, and overlap it in the center. Such snug

window treatments can reduce heat loss by up to 25 percent.

An inexpensive insulating window panel or pop-in shutter, typically made of a core of rigid foam insulation, also reduces heat loss. The panels are made so that their edges seal tightly against the window frame, and they can be pushed or clipped into the interior of a window. No hardware, such as hinges or latches, is required.

Of course, window treatments aren't effective at reducing air leakage or infiltration, so caulk and weather strip around windows to reduce drafts. Also, draperies work best for winter weather. Window blinds are more effective at reducing summer heat gain than winter heat loss.



1.

Wear warm clothing, There's a reason Snuggles are so popular!

2.

Let direct sunlight in by opening blinds and drapes on sunny days

3.

Drink hot liquids

4.

Use a hot water bottle or rice sock heated in the microwave to warm your bed at night

5.

After you finish baking, prop your oven door open to let the heat escape into the conditioned space

6.

Move! While you may be naturally inclined to hibernate during winter, exercise not only burns calories, it warms you up from the inside out!

Stay Safe, Energy Efficient, and Lint Free

For energy efficient and safe dryer performance, lint must be removed from the dryer and vent to allow air to circulate freely. Here are ways to avoid lint buildup:

- Clean the lint filter after each load.
- Occasionally remove the lint filter and clean it with a nylon brush and hot, soapy water.
- Periodically clean the back of the dryer where lint can be trapped.
- Keep the area around and on top of the dryer clean and free of clutter.
- Have a qualified service person clean the interior of the appliance and venting system once a year.
- Thoroughly clean the vent system if you notice your drying times have increased.



Source: Underwriter Laboratories

Director Nominations Underway

It is once again time to nominate candidates for Tideland's annual director elections. The nominating committee will meet February 25, 2010, to consider candidates for districts 1, 3, 9 and 11 represented by Ray Hamilton, Leon Bryant, J. Douglas Brinson and Rudy Austin 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 26, 2010.

Nominations can also be made by submitting a petition signed by 15 co-op members no later than March 1, 2010.

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 (252) 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

**DID YOU KNOW? CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING CLAIMS 3,800 LIVES A YEAR.
MAKE SURE YOU'RE PROTECTED WITH A WORKING CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR.**

2010 ANNUAL ELECTION COMMITTEES

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

CONTACT PRIOR TO 2/25/10 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: Melvin Blount • 56 Gullrock Road • Engelhard, NC 27824 • 925-2691
District 4: Mike Paul • 2264 Yeatesville Rd • Bath, NC 27808 • 964-4859
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

CREDENTIALS &

ELECTION 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
Dennis Benston • Engelhard