



REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

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

HOW TO USE 289 KWH IN ONE DAY:

Horror story has happy ending

On December 11, 2012, the daughter of an 80-year-old member called Tideland concerning a sudden increase in her mother's electric bill. The elderly woman had been hospitalized a month earlier after suffering a broken leg during which time the heat had been turned off at her home. During the



LARRY JOHNSON PHOTO

previous billing period she had only used 842 kilowatt hours (kWh). Shortly after returning home to recuperate she received a bill for 3,985 kWh. The family called a local heating and air company to check the heating system, which was declared to be in proper working condition. The next phone call was to the co-op.

Tideland EMC energy auditor Larry Johnson promptly visited the member's home and found what the heating contractor overlooked. The main trunk line for the heating system was laying on the ground and the heat was being pumped directly into the crawlspace. That explained why the member never felt warm in the house no matter how long the unit ran.

Another heating and air conditioning company was called to the house and the heating duct was properly sealed with mastic paste. While the duct was disconnected

the meter registered a single day's energy use of 289 kWh.

Following the repairs, the member's meter readings have averaged 46 kWh per day. So with one simple yet vitally important repair the elderly member's energy costs fell from a high of \$31.86 in a single day to \$5.07 per day.

Co-op refunds totaled \$713,335 in 2012

In keeping with our cooperative business principles, Tideland EMC refunded \$713,335 in capital credits during fiscal year 2012. A majority of those dollars were distributed during December when the co-op issued capital credits totaling \$400,000 to members with electric service during the years 1985 and 2011. The remaining balance was distributed throughout the year to the estates of deceased members.

Unclaimed capital credits are escheated to the NC State Treasurer's office where they are held until a claim is filed. Therefore it is important for members to keep the co-op apprised of future address changes even after service has been disconnected so future refunds can reach their rightful owner without delay.

When a member or former member dies, the estate may request a lump sum capital credit refund. The request form can be found online: www.tidelandemc.com/documents/RequestforDeceasedMemberCapitalCredits.pdf



Message to our Member-Owners: January credit better than anticipated

By Paul Spruill

General Manager & CEO

For several months now I've been updating you on numerous items related to electric rate schedules and the factors that influence the costs of generating and delivering power to the Tideland membership.

In the third quarter of 2012 we conducted a rate study that indicated the need for a rate increase effective January 1, 2013. While all long-term indicators point to a rising cost environment for electric utilities, Tideland EMC has benefitted from falling natural gas prices, which in turn have kept generating costs lower than expected. As a result the co-op was able to pass along to members a wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) credit of 0.743¢

per kilowatt hour (kWh) during the month of January. That means for every 1,000 kWh billed in January you received a credit of \$7.43 (1,000 X 0.00743). For the vast majority of members, the WPCA credit negated the impact of the January 2013 rate increase.

tion reports that natural gas drillers are disassembling rigs because of depressed prices and high inventories and will cut back on production until demand increases and prices rebound. Nationwide, the natural gas rig count was at 413 at the end of 2012.

Rights-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lewis Tree Service to trim trees in our rights-of-way. In February working along the Lowland circuit:

- Hwy 306 North of Aurora to the end of Hickory Point
- Spring Creek Rd.
- Hwy 33 from Aurora to the Hobucken Bridge
- Lowland Rd.

Mowing crews will be working on the Hyde County circuit between the ICW Bridge and the Swan Quarter bypass.

GPS crews will be surveying in Blounts Creek (north of Hwy 33) and between Lake Comfort and Engelhard.

RESIDENTIAL RATE 1 COMPARISON

kWh billed	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	Savings
1,200	\$156.04	\$148.27	\$7.77
2,000	\$246.13	\$229.89	\$16.24
2,800	\$336.22	\$311.50	\$24.71

We anticipate issuing additional WPCA credits during February and March. However, market indicators suggest that natural gas prices will stabilize and possibly increase after the first quarter of 2013. A January 9, 2013, report from the U.S. Energy Information Administra-

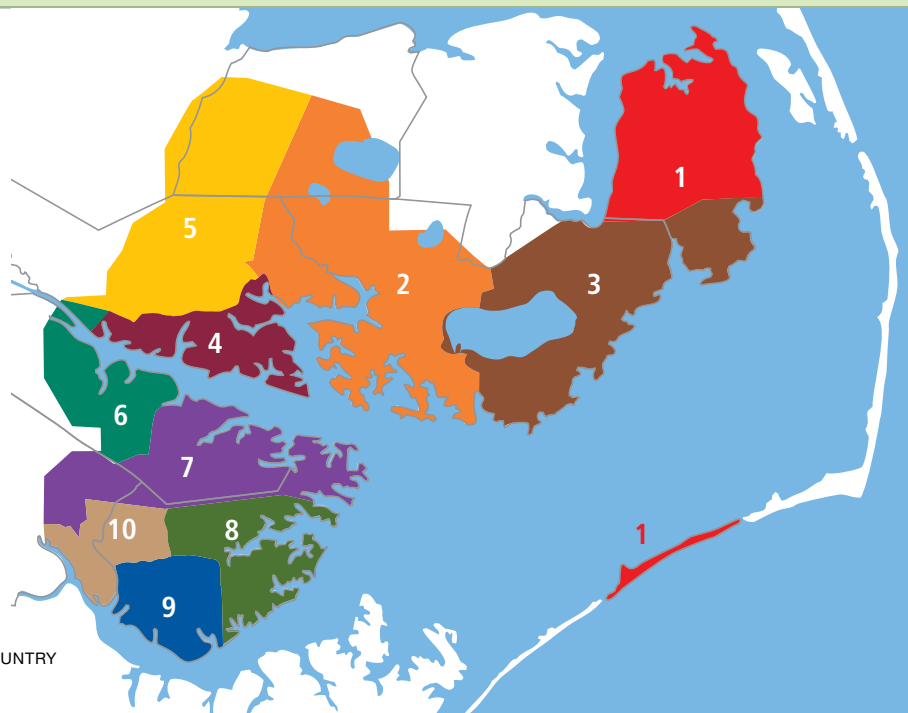
That's almost half of the 811 rigs in operation at the beginning of 2012.

So while WPCA credits may be short lived, I feel confident that the new rate schedules implemented on January 1, 2013 are adequate to meet wholesale power costs through the end of the year.

Director district map

Tideland EMC members are represented by directors from 10 geographical districts as depicted in the map to the right. Directors are elected to a three-year term of service on a rotating basis.

A more detailed map of the director districts including a description of all district boundaries can be found on the co-op's website: www.tidelandemc.com/annualMeeting.aspx.



Director nominations underway

It is once again time to nominate candidates for Tideland's annual director elections. The nominating committee will meet February 7, 2013, to consider candidates for districts 1, 3 and 9 currently represented by Rudy Austin, Leon Bryant and J. Douglas Brinson 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 8, 2013.

Nominations can also be made by submitting a petition signed by 15 co-op members no later than March 11, 2013. The last day to introduce new business via petition is April 30, 2013. The annual meeting of members will be held at Beaufort County Community College on Thursday, May 30, 2013.

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. May 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 annual meeting coordinator Myra Beasley at 943-3046, ext. 1125 or 1-800-637-1079.

2013 Nominating Committee

Vincent O'Neal
PO Box 74
Ocracoke, NC 27960
928-5941

Louie Hubers
7533 NC Hwy 45 N
Belhaven, NC 27810
943-3558

Dennis Benston
31791 US Hwy 264
Engelhard, NC 27824
925-2061

Mike Paul
2282 Yeatesville Rd
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964-4859

Horace Waters
8098 Slatestone Rd
Washington, NC 27889
927-3150

Walter D. Martin
275 Whitehurst Rd.
Blounts Creek, NC 27814
322-2011

L. Thomas Gillikin
11189 NC 306 S
Aurora, NC 27806
322-5597

Vincent Sevenski
325 Harper Rd
Bayboro, NC 28515
670-1448

Buck H. Jones
35 Roland Rd
Arapahoe, NC 28510
249-1541

John Mitchell
1209 Santa Lucia Dr
New Bern, NC 28560
633-9957

Rebate reminders

Heat pump rebates up to \$300

Visit www.tidelandemc.com for details

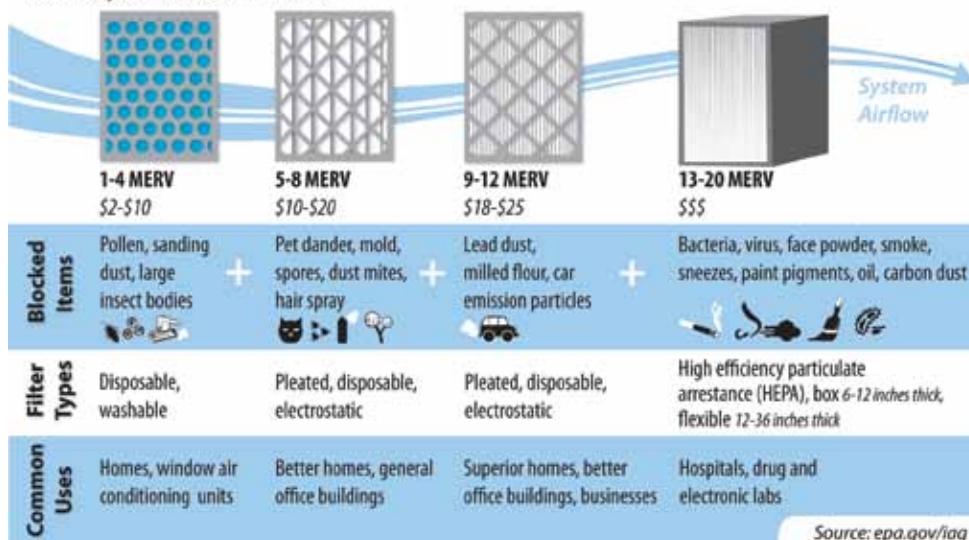
Heat pump water heater
rebate of \$300

or call program manager Heidi Smith @ 252.944.2410

Energy Star manufactured home
rebate of \$1,250

What Do Different Air Filters Block?

Air filters are rated by Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). Filters with a higher MERV block more dirt, but also reduce airflow and system efficiency. Use this guide to find the right filter for your home or business.



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www.tidelandemc.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Paul Spruill

EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

Weekday Member Service
252.943.3046
800.637.1079

24 Hour Outage Reporting
& Automated Services
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Scholarship deadline approaching

Tideland EMC is accepting college scholarship applications from high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties. Applicants must be the legal dependent of a Tideland EMC member. The co-op will award eight \$1,000 scholarships. Two of the scholarships will be designated for students who plan to attend community college.

Students have until Friday, March 1, 2013, to apply. An application may be downloaded at: www.tidelandemc.com/collegeScholarships.aspx

For more information, call program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410.

ATTENTION RISING HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS: APPLICATIONS FOR THE ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR TO WASHINGTON, DC, ARE DUE MARCH 8, 2013

Give it your best shot

This summer Tideland EMC will provide all-expenses-paid scholarships for one girl to attend the NC State Girls Basketball Camp in Raleigh (August 1-4) and one boy to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill (June 15-19). 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 and Tideland EMC will begin accepting applications on January 1. The deadline to apply 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. For more information call program coordinator Heidi Smith at Tideland EMC at 252.944.2410.