

Tideland Topics

JUNE ■ 2017

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.



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

INVESTING IN EDUCATION: Co-op provides construction loan to ACS

On April 7, Tideland officials participated in a community celebration to kick off the start of a new \$8.9 million facility at Arapahoe Charter School (ACS).

The project is funded in part by a \$1.025 million zero-interest loan provided by Tideland EMC via the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Of those dollars, \$300,000 is a grant to Tideland, which will revert to a revolving loan fund upon repayment by ACS.

Electric co-ops may apply for USDA funds for projects that create jobs in rural areas or provide infrastructure and community facilities that improve economic stability.

The ACS expansion will have 18 classrooms, three exceptional children's rooms, a media center and new student dining facilities. Of the 520 students now attending ACS, more than half reside outside Pamlico County.



Breaking ground (left to right): ACS Business Director Chris Watson, Principal Dennis Sawyer, TEMC Vice President Doug Brinson, TEMC CEO Paul Spruill and NC Senator Norm Sanderson.



Enroll in Outage Text Messaging

Hurricane season officially starts June 1. Be sure to enroll in outage text messaging so the co-op can keep you up-to-date during large outages. As a rule, outage text messages are sent between the hours of 6 am and 11 pm, unless unusual circumstances exist. We currently segregate text messaging groups by distribution substation.

To enroll, text TEMC to short code 85700. You will receive a reply asking that you complete the enrollment process by texting back your Tideland account number. Standard text messaging rates may apply. To opt out of outage notifications, text STOP to short code 85700.



Message to our Member-Owners:

WPCA reverts to charge

By Paul Spruill
General Manager & CEO

Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

In June, Lucas Tree Service will work in Beaufort County, south of the Pamlico River. They will work in the areas between Blounts Creek (Mouth of the Creek Rd.) and Bonneron (Cox's Crossroads).

Mowing crews will be working in Hyde County along the Boundary Canel and North Lake Rd. corridor.

Please support our tree trimming efforts. Trees are the number one cause of outages. Working together we can improve system reliability.

In April, I announced the decline of the wholesale power adjustment (WPCA) credit after an unprecedented run of credits that spanned 52 months.

During first quarter 2017, Tideland issued WPCA credits totaling \$807,865, which were ahead of first-quarter credits in 2016 totaling \$529,436.

When we went to press in early March, it was our expectation that the WPCA would zero out by summer. Instead, the WPCA reverted to a charge of \$3.90 per 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) in April then declined to a charge of \$2.30 per 1,000 kWh in May.

The WPCA is tied to current market conditions and for the week ending May 1, key fuel prices were up from the year before.

Natural Gas Spot Market (Henry Hub)
Week ending May 1: \$3.20 per million Btu
One year ago: \$1.91 per million Btu

U.S. Crude Oil Spot Prices
Week ending May 1: \$48.83 per barrel
One year ago: \$44.75 per barrel

Fortunately, most of Tideland's electricity comes from reliable and clean

nuclear energy, which affords greater rate stability than we might otherwise experience.

Bills mailed in April contained all or some March energy use. March 2017 was actually colder than February. The average temperature in February was 54°F. For March, the average was 51.5°F. In March 2016, the average temperature was 59°F. That means Tidelanders required twice the amount of home heating in March 2017 than they in March 2016. So if you looked at the comparison tables on your electric bill you may have been surprised to see both energy use and costs up from the previous month and the previous year. April weather remained cooler than expected with an average temperature 5°F below the historical norm requiring more home heating than typical for spring.

To better understand the relationship between weather and your use of electricity, log into the member portal then click on the "Usage History" option under the "My Usage" tab. The portal also has summer energy tips to help reduce your household expenses.

Member advocacy



Congressman G.K. Butterfield greets Tideland CEO Paul Spruill

Tideland officials recently made their annual visit to Washington, D.C., to meet with elected officials and their staffers.

Among the issues co-op officials advocated for:

- Support for Rural Utilities Services construction loans
- Support for the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program, which allowed the co-op to help fund construction at Arapahoe Charter School (see story on page 21)
- Extension of consumer tax credits for geothermal HVAC systems
- Nuclear production tax credits



Tideland board member Mark Carawan participated in a meeting with Congressman Walter Jones Jr.

- Legislation to spur commercial deployment of carbon capture and storage technology
- Continued funding of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Co-op scholarship winners named



Audrey Glass
Terra Ceia
Christian School
Audrey is the daughter of Rodney and Karen Glass of Belhaven. She has not yet decided where she will attend college but plans to major in agricultural education.



Carson O'Neal
Ocracoke School
Carson is the son of Vince and Susan O'Neal of Ocracoke. He will attend UNC-Chapel Hill and major in exercise and sport science.



Jordie Perez
Ocracoke School
Jordie is the son of Liliana Contreras and Roque Perez. He will attending UNC-Greensboro to pursue a degree in biology to prepare for dental school.



Jessica Cahoon
Mattamuskeet
Early College HS
Jessica is the daughter of Aubrey and Jennifer Cahoon of Engelhard. She will major in social work at Meredith College.



Meredith Boyd
Northside High School
Meredith is the daughter of James and Amanda Boyd of Pinetown. She will attend NC State University and major in agricultural business management.



Kody Jefferson
Northside High School
Kody is the son of Kenneth and Bridget Jefferson of Belhaven. He will major in mechanical engineering at NC State University.



Monica Chappell
Mattamuskeet
Early College HS
Monica is the daughter of the late Gregory Chappell, Sr. and Jessica and Mickel Gibbs. She will major in nursing at Beaufort County Community College.



Kirbyanne Sherman
Northside High School
Kirbyanne is the daughter of Phil and Paula Sherman of Pantego. She will study dental hygiene at Cape Fear Community College.

- 1**
NEVER CONNECT A GENERATOR TO HOUSEHOLD WIRING WITHOUT AN APPROVED DOUBLE-POLE, DOUBLE-THROW TRANSFER SWITCH TO PREVENT DANGEROUS BACKFEEDING ONTO THE ELECTRIC SYSTEM
- 2**
MAKE SURE THE GENERATOR IS ADEQUATELY GROUNDED TO PREVENT ELECTROCUTION
- 3**
PROPERLY VENTILATE THE GENERATOR TO PREVENT CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING. IN FACT, IF YOU OWN A GENERATOR YOU SHOULD ALSO HAVE A HOUSEHOLD CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR
- 4**
USE PROPERLY SIZED (WIRE GAUGE) EXTENSION CORDS THAT ARE IN GOOD CONDITION AND ALWAYS USE ELECTRICALLY GROUNDED CORDSETS
- 5**
NEVER REFUEL A GENERATOR WHILE IT IS RUNNING. ALLOW IT TO COOL DOWN BEFORE ADDING FUEL.

LEARN MORE:
TO ACCESS TIDELAND'S COMPLETE GENERATOR SAFETY AND SIZING GUIDE VISIT
WWW.TIDELANDEMC.COM/STORM-CENTER/GENERATOR-SAFETY

DARK SKY FRIENDLY: Co-op replacing all outdoor lights with LED fixtures

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www.tidelandemc.com

In May, Tideland EMC began the process of converting all our existing outdoor lights to LED lights.

The old lights are being discontinued for several reasons with the most pressing being that the bulbs are no longer being manufactured. Tideland EMC tested several LED lights over the past year, and based on member feedback we selected the most popular and pleasing light.

That said, the new light may take a little getting used to. While it may not appear to provide as much light as the previous fixture it in fact has greater light output but directs the light down on the ground where you need it and not into the night sky.

- *Say goodbye to the unnatural blue or yellow light of your previous fixture; the LED light produces a more crisp white light*

- *With a 10-year warranty, we should be able to make fewer trips to maintain your new light*
- *The replacement is "dark skies" compliant meaning light shines down and not up or into neighboring windows*
- *LED technology is good for the environment using 50% less energy*

It will take two to three years to complete retrofits systemwide. Lighting will continue to be billed at the same rate. While in the process of completing this project, crews will also be removing lights and poles no longer in service. If you have a disconnected light on your property and want to reactivate it please let us know by calling 1.800.637.1079. Otherwise the pole and fixture will be removed.

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Member Service

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24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

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Tideland EMC is an equal opportunity provider & employer



VACATIONING? GIVE YOUR ELECTRIC METER A BREAK TOO
TURN A/C TO 85°F, CUT OFF WATER HEATER BREAKER & UNPLUG ELECTRONICS

Learn & Live

Tideland, along with Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Halifax EMC and Roanoke Electric Cooperative, have put the finishing touches on a new high-voltage safety demo that is sure to give audience members a jolt!



The newly constructed exhibit is intended for outdoor use and helps the co-op reinforce critically important public safety messages.

Tideland routinely provides electric safety education for area schools, businesses and emergency responders. To schedule a demonstration of



either the tabletop high-volt safety demo or the new larger exhibit contact Heidi Jernigan Smith at 252.944.2410 or by email: heidismith@tidelandemc.com