



# Tideland Topics

**REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.**

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND EMC

## MERRY MARGINS: Details to arrive with December bills

At press time, Tideland EMC's board of directors was scheduled to meet to vote on a general retirement of previously allocated member margins. If approved, members who received service in 1990 are likely to see a credit on their December electric bill. Individual refunds are expected to be quite modest this year as the co-op navigates higher operating expenses associated with capital improvement projects and costs related to Duke Energy's coal ash remediation efforts.

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 financial health of the co-op and outstanding obligations are among the factors our board of directors consider when determining the amount of a general retirement.



The amount of any general retirement must also take into account margins already paid out during the year to the estates of deceased members. We anticipate approximately \$450,000 will be refunded to estates by year end 2017.

Members are reminded to keep the co-op up-to-date with future address changes should you ever leave the Tideland system. Unclaimed capital credit refunds must be escheated to the NC State Treasurer.

## *Please don't ignore late payment disconnect dates*

Tideland members are given at least 25 days to pay their monthly electric bill before the account becomes past due. When the next month's statement is rendered, any amount left owing is assessed a late payment penalty and is then subject to service disconnection on the date noted on the bill.

Unless an official payment arrangement is made with the co-op, accounts will be subject to immediate shutoff on the stated disconnect date. Interruption of service due to unpaid balances can result in significant financial penalties and may require an increased security deposit before service can be restored. Members also have the option of converting to FlexPay.

Members are encouraged to enroll in past due date alerts and reminders as a way to prevent overlooked payment dates. Enrollment can be completed online via the member portal or by calling the co-op at 800-637-1079.



## Message to our Member-Owners: Year-end thoughts

**By Paul Spruill**  
Chief Executive Officer  
and General Manager

### Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right of way. During December, they will be trimming along the Blounts Creek circuit including Old Blounts Creek Rd and Cotton Patch Rd.

Mowing crews will be working along Hwy. 33 towards Lowland and Hobucken.

Remember to support these important system maintenance operations. Proper tree care leads to greater service reliability.

### 2017 has certainly had its share of memorable co-op moments.

New housing starts have started to pick back up after a rather long drought following 2011's Hurricane Irene. The co-op has also welcomed several new business operations, including two breweries and a recently constructed fish house in Stumpy Point.

In February, the Ocracoke microgrid became operational, making it the first such project in North Carolina. It has garnered a great deal of national attention and we're proud to be part of the next generation of energy opportunities.

Also grabbing national headlines was the OBX Blackout after bridge construction crews accidentally severed the transmission line serving Hatteras and Ocracoke

islands. In fact, had it not been for that manmade outage, we would have cruised through the 2017 hurricane season without major incident. Unfortunately, many other states and territories were not so lucky, and Tideland crews heeded the call to service to assist Georgia linemen with power restoration following Hurricane Irma.

While we enjoyed an unprecedented 52-month wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) credit streak, as expected, the credit came to an end. The WPCA reverted to a charge this spring to help meet financial obligations associated with capital improvement projects and the Duke Energy coal ash relocation project. It appears we will end 2017 with approximately \$1.2 million in WPCA collections. We're cautiously optimistic that

the WPCA charge could decline during the first quarter of 2018.

We're making steady progress on the new Fairfield Harbour substation and should bring it on line by mid-January. Combined, the new Fairfield Harbour substation and feeder line represent a \$6 million investment that will not only expand existing capacity, but improve reliability. The project will also alleviate load on our Silver Hill substation in Pamlico County when we reassign approximately 3,000 metered services to the new Fairfield Harbour substation.

All of us at Tideland have appreciated the opportunity to serve you and your family in 2017. Here's to looking for even brighter days ahead in 2018.

## Give a H.U.G. this holiday season

Want to brighten the Christmas Season for someone special? Give a H.U.G.: A home utility gift!

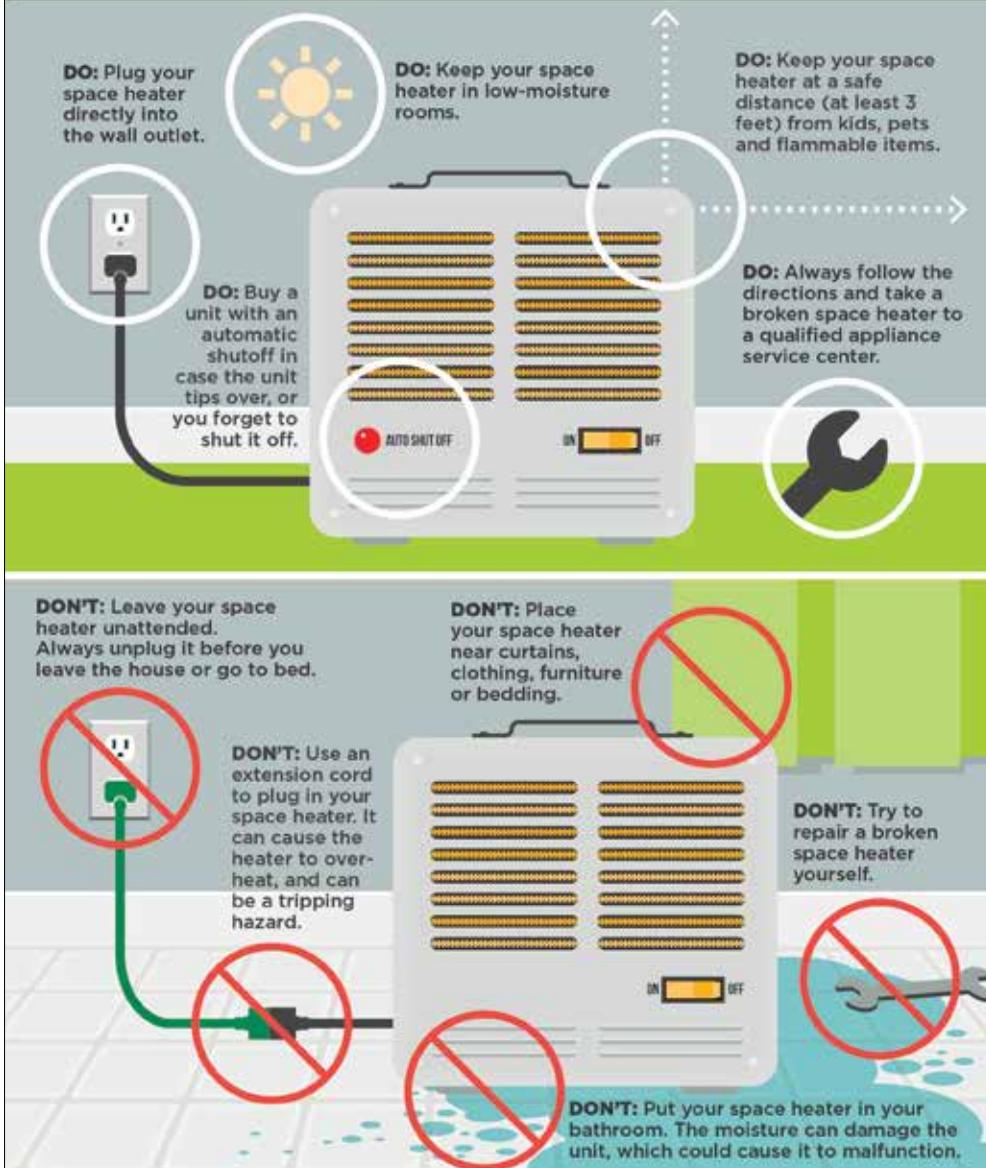
We'll be glad to credit any Tideland EMC member's account in the gift amount of your choice. Gifts must be paid in full with cash, check or credit card.

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 or visit any Tideland office.



# Space Heater Safety Tips

Space heaters are a great way to warm specific rooms in your home without having to crank up the thermostat, but using space heaters doesn't come without risk! Use the tips below to keep your home safe.



## THERE ARE NO MAGIC SPACE HEATERS: A watt is a watt is a watt...

Every winter, the co-op fields calls from members asking which electric space heater is most efficient. The truth of the matter is, all electric space heaters are equally inefficient. Heat output is calculated as a Btu (British thermal unit) and electric resistant heat is simply 100% energy efficient.

You get what you pay for. No more. No less. A 1,500-watt space heater, regardless of design, is going to cost 17.66¢ per hour to operate. Eight hours a day for 30 days would cost \$42.38. That's why we recommend limiting space heater operation to very short periods of time. So don't be fooled by fancy, high-

priced space heaters. They may be pretty to look at, but the electric bill could be rather ugly.

Air source heat pumps, on the other hand, are 200% to 300% energy efficient. That means they produce produce 3 units of heat energy for every 1 unit of electricity consumed.

12  
DAYS OF  
SAVINGS

### DAY 1

"Gift" wrap hot water lines with pipe insulation

### DAY 2

Even Rudolph "nose" how to save. He switched to energy-efficient lighting!

### DAY 3

Deck the halls water heater with an insulating jacket

### DAY 4

Sorry Santa, we really must close that damper when the fireplace isn't in use

### DAY 5

A wise man (or woman) will follow the Energy Star when buying electronics

### DAY 6

Halloween, get your energy vampires out of our Christmas theme! Unplug cell phone chargers and anything with a remote control when not in use

### DAY 7

O' Christmas tree, O' Christmas tree, how lovely are thy LEDs

### DAY 8

It's ok to be a Grinch when it comes to the thermostat: 68° or lower in winter

### DAY 9

Make an energy-savings list...and check it twice!

### DAY 10

Seriously, who wouldn't want a can of Great Stuff in their stocking?

### DAY 11

Add cellulose insulation to your attic....well, it sort of looks like snow

### DAY 12

While visions of clean air filters danced in their heads Merry Savings, Y'all!  
Ya'll!

# New substation nearing completion

Photos by Jim Chrisman

Progress continues on the new Fairfield Harbour delivery point substation in Bridgeton. Feeder circuit construction between the substation and Broad Creek Rd. also remains on schedule. We hope to energize the new substation in the next 45 days. Approximately 3,000 members will be served by the new substation which will considerably reduce load on our Silver Hill substation in Grantsboro.



REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

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[www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Sasnett, President  
J. Douglas Brinson, Vice President  
Clifton Paul, Secretary  
David Ipock, Treasurer  
Rudy Austin, Mark Carawan,  
Garry Jordan, Dawson Pugh,  
Wayne Sawyer & Charles Slade

### GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Paul Spruill

### EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

### Member Service

252.943.3046

800.637.1079

### 24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400

800.882.1001

Tideland EMC is an equal  
opportunity provider & employer



*Merry Christmas from our families to yours*

# Tideland EMC

**HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING: MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26.  
FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE OR TO REPORT OUTAGES CALL 1.800.882.1001**

## 2017 NORTHEAST REGIONAL AG EXPO:

# Teens from 13 counties energized about the future

The Electric Cooperatives of Eastern NC participated in the annual Northeast Regional Ag Expo on November 2 at the Senator Bob Martin Center in Williamston.

Students from 13 counties participated this year.

Tideland took its always popular selfie station to the event. The



co-ops conducted a bucket truck rescue demonstration outdoors. Linemen from Halifax EMC and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC conducted the demonstrations

along with Tideland. See our online video of the event by visiting our Vimeo channel, which can be accessed at [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com).