

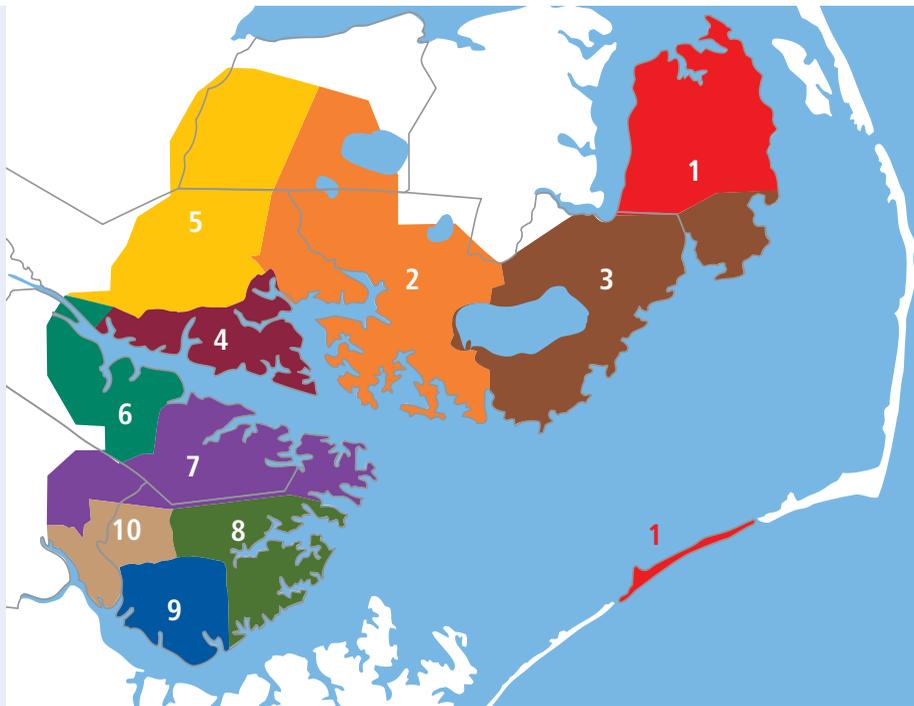
Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Member representation

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.

Read more about director qualifications and the nominating process on page G.



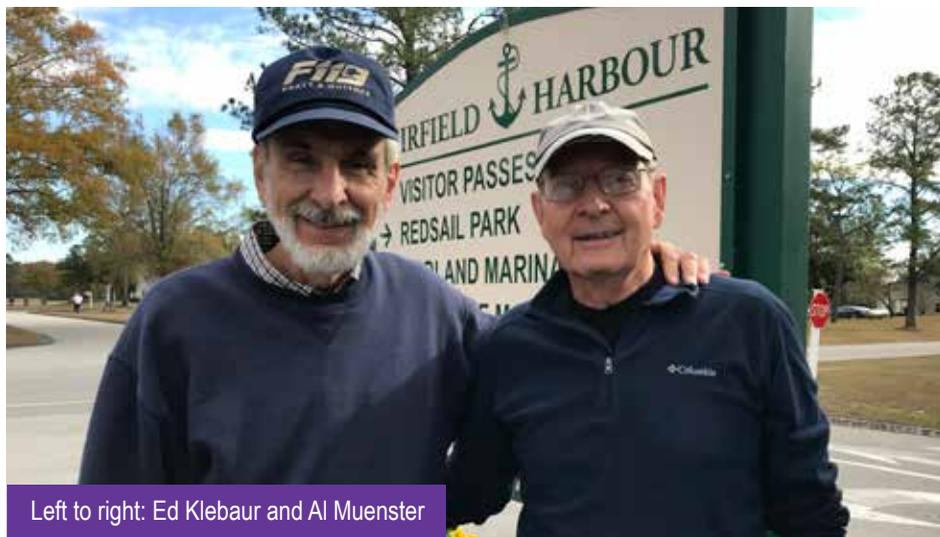
Look for the helpers

“Always look for the helpers.” That’s the sage advice beloved television personality Fred Rogers received as a child from his mother about how to navigate a crisis.

There are helpers to be found in our own neighborhoods.

As Christmas neared in Fairfield Harbour, many assumed the annual holiday decorations would not be hung amidst ongoing recovery efforts. The subdivision’s maintenance staff remained fully engaged in cleanup and repair activities and during the storm the pole-mounted banner hardware had been severely damaged.

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Left to right: Ed Klebaur and Al Muenster





Ready.
Set.
Seal.

When life gives you lemons... Make energy efficiency

An unprecedented number of Tideland-served homes remain in a state of disrepair following Hurricane Florence. In many cases, homes must be raised to avoid future flooding.

With drywall and insulation gone there are some good opportunities for air sealing. While the walls are open, take the time to caulk along the joint where the exterior bottom wall plate meets the subfloor. Caulk or spray foam all holes created by electrical and telecommunications wiring as well as plumbing penetrations.

required by NC Building Code, it can often be neglected. Similarly we want to be sure all ductwork is mastic sealed and tested for air leakage in accordance with NC Building Code. Ask the HVAC contractor to provide the written test results so they can be posted in the residence, again a code requirement but often neglected.

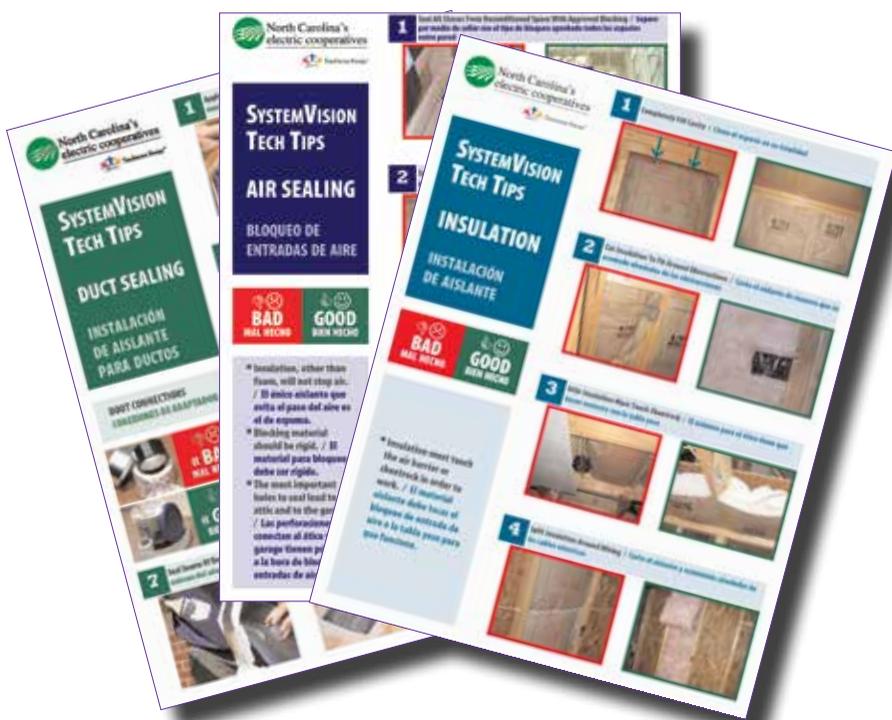
Assure that all wall and floor insulation is installed to leave no voids or gaps in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. The best way to provide continuous insulation behind plugs and switches is to have

Did you know the average U.S. home has a half-mile of gaps and cracks? Those air leaks not only contribute to higher energy bills, they make homes less healthy by allowing in unwanted moisture and unfiltered air as well as bugs and pests.

Even the most DIY-challenged can successfully air seal the biggest offenders like plumbing and wire penetrations, dryer vent connections and outside faucets. These air leaks can be addressed using insulating foam sealant such as DuPont's Great Stuff™. Sealing plumbing penetrations alone will, on average, result in \$45 in annual energy savings.

Once you begin use of a one-time can of spray foam it will cure in the nozzle and straw, sealing shut within two hours. So before you begin your project, create a thorough air-sealing checklist of the places you plan to address. For indoor projects, make sure you have adequate ventilation and cut off all ignition sources. Wear gloves and safety glasses while spraying. Dispose of open cans once spraying is complete.

More info: greatstuff.com



We've combined our air sealing, insulation, and duct sealing tips into one guide. Get your copy at any Tideland office or visit our website (tidelandemc.com) for download.

Insist that all HVAC supply and return register boots be mastic sealed to the sub-floor or ceiling during installation. While this practice is

the insulation contractor/installer spray foam behind them prior to the actual insulation being installed or do so yourself.

An ounce of prevention

Each year, approximately 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns when they stick items into the slots of electrical receptacles – that is nearly seven children a day. It is estimated that there are six to 12 fatalities a year related to this. Nearly one-third of these injuries are the result of small children placing ordinary household objects such as keys, pins, or paper clips into the outlets with disastrous consequences.

But now, new technology called tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, provide a simple, affordable, reliable, and permanent solution to help prevent these kinds of injuries.

TRRs look just like ordinary outlets, but are designed with

spring-loaded cover plates that close off the receptacle openings. When equal pressure is simultaneously applied to both sides, the receptacle cover plate opens to allow a standard plug to make contact with the receptacle contact points.

The National Electrical Code requires them to be installed in all new home construction. Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs cost about 50¢ more than a traditional receptacle. With the average home having about 75 receptacles, the additional cost to construction is less than \$50.

Right-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way. During February, they will be working in the Washington area.

Osmose crews will be testing poles on the Pungo and Pantego circuits. Their testing can include minor digging at the base of the pole. Poles are also “sounded” with a hammer to detect any internal decay.

Thank you for your support of these important maintenance activities which improve system reliability and promote public safety.

SAFETY FROM THE INSIDE: TAMPER RESISTANT RECEPTACLES (TRRs)

Each year approximately **2,400 children** were treated from shock and burns after sticking items into the slots of electrical receptacles. To prevent these types of injuries the **National Electrical Code (NEC®)** now requires **Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs)** in new and renovated homes.

**OUTLET
COVERS
are
OUT**



Studies have shown that **children over the age of 2** can easily remove receptacle covers.



TRRs require **no additional parts**, there's no need to remember to put them in.



Tamper resistant receptacle covers are **no longer approved** by independent testing laboratories.



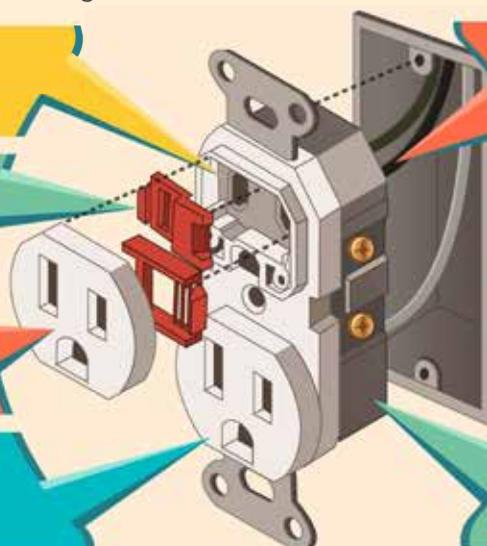
Receptacle covers carry a higher risk of **overheating** and can be a **fire hazard**.

Certified by Independent Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories.

Built in shutters **prevent foreign objects** from being inserted into receptacle.

Permanent solution to receptacle covers.

Installing a **TRR** in your home costs only slightly more than a **traditional receptacle** does.



Complies with the most recent version of the **National Electrical Code (NEC®)**.

TRRs are available with **GFCI** and **AFCI** protection.

Regular receptacles can easily be replaced by TRRs by a **qualified electrician** with no additional modifications.



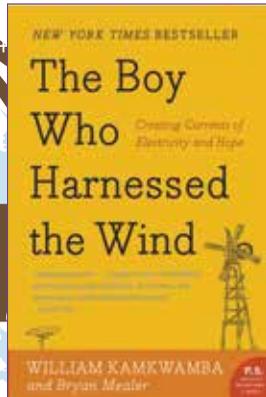
Why birds can sit on powerlines

You might think it's because the wires are insulated, but they're actually not insulated at all — that's why downed power lines are so dangerous. No, the only reason why birds aren't electrocuted is because they are only touching one wire and nothing else.

Like all energy, electricity seeks balance. That means electricity will flow from high-energy areas to areas of less energy, always using the path of least resistance. If the bird had one foot on the wire and the other foot on, for example, the ground or on a different wire with less voltage, the bird would be electrocuted. The electricity would pass through the bird on its way from the high-voltage line to the lower-voltage line or the ground.

But as long as both of the bird's feet are on the same wire, the bird is safe. The current doesn't have anywhere else to go, so the electricity won't pass through the bird — it stays on the path of least resistance, the wire.

Bright Ideas Come



Chocowinity Middle School participates in the one school, one book reading program. That entails every single student, faculty member and even the janitorial staff reading the same book at the start of the school year. This year's selection was the best-seller "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind." The program is headed up by the school's media coordinator, Lisa Baker.



William Kamkwamba and Lisa Baker

The author, William Kamkwamba, recounts in the book his life in a tiny village in Malawi. Due to drought, his family lost all of their crops, leaving them with nothing to eat and nothing to sell. Then 14 years old, he began to explore science books at his village library, looking for a solution.

There, Kamkwamba came up with the idea that would change his family's life forever: He could build a windmill. Made out of scrap metal and old bicycle parts, his windmill brought electricity to the family's home and helped them pump the water they needed to farm the land.

In support of the school's reading project, Baker submitted a Bright Ideas grant application to

Tideland to purchase wind and solar energy kits so students could create their own renewable energy projects.

At the awards dinner in November where Baker received her grant, she revealed that Kamkwamba would be visiting Chocowinity Middle School the following day.

Tideland was on hand as the student body

assembled in the gymnasium to officially welcome Kamkwamba. He discussed the challenges of building his windmill while being taunted by those who considered his endeavor futile. A question-and-answer session allowed students to learn more about life in Malawi and his pursuits

Alive



since the book was published. Following the presentation, he conducted a book signing for students and faculty.

Kamkwamba currently resides in North Carolina where he works with WiderNet to develop technology curriculum that will allow people to bridge the gap between “knowing” and “doing.”

That too is the goal of Baker’s Bright Ideas grant: Take students beyond the book, turning concepts into hands-on creations that generate their own energy. In fact, Baker says, the real lesson isn’t necessarily in the outcome of each student’s project. It comes from having tried and persevered...just like William Kamkwamba.

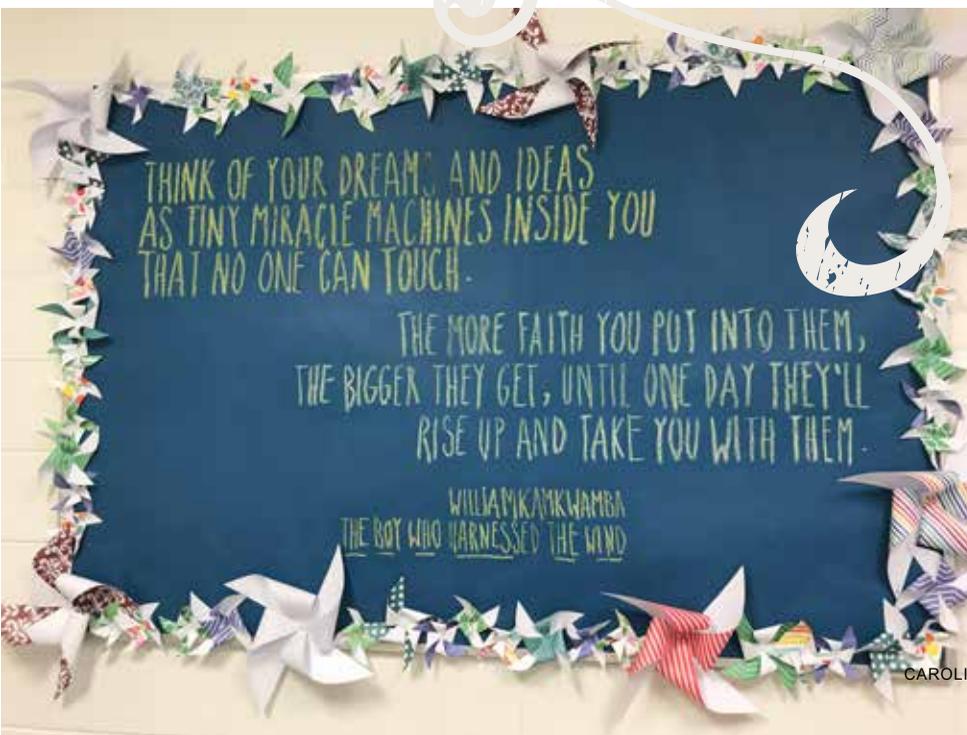
Give it your best shot!

Tideland EMC is currently accepting applications for full scholarships to renowned basketball camps at two North Carolina universities this summer.

Young men can apply for a scholarship to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (June 22-26). Young women can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women’s Basketball Camp held at North Carolina State University in Raleigh (June 9-12).

To apply, students must be a rising sixth, seventh or eighth grade student at a qualifying school. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay.

Applications must be received by March 31. To learn more or to download an application, visit tidelandemc.com.





Last call for college scholarship applications

Tideland EMC is now accepting college scholarship applications from high school seniors in Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Pamlico, Dare and Craven counties. Applicants must be the 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 8, 2019, to apply. An application may be downloaded at tidelandemc.com or ask your high school guidance counselor for a copy of the form.

For more information contact program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or heidismith@tidelandemc.com.

Message to members Have it your way

PAUL SPRUILL
GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

A new burger chain recently opened in Greenville. Each table includes order forms for those who wish to customize their burger experience. There are 71 options. While I cannot imagine peanut butter on a burger, you'll find it on the menu. The housemade bacon mayo certainly gets a nod.

You can similarly personalize your own Tideland membership with nearly as many options as that burger joint.

Residential members can choose to have either a post-paid or prepaid electric account. If you opt for a post-paid account, you can receive a paper bill, an e-bill or both.

When the bill comes due you can opt for bank or credit card draft or pay online, via mobile app, over the phone or in person at one of our four offices.

On a fixed budget or want more certainty when it comes to month-to-month expenditures? We offer leveled billing to smooth out seasonal energy fluctuations.

Perhaps you don't want an electric bill at all and prefer a pay-as-you-go option. You can enroll in our FlexPay program with a \$25 starting balance. No security deposit is required. And if you have an existing security deposit you can convert it into a FlexPay credit if there is no outstanding balance on your post-paid account.

We offer 14 different account alerts and reminders that can be delivered via text or email or both. Every member should at least sign up for high energy use alerts to guard against an unusually high bill due to equipment malfunctions or even unauthorized use of electricity. We even offer a low energy use alert, which at first glance, struck me a bit like peanut butter on a burger. Who wants that? But if you have a remote or vacation property, it may be

important to guard against low-energy use, which might indicate a mechanical or wiring failure.

We also offer outage notification via text and email. And when

you report an outage via our automated phone system, you can request a call back when power is restored.

If you want to reduce your electric bill and are willing to shift energy intensive activities to off-peak hours, then you may want to give our residential time-of-use rate a try. Or you can enroll in our smart thermostat program and we'll take care of the load control activities while you benefit from a \$2 monthly bill credit.

Maybe you need area lighting for your home or business. We have several LED outdoor lighting solutions to choose from.

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Director nominations underway

Annual meeting scheduled for May 9

It is once again time to nominate candidates for Tideland's annual director elections. The nominating committee will meet in Pantego on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, to consider candidates for districts 1, 3 and 9, which are currently represented by Rudy Austin, Dawson Pugh 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 13, 2019.

Nominations can also be made by submitting a petition signed by 50 co-op members no later than February 17, 2019. The last day to introduce new business via petition is April 8, 2019. The annual meeting of members will be held at Beaufort County Community College on Thursday, May 9, 2019.

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 two 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 regarding candidate nominations, director qualifications or to determine which district you reside in, call annual meeting coordinator Myra Beasley at 252-943-3046, ext. 1125 or 1-800-637-1079.

Nominating committee

District 1:

Vincent O'Neal
PO Box 74
Ocracoke, NC 27960

District 2:

Louie Hubers
6949 NC Hwy 45
Belhaven, NC 27810

District 3:

Brandon Marshall
33239 US Hwy 264
Engelhard, NC 27824

District 4:

Kenneth E. Windley
29 Fantasy Island Rd.
Belhaven, NC 27810

District 5:

Horace Waters
8098 Slatestone Rd
Washington, NC 27889

District 6:

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

District 7:

Harry Nesbit
409 Bergin Rd.
Aurora, NC 27806

District 8:

Vincent Sevenski
325 Harper Rd
Bayboro, NC 28515

District 9:

Buck H. Jones
35 Roland Rd
Arapahoe, NC 28510

District 10:

John Mitchell
1209 Santa Lucia Dr
New Bern, NC 28560

Credentials & Elections Committee

District 2:

Johnny Joyner
Scranton

District 3:

Eric Cahoon

District 4:

Steven Poole
Belhaven

District 5:

Ernie Everett
Pinetown

District 6:

C. Travis Martin
Blounts Creek

District 7:

Darrell B. Cayton
Aurora

District 9:

E. Douglas Cahoon
Bayboro

Subdivision residents Al Muenster and Ed Klebaur weren't about to let Hurricane Florence rob the community of Christmas cheer. Despite both having sustained extensive flood damage to their own homes, they were determined to help restore some sense of normalcy to the storm ravaged community.

After sizing up the hardware damage, Muenster reached out to Tideland to see if the co-op could assist with repairs, which exceeded a safe height to work from a ladder. Linemen Josh Bain and Chris Rice arrived with their bucket truck to replace the hardware and install the Christmas banners with Muenster, Klebaur and resident Dick Stewart assisting.

With the hardware replaced and the Christmas season having come and gone, Muenster and Klebaur are ready to hang up their banner duties for good. But you can rest assured that in a crisis when you look for the helpers, they'll be among those working to keep #fairfieldstrong.

yourWay

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If surge protection is a concern, we'll install, at cost, a meter base surge protector that can handle up to 40,000 amps of surge current.

Want to support renewable energy in our state? You can give to NC Green Power through your Tideland electric bill. Contributions are tax-deductible. You can also donate to our member assistance fund by enrolling in Operation Round Up.

Our member service menu also includes energy efficiency rebates, low interest weatherization loans and free energy consultation services.

So go ahead and create your custom membership experience. We're here, ready to take your order.

NISSAN Rebate

The Nissan Leaf is the world's best-selling electric car. As part of its effort to accelerate electric vehicle transportation alternatives throughout the United States, Nissan North America, Inc. is offering eligible stakeholders of NC Electric Cooperatives a special opportunity to purchase the 100% electric, Nissan LEAF®. With each qualified purchase, eligible customers can receive a \$3,500 Fleetail Rebate off MSRP, plus a potential Federal tax incentive of up to \$7,500.¹

How to get this great incentive:

Simply visit tidelandemc.com and obtain a copy of the rebate flyer, bring both front and back pages, along with your monthly electric bill to your participating Nissan dealership. This limited time offer expires April 1, 2019 and cannot be combined with other Nissan special incentives. Residency restrictions apply.

See your local participating Nissan Dealer for complete details: NissanUSA.com/nissanddealers



Fleet Certification

Code: **B75126**

¹The incentives referenced are for informational purposes only. This information does not constitute tax or legal advice. All persons considering use of available incentives and additional perks should consult their own tax or legal professional to determine eligibility, specific amount of incentives available, if any, and further details. The incentives and additional perks are not within Nissan's control and are subject to change without notice. Interested parties should confirm the accuracy of the information before relying on it to make a purchase. Residency restrictions may apply.

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

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



happy
Valentine's Day!

