

# Tideland Topics

*Real People. Real Power.*

## Accessorize with Ecobee

Members with home WiFi installing a new heat pump in a full-time residence qualify for a new Ecobee smart thermostat. For more information visit [tidelandmc.com](http://tidelandmc.com) and click on the Ecobee link. Already have an Ecobee? Enroll in our control event program and receive a \$50 rebate along with a \$2 monthly participation credit.



## Co-op sales break records

Extreme winter temperatures arrived earlier than usual in Tideland territory. Based on weather data, December 2020 required 30% more space heating than December 2019 and 20% more than December 2018. That was reflected in Tideland's kilowatt hour sales. In December 2020 we sold 5 million more kilowatt hours than in the previous year and established a new record for December sales.

That trend continued through the month of January 2021 when Tideland sold 5.3 million more kilowatt hours than in January 2020, a 16% increase. That is in

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## March *maintenance*

Gunnison Tree Service will be trimming trees in our right-of-way along the Gaylords Bay and Pamlico Beach circuit. Lucas Tree Experts will be trimming along the Engelhard circuit.

Lee Electric overhead construction crews will be working on Trent Road and Straight Road up to Orchard Creek. They will also be working on Shore Road and Allen Road in the Lake Phelps area. They will also have an underground crew repairing services systemwide.

River City construction crews continue work on Slatestone and Braddy roads.

Osmose crews will be inspecting poles, based on pole age, between Pantego and Manns Harbor.

Always call 8-1-1 before you start any construction or excavation project to have all utility lines properly identified and marked.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

# Home Sweet Energy Efficient Home

## \$1,250 rebate for new Energy Star manufactured home purchases

If you're in the market for a new manufactured home, look for one that has earned the Energy Star label. While they may look the same on the outside, the energy-efficient features built into these homes will deliver real value for you and your family for years to come. And if you purchase a qualifying model in 2021 you may be eligible for a \$1,250 Tideland EMC rebate when the home is equipped with a heat pump.

Energy Star certified manufactured homes are designed, manufactured, and installed to meet energy efficiency requirements set by the U.S. EPA. The result is a home that is at least 10% more efficient than a model built to minimum code.



### BENEFITS FOR HOMEOWNERS

**Lower Utility Bills:** Because they use less energy, you can typically save hundreds of dollars each year on energy costs.

**More Comfort:** The energy-efficiency features found in Energy Star certified manufactured homes provide a more comfortable living environment. Your house will stay warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.

**Energy-Efficient Features:** Energy Star gives manufacturers flexibility to choose a package of energy-efficient features that work best for their homes, so long as they deliver at least 10% savings compared to code. Your Energy Star-certified manufactured home may include higher levels of insulation and/or high-efficiency heating or cooling equipment. All Energy Star models come equipped with high-performance windows and a programmable thermostat.

**Independent Quality Checks:** A third-party "Quality Assurance Provider" performs ongoing inspections of manufacturing plants to ensure that the Energy Star-certified manufactured homes they produce deliver on their promised features and benefits.

Prior to ordering your new home, it's recommended that you contact Tideland's energy services manager Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 to ensure program guidelines are met to qualify for the rebate.

# Message to members

## After an extended period of mild weather, winter is hammering us

by **PAUL SPRUILL**  
GENERAL MANAGER &  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

If you have not done so yet, please take a moment to read the article about home heating costs beginning on page 17. We are experiencing what could be a record-setting heating season.

Last month I encouraged you to utilize the member portal to track both daily and hourly kilowatt hour data and to set up high use alerts to guard against runaway consumption.

However, it may be all but impossible to keep bills low given the winter temperatures we have experienced thus far.

There are two additional strategies that could help you manage winter costs. The first

is levelized billing which can remove seasonal billing spikes. To participate in the program you must keep your monthly payments current. Therefore, it is advised that you combine that service with one of our payment draft options using a bank account or credit card.

You can also request that any existing security deposit on your account be credited back to your account if you have paid your bill on time for the previous 12 months.

Additional options include payment arrangements to overcome anticipated budget shortfalls or conversion to our FlexPay program with a debt management option. The key to each of these solutions is to call the co-op so we can match your needs to the appropriate service.

## Home heating

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keeping with heating degree day data, which reflected a 39% increase in required space heating for January 2021 over the previous year.

Tideland members who want to see the impact of heating degree days (HDD) on their personal energy use can access that data on the member portal and overlay it with their daily kilowatt hour readings. The same is available for cooling degree days when air conditioning is required.

With the exception of August 2021, Tideland's December and January kilowatt hour sales were the highest two months on record since August 2019. Keep in mind that peak summer sales tend to

be higher due to temperatures, no competing energy sources for air conditioning, and much higher occupancy rates of vacation homes and rentals in Tideland territory.

As we went to press on February 5, temperatures were already trending lower than the past three years, with 101 HDD logged thus far. Compared to the same time period in 2020 that represented a 180% increase in required home heating. Unfortunately, the extended forecast continued to call for much lower daily highs than we have experienced the three previous Februarys. Please see the manager's column above for a reminder of strategies that can help you navigate higher winter bills.



## 2021 Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship Program Suspended Due to Covid-19 Concerns

Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have made the difficult decision not to offer its Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships this year. This long-standing program typically provides full scholarships for middle school students to attend overnight summer basketball camp at North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Middle school students at qualifying schools are encouraged to apply for a scholarship to attend camp in summer 2022. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay. The application period will begin on January 1, 2022, with a final deadline of March 31, 2022.

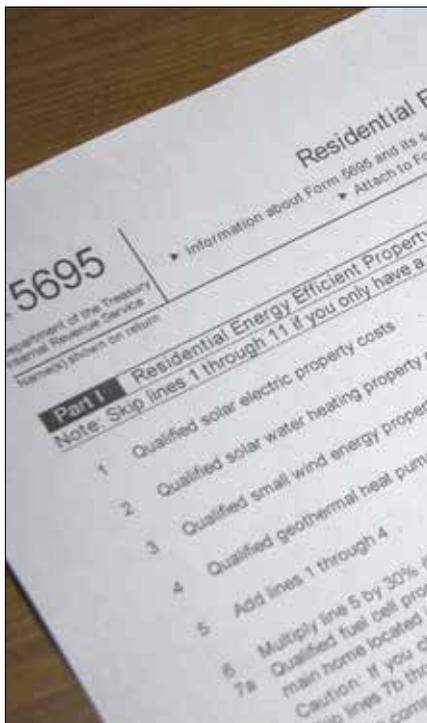
To learn more about this program and its impact on local youth, visit [ncelectriccooperatives.com/sportscamps](http://ncelectriccooperatives.com/sportscamps) or [tidelandemc.com](http://tidelandemc.com).

# Credit where credit is due

Filing your tax returns? There were still a few items that qualified for federal residential energy credits in 2020.

- Solar panels that generate electricity in a home
- Solar-powered water heaters that perform at least half the home's water heating
- Wind turbines that generate energy
- Geothermal heat pumps for heating and cooling
- Fuel cells that generate at least 0.5 kW and have an electricity-generating efficiency of more than 30%

To claim the credit, complete IRS Form 5695.



Real People.  
Real Power.

## Tideland Topics

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

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252.943.3046  
800.637.1079

### 24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

252.944.2400  
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Tideland EMC is an equal opportunity provider & employer



## Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit [www.ArborDay.org](http://www.ArborDay.org).

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

### LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Birch
- Oak
- Sweetgum
- Spruce
- Linden
- Pine

### MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenraintree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

### SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



## efficiency Reminder

Change HVAC system filters monthly!

