



Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Now we are begging you

It turns out that fewer than 7% of our residential members have signed up for high energy use alerts. Why? It is your best defense against an unexpectedly high electric bill and could even save you hundreds or thousands of dollars in emergency home repairs. Reach out to us today to enroll in this free service. Call 252.943.3046 or email heidismith@tidelandemc.com.



Scholarship deadline March 3

High school seniors have until Monday, March 3, to submit their college scholarship applications to the Tideland Electric Care Trust. The Trust will award eight scholarships: six to students attending a four-year college or university and two to students attending a community college or trade school. To apply visit tidelandemc.com/my-community/college-scholarships.





Beat the buzzer to apply for the 2025 Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship Program

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 Carolina Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (June 25-28), and young women can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp held at North Carolina State University in Raleigh (June 15-18). Please make sure you can attend those dates before applying!

To apply, students must be a rising sixth or seventh grade student and residing in a Tideland EMC served home. Applicants will be judged on academics, extracurricular activities and an essay.

Applications must be submitted by March 31. To learn more visit tidelandemc.com. You may also reach out to Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410.

Remembering Cindy Hubers

On Jan. 16, we lost a beloved member of our Tideland family with the passing of employee Cindy Hubers. She graced us and the co-op membership with 25 years of devoted service. And make no mistake about it: Cindy knew she was serving members and not customers. She was the living embodiment of what a cooperative truly is.

For the vast majority of her time with Tideland, Cindy worked the overnight shift in our 24-hour call center. However her presence during the daytime hours was most often marked by the comforting and yummy scent of fresh baked cinnamon rolls wafting



Cindy and her famous cinnamon rolls

from the co-op kitchen. She never failed to make a batch to welcome a new employee but most often she did it to express her heartfelt love for her co-workers.

Cindy considered it an honor to work at Tideland because it gave her the opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, no matter how small, through the power of human connections. And when those beautiful touchpoints with



our members or a co-worker moved her, Cindy was quick to write it down and share with fellow team members not only to celebrate a meaningful moment but to inspire others.

Cindy never lost the ability to learn or be in awe of something new. That youthful joy was on full display as she engaged with her expansive family that included husband, Don, four children, and 14 grandchildren to whom she was eternally devoted.

Cindy's earthly journey was detoured more than once by cancer, but she fought it with a determined resilience that belied her quiet demeanor. Cindy's final cancer journey led her to her heavenly home where she was no doubt immediately greeted by her mother, Miss Ann, who preceded her in death at the age of 97 in 2022.

When she submitted what would be her final photo for Tideland's annual employee Christmas video, Cindy asked that we be sure to include the Bible verse that appeared in the framed photo. It read: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," Joshua 24:15b. She lived that scripture daily and has left generations to follow suit.

Message to members

Second-coldest January in more than 30 years

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

January 2025 was the second coldest January in Tideland territory since 1992 when we began tracking degree day data for our area. Only January 2018 surpasses it in the past 33 years.

January 2025 required 41% more home heating than January 2024. It required 51% more home heating than December 2024 and 256% more home heating than November 2024.

That translated into unusually high home heating costs in January. Fortunately, as we went to press, February 2025 was shaping up to be one of the warmest Februaries on record.

What I can't get over is that fewer than 7% of our membership has signed up for free high energy use alert notifications. These notifications can immediately alert you to a problem with your HVAC system, ductwork, water heater and any number of malfunctions that could result in a high bill.

Here are just two recent examples where a high energy use alert could have saved individual members hundreds of dollars.

- Member's electric bill jumped from \$239 in January 2024 to \$629 in January 2025. Their December 2024 bill had also tripled from the previous month. The cause: a complete loss of

refrigerant from a two-year-old heat pump when a hole developed in the copper line. The member would have known about it on Nov. 29 if they had been signed up for a high use alert.

- For three months a member's electric bills continued to grow: \$459 to \$742 and then \$901. With no phone number on file to reach the member our energy auditor drove out to the home. The cause of the problem? A disconnected crossover duct underneath the multi-section manufactured home. The member would have noticed it when it first happened in October if they had been signed up for a high energy use alert.

Most often when we ask members why they haven't signed up they reply, "I haven't had a problem before." That's exactly why it is so important to enroll in this free service. These alerts are like an energy security system always standing guard and notifying only when something unusual occurs. Otherwise it could take days, weeks or even months before you discover a hot water leak, a faulty HVAC system or a downed piece of ductwork.

Please enroll today. Encourage friends and family members to do the same. This one ounce of prevention can save you a great deal of heartache and money.



Remembering Janice Baynor

Tideland EMC lost another member of our co-op family with the passing of retiree Janice Baynor on Jan. 18. "Janice Kay", as she was known by those closest to her, served the co-op for 35 years, dating back to when the Pantego service area was known as Woodstock EMC, prior to the merger with Pamlico-Beaufort EMC to become Tideland. She was the co-op's manager of finance at the time of her retirement.

Former co-workers distinctly remember those few occasions when Janice needed to set you straight, which meant calling you by your first and last name with her hands on her hips and a slight tilt of the head. She was never mean-spirited when she served up a dose of reality. but you got the point. And we loved her for her truth-telling.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. We miss her dearly.



The 2024 energy year in review

Warmer all the way around

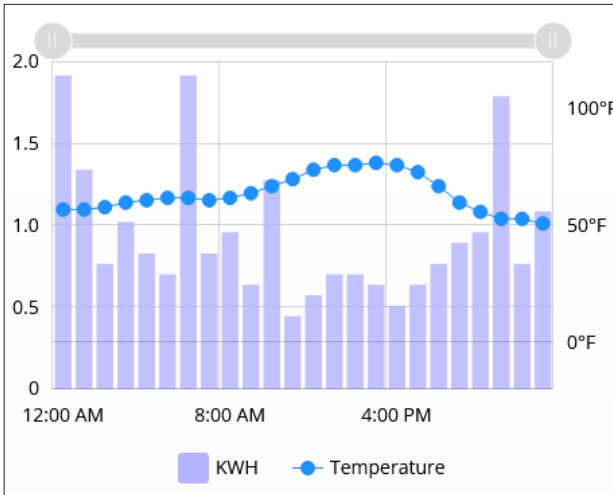
Monthly, since 1992, Tideland analyzes heating and cooling degree day data for our territory. That data helps us when we are assisting members in analyzing their monthly energy consumption as it applies to home heating and cooling.

Our year-end analysis for 2024 showed a much milder year for home heating needs than the historical average (20% lower). However on the cooling side, there was an overall 10% increase over historical norms.

When compared with our 2023 year-end figures, your home’s HVAC system had to run at least 5% more to maintain indoor temperature settings. And we know systems worked overtime in January 2025. So if you have not had your HVAC system routinely serviced now would be a great time in preparation for air conditioning season.

You can track your own daily and hourly energy consumption via the member portal at tidelandemc.com to see how outdoor temperatures impact your bill. We hope you will do so today.

If you have a smart thermostat, like an Ecobee or Nest, you have the added benefit of being able to track HVAC system runtimes on your thermostat’s virtual dashboard.



Tideland Topics

tidelandemc.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

Paul Spruill

EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

24-Hour Member Service
252.943.3046

24-Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services
252.944.2400
Or text OUT to short code 85700

Tideland EMC is an equal opportunity provider & employer

Electrification incentives

Be sure to take advantage of federal tax credits that you may be eligible for when filing your 2024 return. From upgrades to your electrical panel and home wiring to the installation of heat pumps, windows and doors, there’s more reason than ever to electrify your life.

More info online at energystar.gov

