

Tideland Topics

Real People. Real Power.

Membership meeting *May 15*

The annual meeting of members will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2025, at Beaufort County Community College auditorium. Member registration will begin at 6:30 pm. The meeting start time is 7:00 pm. Look for the official notice and annual report in next month's issue of Tideland Topics.



SaveDate

Can you *dig it?*

Did you know there's more than one football field's length of buried utilities for every man, woman and child in the United States? That's 100 billion feet of potential hazards underground anytime someone digs.

Call 811 before you dig and learn more about National Safe Digging Month on Page H.





LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

#ThankALineworker

*Join us in thanking our
line crews for their service.*

Engelhard district:

Bubba Calhoun
Kane Cox
Joseph Gibbs
Joe Pugh
Phillip Sawyer
William Sawyer

Grantsboro district:

Michael Baldwin
Cole Bennett
Andrew Christie
Coleman Elks
Ben Fugate
Matthew Harrington
Timmy Ipock
William McAdoo
Greg Morris
Patrick Stilley

Ocracoke district:

Perry Austin
Justin Boor
Daymon Esham
Grant Jackson

Pantego district:

Josh Dunbar
Jason Kitchen
Jonathan Lee
Trent Linton
Michael Marslender
Matthew Neal
Rustin Reason
Austin Roscoe
Ben Slager

Message to members

April 14 is Electric Cooperative Lineworker Appreciation Day

by **PAUL SPRUILL**

GENERAL MANAGER &
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

When it comes to our work and careers, it is easy to get caught up in what has yet to be done and not take time to show some well-earned appreciation for what has been done.

When we do take a moment to pause and reflect, it is remarkable to think about how electric utility work is such a big part of our modern, everyday lives. It usually does not get a lot of attention until there is a power outage, but it is an important component of our home, leisure, school, work, and even economic activities.

Those that work on a line crew work closely with electricity. They are the heroes that are there to restore power after a storm has wreaked havoc on a community. They are lifesavers when power needs to be shutoff so first responders can safely attend to victims of a motor vehicle collision.

We spend a lot of time talking about safety because line crew put their safety on the line to ensure the safety and comfort of our communities and beyond. They have a can-do and giving spirit to help others. Their job requires great mental focus, electrical knowledge, and dedication to safety.



So thank you to each of our co-op linemen, for all you do. Thank you for always running toward our electrical problems and for your continuous work and training to keep us all — consumers, fellow lineworkers and yourself — safe. And thank you for your contributions outside of work coaching sports teams, volunteering as fire fighters, conducting fundraisers and raising another generation of fine young people.

We also want to acknowledge our contract linemen who are equally important to our day-in and day-out work to build an electric system that works for all our members.

We all benefit from their labor...our friends in high places.

A final word on Winter 2025

You really should consider investing in a WiFi smart thermostat like Ecobee

Tidelanders, while we have talked about January 2025 being the 2nd coldest January in over 3 decades (January 2018 was the coldest) we can now look back on the 2025 heating season as a whole. When we combine the heating degree days from December through February you can see the need for home heating this winter out-paced that of 2018.

Heating Season Comparisons	
December - February Heating Degree Day Totals	
Winter 2018:	1,729 HDD
Winter 2023:	1,297 HDD
Winter 2024:	1,469 HDD
Winter 2025:	1,772 HDD

This year we had two major cold events: the January snowfall followed by February's ice storm. That means you likely experienced back-to-back electric bills that were higher than usual.

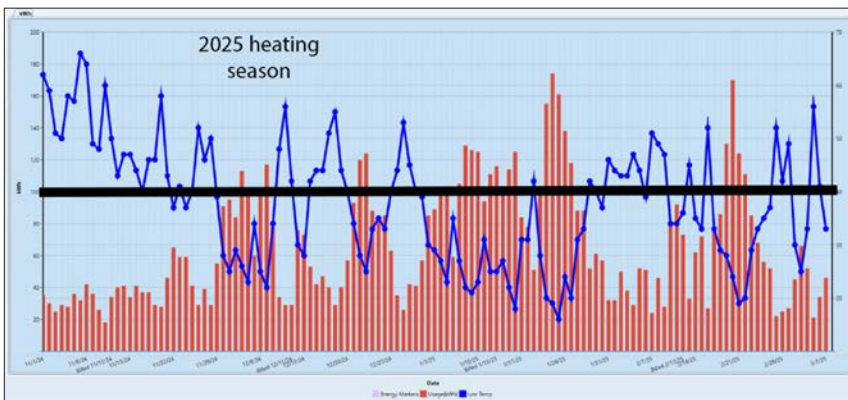
If you have an air source heat pump with auxiliary heat strips you probably took a bit of a hard hit this winter.

Below is a chart of a member's daily kilowatt hour consumption between Nov. 1 and March 7. The blue line represents the day's lowest outdoor temperature reading (this particular chart is for New Bern). The lowest during this time period was 16°F on the morning of Jan. 23.

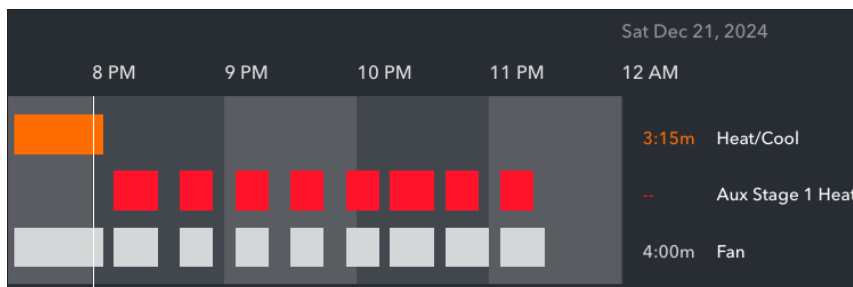
The black line across the page represents 40°F. During that 127-

day period, 64 of those days saw outdoor temperatures fall below 40°F. Why is this significant?

Because that is the point at which normal auxiliary heat operation may have factored into your daily energy consumption. When auxiliary heat is operating your hourly operating costs can triple from that of the much more
Continues on Page F



Member portal daily kilowatt hour energy use with daily low temperature overlay



Ecobee runtime dashboard for air source heat pump with auxiliary heat strips

Rights-of-way maintenance schedule

Tideland has hired Gunnison Tree to manage vegetation in our rights-of-way.

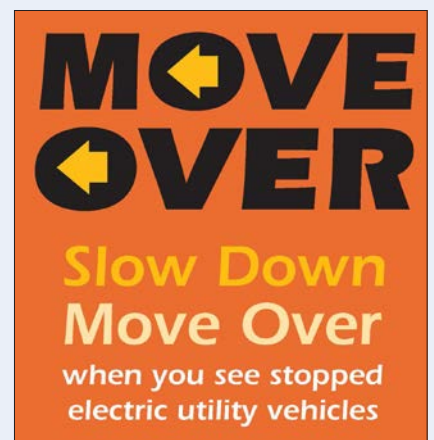
During April, Gunnison will be trimming the Pamlico Beach circuit out of our Sidney substation. They will then move on to the Hyde County circuit out of our Pantego substation.

Lee Electric line construction crews will be working in the Engelhard.

Thank you for your support of each of these important maintenance activities which improve system reliability and promote public safety. We certainly benefited from tree trimming within our right-of-way this winter with minimal service disruptions during a snowstorm, ice storm and multiple wind events.

You can help us by planting trees in locations where the mature height will not impact our powerlines.

Be sure to give all utility crews wide berth when approaching them on public roadways.



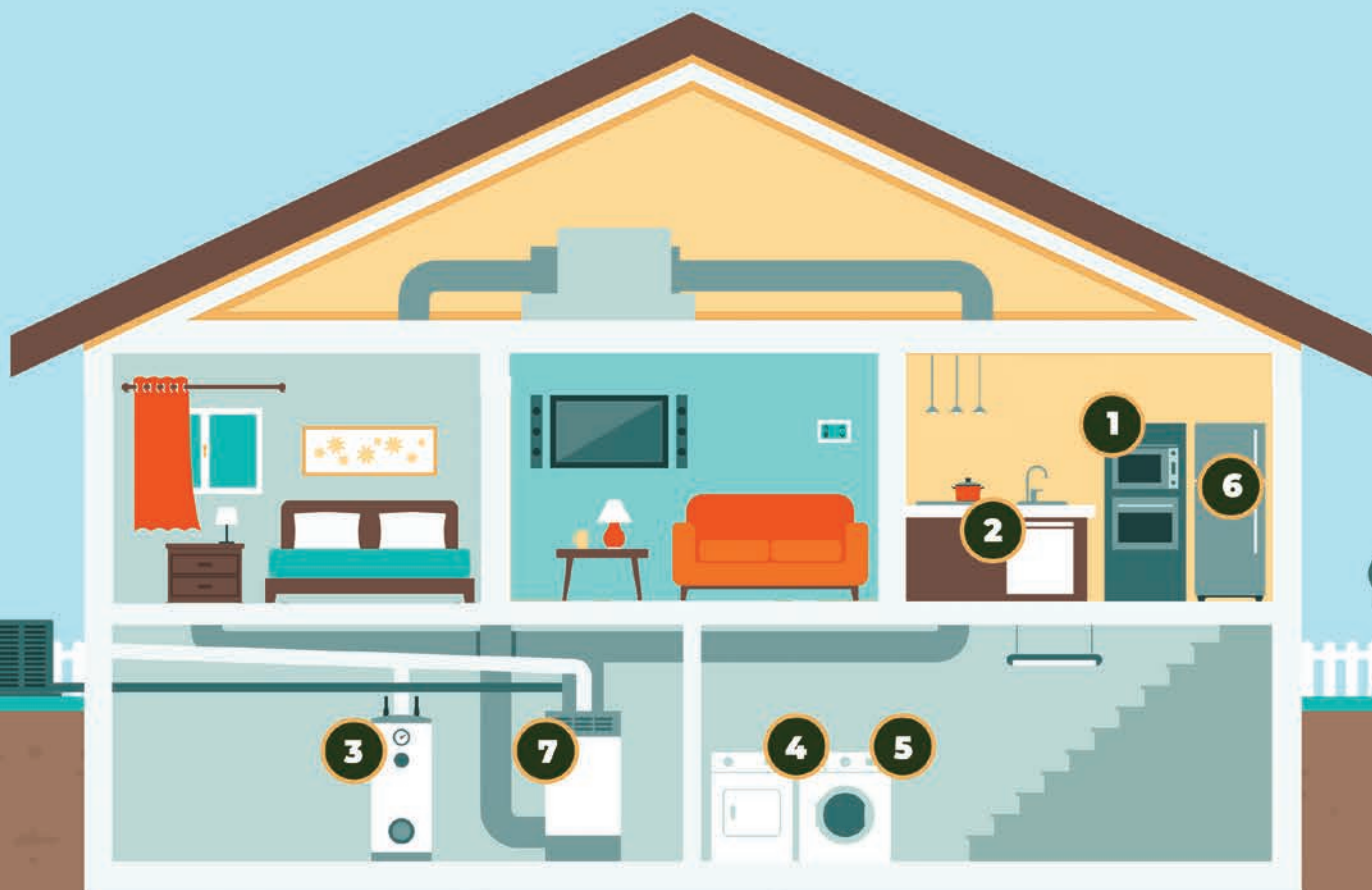


A Tri-State Energy Corporation

Tideland EMC

Real People. Real Power.

SPRING CLEANING FOR EFFICIENCY



1



MICROWAVE

A great way to loosen debris is to bring a cup of water to a boil in the microwave then wipe interior with a damp cloth.

2



DISHWASHER

More efficient than hand washing due to hot water savings. Use a rinse aid so you can use the energy saving air dry setting.

3



WATER HEATER

Sediment buildup at the bottom of your tank and on the heating elements impact performance, energy efficiency and the life of your water heater. Flush it annually. Make sure you cut the breaker off beforehand and let the tank water cool down. After flushing is complete, refill the tank before cutting the breaker back on. While the breaker is off, take a moment to lower the unit's thermostats to 120°F. It is important to make sure both thermostats are in agreement.

4



CLOTHES DRYER

1. Clean the vent hose to reduce drying time and prevent fires. While you can vacuum the lint, a dryer vent brush helps remove buildup on the sidewalls.
2. Clean the lint trap after every load.
3. Use dryer sheets? They can deposit a waxy buildup. Wash the lint trap quarterly with hot water to dissolve the buildup.
4. When drying, use moisture sensor settings to reduce runtime.

5



WASHING MACHINE

1. Clean your machine's filter quarterly.
2. Have a front loader? Keep a soft cloth handy and dry the rubber gasket after each load. Prop the door open for good air circulation. These mildew reduction measures can reduce the need to frequently run cleaning cycles.
3. Remember to opt for cold water wash cycles and if you have a top loader select the lowest water level appropriate for each load.

6



REFRIGERATOR

1. Dirty coils rob refrigerators of their efficiency. Clean the coils annually. This applies to both newer and older model refrigerators. Take special care not to damage the coils by using a soft, flexible brush. You can even use compressed air to clean the coil compartment. Be sure to unplug the refrigerator while cleaning.
2. Use a soft toothbrush and soapy water to clean refrigerator door gaskets. This ensures a proper air seal when closed.
3. An empty refrigerator/freezer costs more to cool. Jugs of water are a good way to take up space but don't overcrowd to ensure good air flow. 40°F is the recommended temperature for refrigerators and 0°F for freezers.

7



HVAC SYSTEM

1. While changing your filters take time to thoroughly clean the return air grill.
2. Have a mini-split? Remove and wash the filter.
3. Supply registers in the floor? Use your vacuum to suction out dirt and debris. This is a great time to ensure that your registers are in good contact with the subfloor and are properly air sealed.
4. Before cutting your air conditioner on this season, make sure the condensate (drip) line is unobstructed. Buildup and blockage can cause water damage and prevent proper system operation.

Winter 2025

Continued from Page C

efficient operation involving just the heat pump compressor. While we frequently talk about heating degree days as a measure of fluctuating home heating costs, it is important to understand when and how your auxiliary heat engages.

What can you do to better manage auxiliary heat? If you have an outdoor thermostat that is preset at 40°F you can ask your HVAC tech to lower it and test performance and comfort at a setting of maybe 35°F.

If you have a WiFi-enabled smart thermostat, like the Ecobee, you can test the auxiliary heat threshold on your own.

If you do have a WiFi-enabled smart thermostat and an online dashboard is available, log in to see your system runtimes which should include the mode of operation such as Stage 1, Stage 2, Auxiliary, etc. You can then do a side-by-side comparison with your Tideland EMC member portal data to better understand how much your HVAC system contributes to your energy consumption.

Combine those two things with a high energy use alert and you should have all the tools you need to avoid unpleasant winter heating surprises.

Seed money to help K-12 ideas blossom

Classroom teachers may now apply for Bright Ideas funding in amounts up to \$2,500 per grant. To access the online application and learn more about the program please visit ncbrightideas.com. The final application deadline is Sept. 15, 2025.

Have you checked out CheckOut?

Have you tried our remote payment option at one of your local retailers? Tideland's CheckOut service provides immediate credit to your account without the payment posting delays or exorbitant fees associated with other third-party providers. To provide this convenient service, we have partnered with the CheckOut payment network.

To start, visit tidelandemc.com and go to the CheckOut landing page to retrieve your unique account barcode.

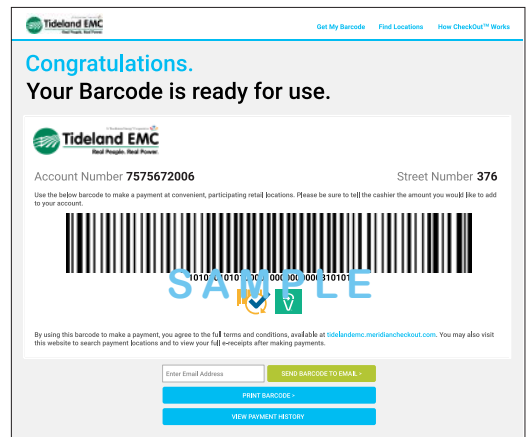
If you have more than one Tideland EMC account, you will need to retrieve the unique barcode for each individual account.

You will have the option to "Print Barcode" which you will present to the retail location to process your payment. You can also use a screenshot saved to your mobile device.

Use CheckOut's "Find Locations" link to find a payment location near you. Members are not locked into a specific geographical area in which they can make payments with this system, which is

convenient for those with second homes and traveling outside the area.

CheckOut does not have the ability to display your Tideland account balance. If you do not have your bill handy, you can utilize Tideland's member portal, mobile app, or call our office for balance information.



Please note that a \$1.50 service fee is collected with each payment you make utilizing the CheckOut network.

After successful payment, you may retrieve your full detailed E-Receipt at tidelandemc.com after entering your account number.



Prepare your home for a

wildfire



Create a defensible space around your home.

Maintain three zones around your structure, collectively called defensible space, to help slow or stop the spread of wildfire. Most home losses due to wildfires are started by embers, not flames. Follow these tips to help prevent ember contact with or near your home.

Zone 0

1. Clear roofs, gutters, decks, porches and stairways of debris.
2. Clear wall exteriors of leaves, needles and flammable plants.
3. Replace or repair loose or missing shingles or roof tiles.
4. Trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck.
5. Remove all branches within 10 feet of a chimney or stovepipe outlet.
6. Use metal mesh screening to protect eaves and vents.
7. Relocate combustible items, including trash cans and vehicles, outside this zone.

Zone 1

1. Clear the ground of leaves, debris and flammable materials.
2. Remove items stored underneath decks or porches.
3. Remove all dead and dying grass, weeds and shrubs.
4. Break up continuous vegetation.
5. Create a separation between trees/shrubs and flammable items (e.g., swing set, patio furniture).
6. Remove flammable materials such as wood piles or propane tanks.
7. Clear vegetation from under large, stationary propane tanks.

Zone 2

1. Cut or mow grass down to 4 inches maximum (this also applies to Zone 1).
2. Create horizontal space between planted vegetation.
3. For tall trees, remove lower tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground.
4. For short trees, do not trim lower branches more than one-third of overall height.
5. Create vertical space between grass, shrubs and trees.
6. Remove surface clutter, including leaves, needles, cones and bark.

Home and Yard Care

1. Use fire-resistant materials when building, repairing or renovating.
2. Use hardscape (gravel, pavers, rock) instead of combustible bark or mulch.
3. When planning your landscape, limit shrubs and trees to small groupings.
4. Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways, patios and decks (using non-flammable materials).
5. Before planting, anticipate a tree's potential growth and size, including its canopy.

Learn all you can about defensible zones and wildfire preparation to help protect your home. In addition, gather emergency supplies and know your community's evacuation routes.



Sources: ReadyforWildfire.org (CAL FIRE), National Fire Protection Association



Members participating in the co-op's residential time-of-use rate plan are reminded that the switch to summer peak hours begins on Wednesday, April 16.

The on-peak hours will be 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Good Friday, Memorial Day, the fourth of July and Labor Day will be off-peak holidays.

*Real People.
Real Power.*

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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Tideland EMC is an equal
opportunity provider & employer



Time-of-use hours change

April is National Safe Digging Month



With spring in full swing, there's no better time to remember to "Call Before You Dig." According to 811, the "Call Before You Dig" national hotline, an underground utility is damaged every nine minutes because someone didn't call before digging.

Whether it is a do-it-yourself project or you are hiring a professional, call 811 at least three days prior to starting any digging project to request that all underground utilities be marked. The service is free.

You may think it won't hurt anything to dig in an unmarked yard when landscaping, installing a fence, deck or mailbox, or even "just" planting a small flower bed or bush, but damaging an underground cable can have serious consequences.

Hitting a line could result in serious injuries or disrupted service for you and your neighbors. It could also

make a dent in your wallet for repair fees and fines.

Before digging:

- Notify NC OneCall 811 or making an online request 2-3 days before work begins.
- Wait the required amount of time for affected utility operators to respond to your request.
- Confirm that all affected utility operators have responded to your request and marked underground utilities.

Remember that privately owned underground lines will NOT be marked by location flaggers. Examples of private lines/equipment include well and septic, underground sprinkler systems, invisible fencing, gas or electric lines that serve a detached building, as well as any lines (electric, water, sewer) from the meter to your home.

Holiday Closing

Our
offices will
be closed
Friday,
April 18,
for Good
Friday.



Our 24-hour
member service center
will remain open and
crews are on standby to
respond to outages as
needed.