



# Pitt and Greene

## Electric Membership Corporation

*“Where Customers Have A Choice”*

*Member Newsletter*

*April 2017*

### **Bright Ideas 2017 - 2018**

The Bright Ideas grant program is offered by all 26 of North Carolina’s electric cooperatives and supports educators in need of funding to implement creative, hands-on learning projects in their classrooms.

Since 1994, North Carolina’s electric co-ops have awarded more than \$10.9 million in Bright Ideas grants to teachers statewide. These projects have benefited well over 2.1 million North Carolina students.

Pitt & Greene EMC is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2017-2018 school year. Teachers in K-12 classrooms with innovative ideas are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$2,000.

Grant applications will be accepted April 1 through September 18, 2017. However, it could pay to apply early, all teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of August 15 will be entered into a drawing for a Visa gift card.

Teachers at qualifying schools can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects. To apply, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit [www.NCBrightIdeas.com](http://www.NCBrightIdeas.com). or email [safaniya.stevenson@ncemcs.com](mailto:safaniya.stevenson@ncemcs.com).

### **Prepare for Summer Heat, Increase Energy Efficiency**

Adding a few items to your list of spring chores can help make your home more energy efficient and deliver electric bills that won’t make you sweat when temperatures soar.

Spring and early summer are good times to make sure that your air conditioning unit is ready to work when you flip the switch:

- Get help from a professional who can inspect and service your unit.
- Give your air conditioner a do-it-yourself cleaning. Shut the unit off, and clear away leaves and yard debris outside. Inside the unit, clean or replace filters that can restrict air flow and reduce overall efficiency by making the air conditioner work harder on hot summer days. Dust the fan blades if you can do so safely. Make sure air can flow freely over the inside and outside coils. Vacuum registers to remove any dust buildup.
- Check weather stripping. When using window units, ensure that weather stripping is in place. Placement should be between the middle of the top window pane and the bottom pane.

Check out your roof. See how well your roof has weathered the winter. Few things can shorten the life of your home faster than a roof leak, even a minor one can damage your attic insulation before you know it. A roofing professional can assess and repair things like loose or missing shingles, repair leaks, and clear gutters.

You can also visit [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com) to find out how little measures around the house can add up to big energy savings as temperatures outside climb.





## ***Manager's Message***

***By: Mark A. Suggs***

### ***Co-ops and a culture of safety***

His rubber gloves have been checked. His harness is secure. His mind and body are nourished, and his comrades stand below. A lineman begins his climb, inching farther from the ground and closer to the power line above while the wind whirls. He's confident in his training and in his experience, but the dangers of the job are always in his mind.

The U.S. Department of Labor ranks electric line work as one of our country's most dangerous jobs, but that doesn't mean it can't be safe. Safety has been a fundamental part of Pitt & Greene EMC's culture for the past 80 years. It's something we expect from our employees whether they're in the field working to maintain the lines and equipment that deliver electricity to your home, or they're in the warehouse or even in the office. It's a part of who we are.

As members of Pitt & Greene EMC, you are a part of our cooperative family, and we want safety to be a part of who you are, too. May is National Electrical Safety Month, and it's a good opportunity for all of us to reconnect with simple practices that will help keep our homes and families free from common and often-overlooked electrical hazards.

#### *Inside the Home:*

- Inspect electrical cords often for broken connectors or fraying. Throw away any worn cords to eliminate the possibility of shock, short circuit or fire.
- Don't overload power outlets.
- The wattage of the bulbs you use in your home should match the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to a fire.
- When trying to unplug something from an outlet, pull on the plug, not the cord.
- Keep in mind that turned off appliances are still connected to electricity until they are unplugged. To clean or repair these appliances always unplug them first.
- Use extension cords only for short-term purposes, and make sure the cord is adequately suited for the amount of electricity it will be transferring.
- Turn off and unplug all portable electrical appliances, like hairdryers, irons and shavers, when you're finished using them.
- Be familiar with the location of your breaker box and make sure the switches are clearly labeled so you can shut off electricity quickly in the event of an emergency.

#### *Outside the Home:*

- If there is a downed power line nearby, leave the area immediately and notify our office or call 911. If others are around, let them know that they need to stay away.
- "Call Before You Dig." Dial 811 before starting a digging project, and workers will be sent to your home to mark utility lines in your yard. This service is free, and it has the potential to save your life.
- Never use electrical equipment near any wet areas, such as pools or ponds.

These tips may seem basic, but they are important. Please participate in our culture of safety by recognizing May as National Electrical Safety Month. Take a few moments to identify, understand and correct the potential electrical hazards in your home.

## Thunderstorm safety tips from the American Red Cross

When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.
- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.
- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors! The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.
- Secure windows and outside doors. Keep away from windows.
- Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.
- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.
- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.

## Outdoor Electrical Safety Tips

Warmer weather brings an increase in outdoor work in many parts of the country, both on the job and at home. Increasing electrical safety awareness can help ensure those activities do not result in injuries and deaths.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) provides the following safety tips:

- Carefully check the location of all overhead wires before using a ladder. All ladders, even those made of wood, that contact a power line can shock or electrocute people coming in contact with them.
- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housing. Repair or replace damaged items.
- Water does not mix with electricity. Avoid damp conditions - including wet grass - when using electricity.

Visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) for more ways to keep your home and family safe this spring and beyond.

## Important Sales and Use Tax Notice

A purchaser (farmers, manufacturers and commercial laundries) that is eligible for a preferential tax rate on electricity should complete and furnish the seller/electricity supplier Form E-595E, Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement Certificate of Exemption, to take advantage of qualifying reductions.



***Pitt & Greene EMC will be closed  
Monday, May 29, 2017  
in observance of  
Memorial Day.***

## Don't toy with your safety!

When you are playing outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other equipment your electric co-op uses to send electricity to your home. Flying remote controlled toys are a great way to have fun, but accidentally making contact with a power line or other electrical equipment can be dangerous and in some cases, even deadly.

- Never fly kites, or remote controlled toys near power lines.
- Stay away from power lines, meters, transformers and electrical boxes.
- Never climb trees near power lines.
- If you get something stuck in a power line, call Pitt & Greene EMC and never touch or go near a downed power line.

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## Make The Most Of Ceiling Fans

By turning on the fan, you can turn up the savings! If you are like most Americans, you have at least one ceiling fan in your home. Ceiling fans help our indoor life feel more comfortable. They are a decorative addition to our homes and, if used properly, can help lower energy costs.

### TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR CEILING FANS:

1. **FLIP THE SWITCH** – Most ceiling fans have a switch near the blades. In warm months, flip the switch so that the blades operate in a counter clockwise direction, effectively producing a “wind chill” effect. Fans make the air near you feel cooler than it actually is. In winter, move the switch so the fan blades rotate clockwise, creating a gentle updraft. This pushes warm air down from the ceiling into occupied areas of the room. Regardless of the season, try operating the fan on its lowest setting.
2. **ADJUST YOUR THERMOSTAT** – In the summer, when using a fan in conjunction with an air conditioner, or instead of it, you can turn your thermostat up three to five degrees without any reduction in comfort. This saves money since a fan is less costly to run than an air conditioner. In the winter, lower your thermostat's set point by the same amount. Ceiling fans push the warm air from the ceiling back down toward the living space, which means the furnace won't turn on as frequently.
3. **CHOOSE THE RIGHT SIZE** – Make sure your ceiling fan is the right size for the room. A fan that is 36-44 inches in diameter will cool rooms up to 225 square feet. A fan that is 52 inches or more should be used to cool a larger space.
4. **TURN IT OFF** – When the room is unoccupied, turn the fan off. Fans are intended to cool people - not rooms.

De lunes a viernes de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m.  
252-753-3128 / 1-800-622-1362 / 252-747-7600

### CORTES DE SUMINISTRO ELÉCTRICO Y EMERGENCIAS:

Durante fines de semana, días festivos y después del horario de oficina  
252-753-8778

### Co-op Office Hours

Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
252-753-3128 / 1-800-622-1362 / 252-747-7600

### POWER OUTAGES & EMERGENCIAS

During weekends, holidays and after office hours  
252-753-8778