



Pitt and Greene

Electric Membership Corporation

“Where Customers Have A Choice”

Member Newsletter

January 2018

Reminder...

Colder weather has arrived, have you thought about what your heating system is set on? For example, if you have the thermostat set on 73, the system will come on more to keep it that desired temperature than if you have it set on a lower setting. The colder it is outside the more your heating system will run to keep your home warm. Which will make your utility bill higher. So when you receive your utility bill and it is higher than usual, remember the colder weather outside and what your thermostat was set on inside.

Don't be fooled by common energy myths

Eating carrots will greatly improve your eyesight, cracking your knuckles leads to arthritis, watching too much TV will harm your vision. We've all heard the old wives' tales, but did you know there are also many misconceptions about home energy use? Don't be fooled by common energy myths.

*Myth: The higher the thermostat setting, the faster the home will heat.

Many people think that walking into a chilly room and raising the thermostat to 85 degrees will heat the room more quickly. This is not true. Thermostats direct a home's HVAC system to heat or cool to a certain temperature. Drastically adjusting the thermostat setting will not make a difference in how quickly you feel warmer. The same is true for cooling. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees during summer months, and 68 degrees during winter months.

*Myth: Opening the oven door to check on a dish doesn't really waste energy.

While it can be tempting to check the progress of that dish you're cooking in the oven, opening the oven door does waste energy. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, delaying the progress of your dish and, more importantly, costing you additional money. If you need to check the progress of a dish, try using the oven light instead.

Myth: Ceiling fans keep your home cool while you're away.

Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Ceiling fans circulate room air but do not change the temperature. A running ceiling fan in an empty room is only adding to your electricity use. Remember to turn fans off when you're away and reduce your energy use.

Myth: Reducing my energy use is too expensive.

Many consumers believe that reducing energy use requires expensive up-front costs, like purchasing new, more efficient appliances or construction upgrades to an older home. But the truth is, consumers who make small changes to their energy efficiency habits, such as turning off lights when not in use, sealing air leaks and using a programmable thermostat, can see a reduction in energy consumption. Remember, energy efficiency doesn't have to be difficult. Focus on small changes to save big.



***Pitt & Greene EMC
will be closed Monday,
February 19th for
Presidents Day.***



Manager's Message

By: Mark A. Suggs

It is hard to imagine that another year is nearly behind us. We just held our 80th annual meeting and our sights are focused on the 2018 budget and operating projects.

The annual meeting went great with a full house of members hearing reports regarding the financial position and status of work plans and projects undertaken over the past year.

Secretary Treasurer Kirby Bell reported on our audit which gave the cooperative an unqualified opinion with regard to our annual audit. An unqualified audit means your cooperative continues to receive the highest level of approval any company can receive. An approval rating everyone should be proud of.

Over 100 members walked out as winners with very nice door prizes, most of which were donated by vendors we routinely do business with. We offer our sincere thanks to those companies and their continued support and great service.

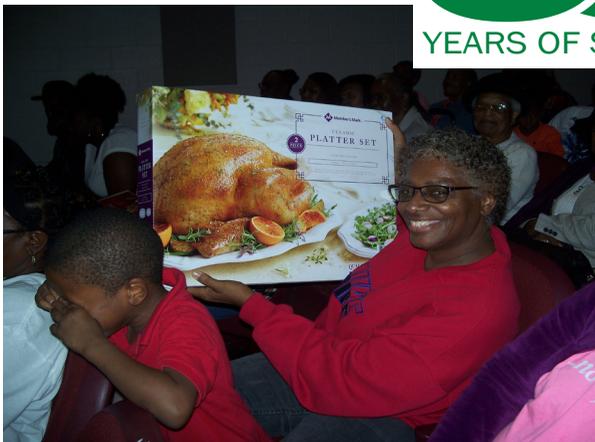
The following directors were re-elected to serve 3 year terms: District 1, Kirby Bell; District 5, Bill Askew and the District 6, Mike Hardy.

I reported to the members that the cost of power continues to be the most expensive aspect of doing business, a cost of over 60 cents of each dollar. Weather can have the most far reaching effect on that cost. Hurricane Matthew had an impact on 2016's fourth quarter of business.

Looking forward, we will feel the financial impact of North Carolinas Coal Ash cleanup. The majority of the cost will no doubt fall on Duke Energy but all rate payers in the state who received power generated by coal will be impacted. Since a portion of our power was generated with coal, we to will be impacted until such time as the determination of complete clean up is finished. At the time of this message it appears that these cost will likely drag on for three or four years.

Beginning in January 2018, crews will begin rehabilitation of many of our main feeder lines throughout the system. This work is necessary to assure that reliability of our system remains top priority. Clean right of ways and strong facilities is at the heart of a dependable and reliable system. Our goal is to provide and maintain the best system possible for you, your family and business.

Pictures from the Annual Meeting



Congratulations to the following employees who were recently recognized for their years of service to the cooperative: Tony Vandiford 50 years, Debbie Denton 10 years, Todd Creech 30 years, Robert Wood 20 years and directors Mike Hardy and Garland Mozingo 10 years.



10 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking to lower your bills this winter? Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.

- 1  Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
- 2  Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
- 3  Turn off lights when not in use.
- 4  Lower your water heater temperature. The Dept. of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
- 5  Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.
- 6  Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
- 7  Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.
- 8  Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.
- 9  Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
- 10  Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

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.
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During weekends, holidays and after office hours
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