



Pitt and Greene

Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“Where Customers Have A Choice”

July 2018

Member Newsletter

Avoid High Summer Electric Bills

Don't let warmer weather turn into “summertime blues” when your monthly electric bill arrives. Following are some energy-saving tips.

Adjust the thermostat. During warmer months, raising the thermostat a few degrees can save money. Set the temperature between 78-80 degrees Fahrenheit, and you could save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.

Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering four pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year.

Be a “fan-atic.” While they don't replace air conditioners or heat pumps, fans move air and help you feel more comfortable. On milder days, fans can save as much as 60 percent on electric bills. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

Regular maintenance is essential. Have your HVAC systems serviced annually by a NATE (North American Technician Excellence)-certified technician. This HVAC professional will check your entire system to make sure it runs efficiently. This will help extend the life of the system and save money.

When it's time to replace your cooling system, TogetherWeSave.com recommends replacing it with an ENERGY STAR- qualified model. Doing so will reduce your energy costs.

Bigger isn't always better. Too often, cooling equipment isn't sized properly and leads to higher electric bills. A unit that's too large for your home will not cool evenly and might produce higher humidity indoors.

Instead of getting burned this summer by high energy bills, visit www.energysavers.gov OR Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives energy-saving website, www.TogetherWeSave.com, for more money-saving ideas.

Check Your Account Anytime/Anywhere

Do you have a pgemc.com account login? If not, you are missing out on having access to your account online. This will enable you to make payments, view your usage history, manage notifications, and account management. It only takes a minute to register, just follow the instructions below.

Go to the website, www.pgemc.com. Select Member Account, Account Login, and click the Register Now link. You will first be prompted to enter information about your membership and email address, then click the Submit button.

This first step of registration sends an email to the address provided which contains a link to the second step of registration. On this page, the member must enter the account number used in step one of registration, a password, retype the password, and mother's maiden name before clicking the Submit button.

Registration has now been verified and you will be redirected to the Home page. The Home page lists all active accounts belonging to you, the member, along with Account Type, Service Address, and Account Balance. To navigate around the site, click on either a link (such as the account number) or a side bar menu option.

If you need help registering, please call 1-800-622-1362 or 252-753-3128 to speak with a Customer Service Representative.



Manager's Message

By: Mark A. Suggs

Safety Above All Else

“Safety” is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small as well as companies across all industries are committed to safety. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep the public, workers, athletes and loved ones safe are often ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.

However, safety is a serious issue, especially when it comes to electrical safety. For Pitt and Greene EMC it's a number one priority. Over time, Pitt and Greene EMC has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. We strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our members but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. We establish and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular meetings where they discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective. They monitor and track near-misses of accidents in order to understand them, share “lessons learned” and improve in the future.

We encourage all of our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness, we promote problem-solving with regard to safety, rather than defaulting to a blame game. We examine the information and data gathered from near-misses and accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

Keeping the community safe

Each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, and report anything that may look suspicious near substations and padmount transformers. Be mindful when it comes to electrical safety. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.

Stay Away from Electrical Substations

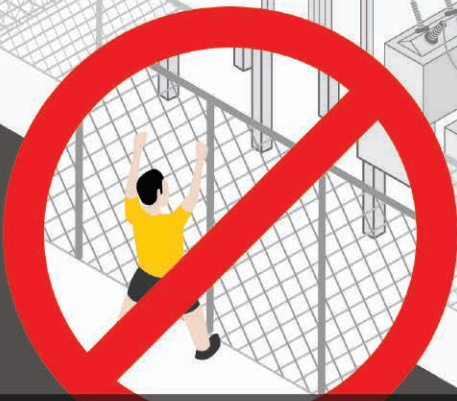
An electrical substation converts electricity to a lower voltage so it can be safely routed and delivered to your home. Because high-voltage power runs through substation equipment, please avoid substation areas and the fences that surround them. Keep the following safety tips in mind:



Never release metallic balloons near substations. If they get caught in the equipment or lines, they can cause power outages.



Never fly kites or drones near electrical substations. If you do and the kite or drone gets caught inside the fence, let us retrieve it for you.



Teach youngsters to stay away from electrical substation fences. The area is dangerous, and these fences are NOT for climbing.



If you see a substation fence or transformer cabinet that is open or looks to be vandalized, please contact us immediately.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Stay safe exploring the outdoors this Summer

Summer is in full swing, and that means it is time for fun in the sun! As you find yourself spending more time outdoors, Pitt & Greene EMC reminds you to stay safe.

Planning a home improvement project? When working outdoors, you may be using tools, such as ladders, power tools, shovels or even paintbrushes with extendable arms. These items help you get the job done but have the potential to be dangerous if used improperly.

Pay attention to where you place metal ladders or dig for fence posts. Before you start any project, always look up and avoid overhead power lines. Keep a minimum of 10 feet between you and overhead lines.

If you are planning a project that requires digging, remember to dial “811” first to find out if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines. Power tools should be kept away from wet surfaces, and outlets should not be overloaded.

Exploring the great outdoors is a great way to spend time with the family, but keep these safety tips in mind.

Children should never climb trees near power lines, always assume a wire is live. Fly kites and remote controlled-airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines.

Planning to take a dip in the pool? Electrical devices, such as stereos, should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources, and outdoor electrical outlets should always be covered. If you hear a rumble of thunder, exit the pool right away.

Speaking of thunder, summer storms can be dangerous if you're caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. If you find yourself outdoors during a storm, move toward suitable shelter with covered sides, and stick to low-lying ground if possible.

These are just a few tips to remember when you are spending time outdoors this summer with your family. Have some fun out there, and always keep safety in mind!

Do you or a loved one rely on medical equipment that is supplied by electricity? If so, do you know what you will do if the lights are out for an extended length of time due to damage caused by a storm, tornado or hurricane?

Now is the time to put a backup plan in place in the event power is knocked out. We will restore power as soon as possible, but depending on the type of damage caused and where the damage may be, we cannot guarantee how long you may be affected by an outage.

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.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Here's a cool tip for your fridge! Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder.

Source: energy.gov



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

Co-op Office Hours
Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 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

POWER OUTAGES & EMERGENCIAS

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