



Pitt and Greene

Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“Where Customers Have A Choice”

October 2018

Member Newsletter

2018 Annual Meeting of the Members

The 81st Annual Meeting of the members for Pitt and Greene Electric Membership Corporation will be held Thursday, November 1, 2018 at Farmville Central High School, 3308 East Wilson Street, Farmville. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. As a member/owner of the cooperative it is important to attend the Annual Meeting to hear how the cooperative performed in 2017. Your registration card was mailed September 6, 2018. You will need to bring this with you to the Annual Meeting in order to be eligible for the drawing of door prizes.

Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 4th.

Remember To Set Clocks Back 1 Hour.



Cooking Efficiently

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that cooking alone accounts for 4 percent of total home energy use, and this figure doesn't include the energy costs associated with refrigeration, hot water heating, and dishwashing. As holiday parties and potlucks gear up, keep these tips in mind to control energy costs:

- Don't peek. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy to get back to the proper cooking temperature.
- Turn it down or turn it off. For regular cooking, it's probably not necessary to have your oven on as long—or set as high—as the recipe calls for. For recipes that need to bake for longer than an hour, pre-heating the oven isn't necessary. And residual heat on an electric oven or stovetop will finish the last 5 to 10 minutes of baking time. Just remember to keep the oven door closed or the lid on until time is up. Alternately, if you're baking in a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe calls for. Because ceramic and glass hold heat better than metal pans, your dish will cook just as well at a lower temperature.
- Give your burners a break. For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay free of dirt and grime.
- Don't neglect your slowcooker. Or your microwave, toaster oven, or warming plate. For example, the average toaster oven can use up to half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time. Information to help you estimate how much energy your own appliances use is available on EnergySavers.gov.
- Give your furnace the day off. If your next party involves a lot of work for your stove, think about turning down your furnace to compensate. The heat of the oven and all those guests will keep the temperature comfortable.
- Make contact. Electric stovetops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact with; the less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stovetop will have to expend to heat the pan. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update.



Manager's Message

By: Mark A. Suggs

Unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language in order to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams. Understand the threats posed and your best course of action:

*If someone calls your home or cell phone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang-up the phone and contact the local authorities. Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or loading a pre-paid credit or debit card (such as a Green Dot card). Pitt & Greene EMC will never ask you to offer up personal finance information over the phone. If you have any doubts about your utility bill, contact our office either in person, or over the phone at 252-753-3128.

*If someone comes to your home claiming to be an employee of Pitt & Greene EMC and they are wanting to collect money or inspect the electrical utilities, call us to verify they are, in fact, an employee. If they are not, call local authorities for assistance and do not let the individual into your home.

There are other types of scams consumers should watch out for:

*Government agencies like the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang-up immediately.

*If you receive an email from an unknown sender; an email riddled with spelling errors and typos; or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links provided within the email, and do not respond to the email. Simply delete the email, or send it to your spam folder.

*If someone calls your home claiming to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang-up. This caller's intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer.

We want to make sure you avoid any and all types of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. Hopefully, by following these tips you and your financial information will be safe.

Taking Small Measures Can Mean Real Savings

Ask yourself a simple question: Does my home feel drafty and cold in the winter or stuffy and hot in the summer? If you answer yes, then it probably experiences air leaks.

To track down where those spots are, start with the usual suspects, like damaged seals around doors and windows. If you see daylight or feel air, then apply caulk and weather stripping to keep outdoor air where it's supposed to be.

But don't forget spots you might not immediately think of, like recessed canister lights and electrical outlets. Outlet insulation kits can be purchased for as little as \$2, and you can fix up your canister lights with some caulk around the edges.

Also look where walls meet the ceiling. Cobwebs mean you've got drafts.

Peek into the attic and inspect the crawl space or basement for sufficient insulation. Keep in mind insulation won't do its job well if you don't have a proper air barrier working in tandem. That means all joints and cracks must be sealed between your living space and insulation.

Finally, look to your light fixtures. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) are up to 75 percent more efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs, and they've come a long way in light quality, design, and affordability. You can purchase a CFL in a variety of shapes and hues. They cost more upfront, but you'll make your money back in less than nine months and, after that, they start saving money. Make sure to purchase a CFL that's rated by ENERGY STAR, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's program that denotes products meeting specific energy efficiency criteria. ENERGY STAR-rated CFLs will typically last 10 times longer than a traditional incandescent bulb producing the same amount of light.

LEDs - light emitting diodes - are in the next wave of residential lighting. An ENERGY STAR rated model is estimated to use only a quarter of the electricity consumed by traditional bulbs and can last years. As with many new technologies, the up-front cost for an LED Bulb is still more than even a CFL, but prices are expected to drop as new products are developed.

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.

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.

Do you need to update your contact information? If you have a new telephone number or need to add a secondary contact person to your account, please call Pitt & Greene EMC at 252-753-3128.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



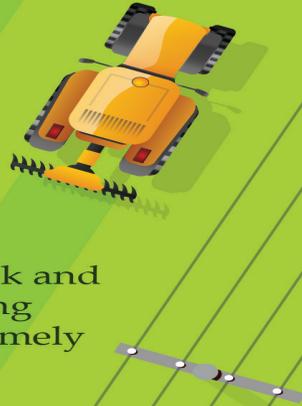


*Pitt & Greene EMC will be closed Monday,
November 12th in observance of Veterans Day
and Thursday and Friday, November 22nd
and 23rd for Thanksgiving*



Tips for a Safe Harvest

Harvest season brings hard work and can be an exhausting, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous (even deadly!) when working near overhead power lines. We urge farm operators and workers to keep the following safety tips in mind:



Use care when operating large machinery near power lines.



Inspect the height of equipment to determine clearance.



Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away (in all directions) from power lines.



Remember to lower extensions when moving loads.



If a power line is sagging or looks to be dangerously low, please call us immediately.

Source: SafeElectricity.org



**AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES**

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