



Pitt and Greene

Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“Where Customers Have A Choice”

March 2019

Member Newsletter

Question....

Would you like to be able to access your account online? You can by going to the website, www.pgmc.com and creating a login. Just follow these instructions. Select Member Account and then Account Login. Click the Register Now link. You will be prompted to enter information about your membership and email address, then select the Submit button.

This first step of registration sends an email to the address you provided. This email will contain 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.

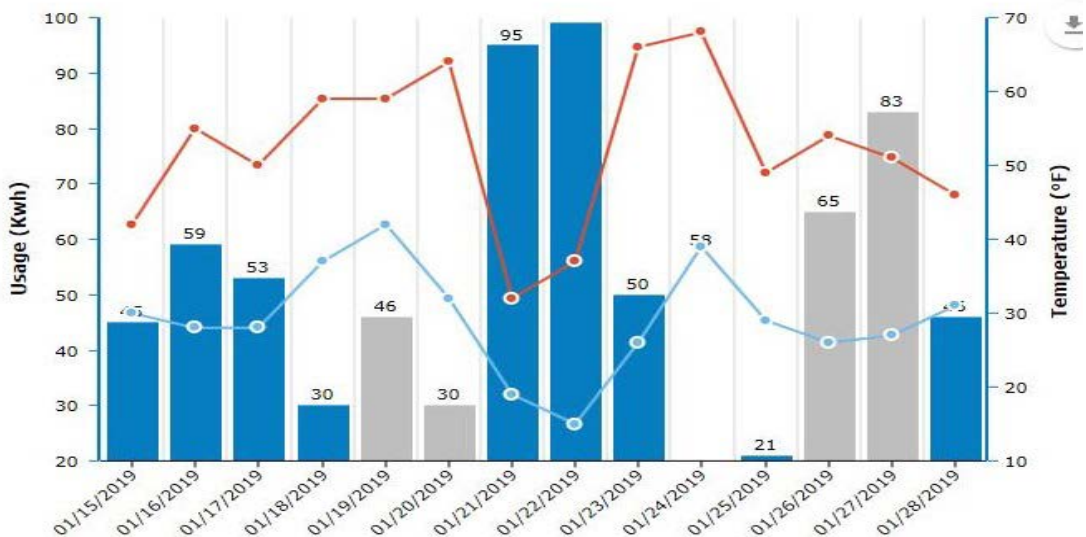
Registration has now been verified and you will be redirected to the Home page. The Home page lists all active accounts belonging to you, the member, along with Account Type, Service Address, and Account Balance. To navigate around the site, click on either a link (such as the account number) or one of the several sidebar menu options. See the example of what the side bar looks like. You will see you have several options to choose from. One of those is Usage Analysis. Below is an example of that graph. This graph shows you the high and low temperatures and how much electricity you used on a given day. Look at the date of 1/18/2019. The high was 59 degrees and the low was 37 degrees, and only 30 Kwh was used. Which means the unit did not come on much that day. Compare that to 1/21/2019, the high temperature was 32 degrees and the low temperature was 19 degrees. To keep the residence warm to the set temperature on the thermostat in the home, 95 Kwh was used. This means that the unit was on a lot that cold day and night to keep the home warm. This is a good example of the how the weather affects utility usage.

example of the Side Bar

- Account Summary
- Billing History
- Pay Online Now
- Scheduled Payments
- Payment History
- Usage History
- Usage Analysis
- Draft Payment Options
- Account Management
- Notifications
- Notifications Log
- Sign Off

At any time you have a question about registration or how to navigate the site, please call 1-800-622-1362 or 252-753-3128 and a Customer Service Representative will be glad to help you.

Example of the Usage Analysis Graph





Manager's Message

By: Mark A. Suggs

Electric Co-op Policy Priorities for the New Congress

Every time a new Congress convenes, electric cooperatives have the opportunity to educate new lawmakers on issues that matter most to their consumer-members and the communities they serve. The 116th Congress kicked off in January with more than 100 new members in the House and Senate.

Since then, co-ops have been working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents more than 900 not-for-profit electric cooperatives, to introduce ourselves to new members on Capitol Hill. Here are several priority issues that we're bringing to lawmakers' attention.

Energy Policy and Infrastructure

The potential for energy and infrastructure legislation presents a significant opportunity as electric cooperatives work to meet the growing needs of their local communities. NRECA will work to ensure that any infrastructure package focuses on more than roads and bridges, including opportunities to modernize the electric grid and expand rural broadband access. This is critical to ensuring that rural America is not left behind in the 21st century economy.

Environment

NRECA will promote and encourage bipartisan support for renewable energy research and development programs—including programs that focus on finding a viable use for carbon capture, utilization and storage, which comprise a suite of technologies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Cooperative renewables use has increased substantially in recent years, more than doubling since 2010.

Broadband

Expanded rural broadband access remains a priority for NRECA. As electric co-ops engage the new Congress, we will work to ensure that all rural broadband discussions include the electric co-op perspective on the need to expand high-speed internet service in rural areas. According to the Federal Communications Commission, 23 million rural Americans lack access to broadband — millions of them are members of an electric co-op. That's why roughly 100 electric cooperatives are working to close the digital divide by bringing broadband to their communities, and more are exploring the option.

Tax Policy

The 2017 tax reform law included a provision that treated federal grants as income. This threatens the tax-exempt status of some electric cooperatives, because many co-ops rely on government grants to maintain and expand their infrastructure and provide services to their local communities. America's electric cooperatives will seek to fix this unintended consequence of the tax law.

Grid Resilience

Protecting our nation's vast power grid is a national priority and focus for electric cooperatives. Ensuring appropriate information, sharing and preserving existing partnerships and structures are essential to these efforts. We will advocate for resources and technologies that meet the unique cybersecurity and recovery needs of small and medium-sized utilities to help protect our systems.

With such a large freshman class of lawmakers, educating them about electric cooperatives and the issues we care about will take time and perseverance. Advocating for the interests of our consumer-members and the communities in which they live is at the very heart of our business.

Three Easy DIY Projects to Save Energy

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

Make the Most of Your Water Heater.

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

Seal Air Leaks with Caulk.

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is water-proof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

Weather Strip Exterior Doors.

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moulding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.

Enjoy A Safe Start To Spring

As the spring season approaches, many will usher in the warmer weather by thoroughly cleaning their homes and tending to yard work. The Electrical Safety Foundation (ESFI) recommends homeowners ensure that electrical hazards are eliminated along with unwanted dust and clutter.

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.

The Electrical Safety Foundation (ESFI) recommends homeowners ensure that electrical hazards are eliminated along with unwanted dust and clutter.

They suggest you begin by checking the label inside the door or cover of your electrical service panel to see when your electrical system was last inspected. If the date has passed or is approaching, contact a licensed, qualified electrician to schedule an inspection.

- Be sure circuit breakers and fuses are correctly labeled with their amperage and their corresponding rooms, circuits or outlets. Use correct size and current rating for breakers/fuses.
- Increase your fire protection by having a licensed electrician replace your standard circuit breakers with arc fault circuit interrupters - AFCIs.
- Have your furnace cleaned and inspected annually by a licensed professional.
- Make sure all fuel-burning equipment, such as furnaces, stoves, and fireplaces, is vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Check for excessive vibration or movement when the washing machine or dryer is operating. This can put stress on electrical connections.
- Make sure the area around your dryer is clutter free and that the dryer lint filter is cleaned after each load. Build up can be a fire starter.

Visit www.esfi.org for more tips on keeping your home and family safe this spring and beyond.

Pitt & Greene EMC will be closed Friday, April 19th in observance of Easter



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

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

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