



Pitt and Greene

Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

“Where Customers Have A Choice”

April 2019

Member Newsletter

Bright Ideas 2019 - 2020

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 \$11.5 million in Bright Ideas grants to teachers statewide. These projects have benefited well over 2.2 million North Carolina students.

Pitt & Greene EMC is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2019-2020 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 23, 2019. 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.

Tamper Resistant Receptacles

They may look like standard outlets, but tamper resistant receptacles, or TRRs, are different. Their most distinguishable feature – a built-in shutter system that prevents foreign objects from being inserted – sets them apart. Only a plug that applies simultaneous, equal pressure to both slots will disengage the cover plates, allowing access to the contact points. Without this synchronized pressure, the cover plates remain closed.

While a child’s curiosity knows no boundaries, it can sometimes put them in peril, especially when electricity is involved. Located in practically every room of the house, electrical outlets and receptacles are fixtures, but they also represent potential hazards for children.

In recent years, more homes have been equipping their electrical outlets with TRRs, but in many public facilities, like hospital pediatric wards, these safeguards have been required for more than 20 years. Their efficiency also prompted the National Electrical Code to make TRRs standard in all new home construction. Existing homes can be easily retrofitted with TRRs

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Sunday, May 12, 2019

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: energy.gov





Manager's Message

By: Mark A. Suggs

The Power Behind Your Power

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Pitt & Greene EMC strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – co-op lineworkers.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, lineworkers are responsible for keeping 1080.92 miles of lines across 6 counties working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines day and night in the worst of conditions. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8. So during the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

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.

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using the same installation guidelines that apply to standard receptacles. TRRs should only be installed by a licensed electrician and should carry a label from a nationally recognized, independent testing lab such as UL, ETL, or CSA.

Each year 2,400 children suffer severe shock and burns resulting from inserting objects into the slots of electrical receptacles. That’s nearly seven children a day. It is estimated that 6-12 child fatalities result from children tampering electrical receptacles. Installing a TRR in a newly constructed home is only about 50 cents more than a traditional receptacle. Existing homes can be retrofitted with TRRs for as little as \$2.00 per outlet.

For more information on Tamper Resistant Receptacles, visit www.esfi.org.

YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

ENERGY EFFICIENCY QUIZ



Are you an energy efficiency whiz?
Test your knowledge by taking the quiz below.
Hint: Check your answers at the bottom of the page.

1. Taking a long bath saves more energy than taking a short shower.

A) True B) False

2. LED bulbs typically use _____ less energy than incandescent light bulbs.

A) 75% B) 50% C) 35%

3. Which of the following is an energy vampire? (Hint: Energy vampires consume energy even when they aren't being used.)

A) Dishwasher B) Electric mixer C) TV

4. If you see this logo on a product, it has an excellent energy efficiency rating.

A) ENERGY SMART B) ENERGY STAR C) ENERGY WISE

5. Turning off the tap water while brushing your teeth can save up to four gallons of water per minute.

A) True B) False

ANSWER KEY

ANSWERS: 1. B 2. A 3. C 4. B 5. A



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

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