



# Pitt and Greene

## Electric Membership Corporation

*“Where Customers Have A Choice”*

*Member Newsletter*

*March 2020*

Please pay special attention to the amount due on your bill. Failure to pay the *FULL AMOUNT* will result in disconnection and additional service charges. Don't get caught off guard.

### **Five Ways to Spring into Energy Efficiency**

Spring marks a perfect time of year to make your home more energy efficient. Here are five quick tips that will save both energy and money:

1. Seal cracks and gaps around your home. As you put away your storm windows consider adding weather stripping around leaky doors and caulking around window frames. TogetherWeSave.com, a website sponsored by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, the branding program of the nation's not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric co-ops, shows how easy it is to use a caulking gun to seal up leaks around vents, ductwork, and windows. A typical member can save more than \$200 annually by taking this simple step.
2. Change filters regularly. Change furnace and air conditioner filters monthly. Dirty filters restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your heating and cooling system by making it work harder on hot summer days.
3. Clean the refrigerator inside and out. Now's a good time to not only throw out that leftover fruitcake from the holidays but check the temperature settings on your refrigerator. Ideally, a refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum operating efficiency. When it's time to replace that old refrigerator, be sure to buy one that's ENERGY STAR rated. These energy-efficient appliances can save members as much as \$100 a year based on calculations from the TogetherWeSave.com.
4. Think sun block. TogetherWeSave.com points out that by pulling down the shades on your windows this spring and summer, you could save about \$35 a year. Your local hardware store likely carries lots of inexpensive window coverings. Best of all, by blocking the sun, your house will stay cool and comfortable year-round.
5. Enjoy spring breezes. Use a clothesline during warmer months and let sunlight and breezes dry clothes naturally. This will reduce your electric bill by not running a dryer, and add a genuine clean scent to your family's laundry.

You can learn more about ways to lower your monthly energy bill by visiting TogetherWeSave.com.

### **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.



## *Manager's Message*

*By: Mark A. Suggs*

### *Electric Vehicle - Charging Stations*

Imagine never again pulling into a gas station to refuel your car. Instead, when you reach your destination at work, at home, at a shopping mall - you plug your car into an electric outlet to charge it. This is not the future. This is happening now, and to meet the needs of those who have already purchased an electric vehicle, Pitt & Greene EMC has installed our first charging station at Rouse's Restaurant in Snow Hill.

Are you curious about battery electric vehicles, but not quite sure how driving electric will benefit you? Whether your priority is saving money, increasing convenience, helping the environment, or experiencing the latest technology, Battery electric vehicles (BEVs) offer something for everyone.

Powering a car with electricity is cheaper than powering it with gas, so electric vehicles cost less to run. Today's BEVs use electricity at the equivalent of 50 to 75 cents per gallon of gasoline for conventional vehicles. The cost is expected to become cheaper as battery prices decline. The batteries are rechargeable lithium ion, the same technology that powers laptop computers and cell phones.

While they are somewhat smaller than today's average family car, the BEVs perform like normal cars except quieter than gasoline-powered cars. The EVs come in an increasing range of models and sleek design options that allow you to experience the latest technology. The vehicles have navigation systems that calculate your travel range and are capable of locating the nearest charging station. Electric vehicles are fun to drive, with faster acceleration.

Battery electric vehicles have zero tailpipe emissions, which improves air quality and benefits us all. Even when accounting for the generation of the electricity that powers electric vehicles, emissions are lower than those of traditional vehicles.

Most charging will take place at home, but a growing network of public charging stations also make it increasingly convenient to charge your BEV no matter where you are headed.

From saving you money to helping protect the environment, electric vehicles offer many advantages over their gasoline counterparts.



*Pitt & Greene EMC first charging station at Rouse's Restaurant in Snow Hill.*



*Pitt & Greene EMC will be closed Friday,  
April 10th in observance of Easter*

**Types of Electric vehicles and how they differ are listed below.**

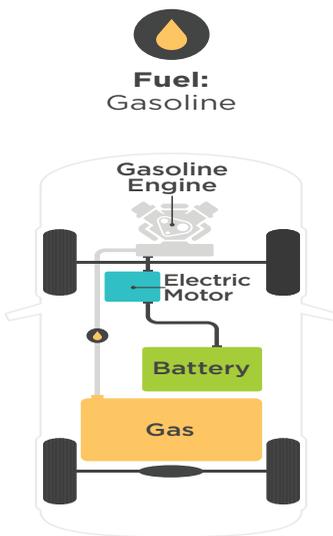
- Hybrid electric vehicles (HEV) use an internal combustion engine, assisted by a battery pack. Electric energy powers the vehicle at lower speeds or when the vehicle needs to be brought into motion from a stationary position. The internal combustion engine takes over when the speed increases.

- Plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEV) also have an internal combustion engine although with an electric motor. The battery of the electric motor in a PHEV is larger than the ones used in HEVs and can be charged using regenerative braking as well as by plugging-in the battery to a power source. This allows the vehicle to cover more distance on battery without bringing in the internal combustion engine.

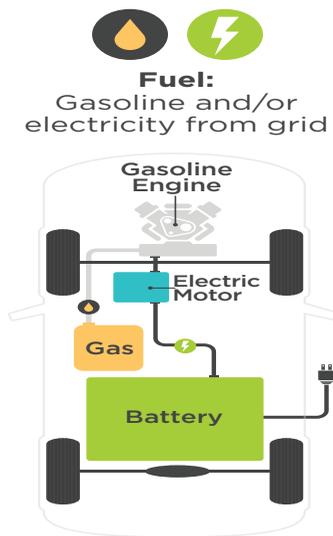
- Battery electric vehicles (BEVs) are electrified vehicles in the most conventional sense, they do not use an internal combustion engine and draw all the power from the battery. This includes powering the electric motor on the EV as well as all the electronics on-board. The battery of an EV is charged by connecting it to a power source. Time taken to charge an EV may vary, depending on the type of charger used.

## Types of Electric Vehicles

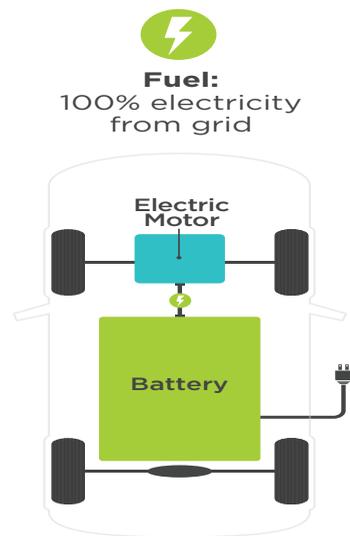
If you're looking to purchase an electric vehicle, use this cheat sheet to help determine the various options. Drivers can choose between three types of electric vehicles (EVs). EVs are classed by the amount of electricity that is used as their energy source.



**HEV**  
HYBRID ELECTRIC  
VEHICLE



**PHEV**  
PLUG-IN HYBRID  
ELECTRIC  
VEHICLE



**BEV**  
BATTERY  
ELECTRIC  
VEHICLE

## *Have a successful planting season rooted in safety*

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Pitt & Greene EMC and the Safe Electricity program ([www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)) urge them to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Operating large equipment near these lines is one of the often overlooked, yet potentially deadly, hazards of working on a farm.

Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a 10-foot clearance minimum from power lines. Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. Helpful safety steps include using a spotter and designating preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors now have tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

Simply working too close to a power line is dangerous as electricity can arc or “jump” to conducting objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust and dirt contamination.

If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call Pitt & Greene EMC. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground. Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until help arrives.

If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of fire, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. *For more tips and information on how to stay safe this planting season, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).*

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### ***How To Clean Refrigerator Coils .....And Why It Matters!***

Your refrigerator is one of the largest, most-used appliances in your home. It requires only minimal maintenance – just simple cleaning of the condenser coils, which disperse heat. If the coils are covered with dust, gunk or pet hair, they cannot diffuse the heat properly and will not run efficiently. A bigger problem can result if the compressor burns out from having to run constantly because of the grimy coating. This can be an expensive problem. The bottom line? A minor investment in time once a year can save you cold cash down the line.

1. Locate the refrigerator’s coil, a grid-like structure, or fan that will likely have a covering or grate protecting it. The coil is usually concealed behind the front toe kick or in the back. Some newer models have internal coils, so if you don’t find them in the front or back, this may be the case with your fridge.
2. If the coil is in the back, slide the refrigerator away from the wall, removing the plug from the electrical outlet when possible. You may also need to disconnect the line to the water dispenser or icemaker to allow enough room to work.
3. Gently vacuum and clean the coil. Using the brush or crevice attachment, carefully vacuum the dust and dirt wherever you see it. If you have pulled the fridge out, vacuum and wipe down the sides and back of the fridge and the floor.
4. Once the floor is dry, plug in the refrigerator and rearrange the power cord and supply lines so they don’t get a kink or stuck under the weight of the refrigerator. Slide the refrigerator back into place. Be sure to replace the toe kick panel if this was removed.

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

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