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### A MESSAGE FOR YOU

**Mark A. Suggs**  
EVP and General Manager



## Annual Meeting of the members

2023 will soon be another year in the books. We just held our 86th Annual Meeting and our sights are focused on the 2024 budget and operating projects.

The annual meeting went great with members hearing reports regarding the financial position and status of work plans and projects undertaken over the past year.

Secretary Treasurer Jeff Letchworth reported on our audit which gave the cooperative an unqualified opinion with regard to our annual audit. An unqualified audit means your cooperative continues to receive the highest level of approval any company can receive. An approval rating everyone should be proud of.

This year we had 416 members to register for the meeting. At the conclusion of the business meeting we had 46 members to win door prizes, all of which were donated by vendors we routinely do business with. We offer our sincere thanks to those companies and their continued support and great service.

The following directors were re-elected to serve 3 year terms: District 1, Kirby Bell, District 5, William Askew, and District 6, Michael Hardy.



I reported to the members that the cost of power continues to be the most expensive aspect of doing business, a cost of 56 cents of each dollar. Weather can have the most far reaching effect on that cost as well.

Our industry is in transition as legislation moves us away from coal generation to more expensive, less reliable renewable forms of generation. New technology will emerge and become the new normal. For now the transition is a bit uncertain and less reliable than what the industry was built on. We will get through this and a brighter energy future will emerge.

Our Board of Directors has approved the retirement of the 2022

Capital Credits. Letters were mailed to members the second week of November. If you wish to receive your Capital Credits, you must sign the letter and return to us for processing. If you have questions, please give our Customer Service Representative a call.

Crews continue rehabilitation of many of our main feeder lines throughout the system. This work is necessary to assure that reliability of our system remains top priority. Clean right of ways and strong facilities is at the heart of a dependable and reliable system. Our goal is to provide and maintain the best system possible for you, your family and business.

## Congratulations to the following members who won door prizes at this year's Annual Meeting

### **\$25 Target Gift Card**

Melinda Clote Waters  
Linda J Smith  
Davey Raymond Head

### **\$25 Lowe's Gift Card**

James T. Shackelford  
Harry Moore  
Brenda Jones Whaley  
Cassandra Dale Staton  
Janis Lenet Mitchell  
Browns Chapel Church  
Ada Monroe Rodgers  
Linda Forbes Leveston  
Mary Fields  
Marla C Hardison

### **\$25 Food Lion Gift Card**

Thomas Harris  
Sarah Lee Monroe  
Mary Alice Shirley

### **\$25 Walmart Gift Card**

Timothy Joel Tripp  
Bobby Ray Avery  
Jimmy Langley

### **\$50 Food Lion**

Ella Hopkins  
Johnny E Mooring  
Lisa W Harrell

### **\$50 Lowe's Gift Card**

Carolyn Victoria Woods  
Carolyn Speight  
Shirley Owens Smith  
Tracy Bernell Warren  
Richard Blow  
Verna Lee Johnson

### **\$50 ACE Gift Card**

Robert Earl Suggs

### **\$50 VISA Gift Card**

James Robert Daniels  
Arnita Pittman

### **\$50 GO EAT Gift Card**

Brenda L Corbitt  
Fred Cullipher

### **\$50 Amazon Gift Card**

Tony Hall  
Teresa Lynn Sutton

### **\$50 One 4 all Gift Card**

Walter R. Brock  
James Kittrell

### **\$100 Food Lion Gift Card**

Frederick Cratch  
Labrishia Johnson  
Phillip Johnson  
Hilda Warren  
Theodora McPhail

### **\$100 Walmart Gift Card**

Shelia Michele Anderson

### **\$100 Lowe's Gift Card**

Brandon Harper  
Richard Harper  
Cary Ann Reeves



## Energy Efficiency

### TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use.



For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking.

*Source: Dept. of Energy*

### 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.

**Pitt & Greene EMC  
will be closed  
Monday and  
Tuesday, Dec. 25  
and Dec. 26, for  
Christmas and  
Monday, Jan. 1,  
for New Year's.**

# Five Ways to Fight the Winter Chill and Save Energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all the fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. Pitt and Greene EMC is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

**1 Mind the thermostat.** This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.

**2 Button up your home.** The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

**3 Use window coverings wisely.** Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them

at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

**4 Consider your approach to appliance use.** When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

**5 Think outside the box.** If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills.

**If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 252-753-3128 and speak with a Customer Service Representative.**

## Bright Ideas Winners for 2023–2024

**C**ongratulations to Samantha Wade of Sam D. Bundy Elementary School, Shamecka Hopkins of Grifton Elementary School, and Patsy Johnson of The Oakwood School. They are the recipients of the Bright Ideas Grant Program for the 2023–2024 school year. The Bright Ideas Grant Program is a statewide effort by North Carolina's twenty-seven Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives to provide additional classroom resources that cannot be met through existing school budgets. Any K–12 certified North Carolina teacher can apply for a grant up to \$2,000.

Since 1994, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have awarded more than \$15 million to North Carolina teachers for projects that have touched the lives of more than 3.5 million students in all subjects including



**Bright Ideas**  
EDUCATION GRANTS

math, reading, science and technology, history, music, and the arts.

The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2024. In order to be considered for a Bright Idea Grant, the idea submitted by the teacher should be a unique and innovative way to reach the students and increase their interest in learning.

To find out more information about the Bright Idea Grant Program, visit [ncbrightideas.com](https://ncbrightideas.com).





## Holiday Cooking Safety Tips

The kitchen is the heart of the home. Sadly, it's also where two out of every five home fires start. Many home fires occur during what's supposed to be the happiest time of the year—the holidays. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Christmas Eve hold a tradition of cooking, and safety should always be considered in the kitchen.

As we embark on the holiday season, Pitt & Greene EMC and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) urge you to use these simple safety tips to identify and correct potential kitchen hazards:

- ▶ Never leave cooking equipment unattended, and always remember to turn off burners if you have to leave the room.
- ▶ Supervise the little ones closely in the kitchen. Make sure children stay at least three feet away from all cooking appliances.
- ▶ Prevent potential fires by making sure your stovetop and oven are clean and free of grease, dust and spilled food.
- ▶ Remember to clean the exhaust hood and duct over your stove on a regular basis.
- ▶ Keep the cooking area around the stove and oven clear of combustibles, such as towels, napkins and potholders.
- ▶ Always wear short or close-fitting sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- ▶ To protect from spills and burns, use the back burners and turn the pot handles in, away from reaching hands.
- ▶ Locate all appliances away from the sink.
- ▶ Plug countertop appliances into ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets.
- ▶ Keep appliance cords away from hot surfaces like the range or toaster.
- ▶ Unplug the toaster and other countertop appliances when not in use.
- ▶ Be sure to turn off all appliances when cooking is completed.
- ▶ For more important safety tips to keep you and your family safe this holiday season and throughout the year, visit [esfi.org](https://esfi.org).



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### Co-op Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
252-753-3128 | 1-800-622-1362 |  
252-747-7600

### POWER OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES

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

De lunes a viernes de 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
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