



Five Ways to Safeguard Your Home This Winter

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Did You Know? Smart Ways to Save Energy

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A MESSAGE FOR YOU

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EVP and General Manager



Reliable Power for Today and Tomorrow

Ring in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the General Manager of Pitt and Greene EMC, for me, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at Pitt and Greene EMC is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering—and empowering—our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power while adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across our service area. You may not realize it, but Pitt and Greene EMC does not generate electricity itself. The electric cooperatives had the foresight years ago to form the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, (NCEMC), and collectively we work together to generate

much of our power needs. Currently, we have a significant ownership in Catawba Nuclear Station, along with smaller natural gas facilities. A number of other forms of generation make up our

AMI provides real-time data, and ultimately improves power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Sched-



uled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall on power lines during severe weather. This could cause damage that may take hours to repair before power is restored to you and your neighbors. Proactive tree trimming is also important

portfolio including wind, solar, hydro and coal.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, which is far less reliable. Our job is becoming far more complicated and expensive as we commit to provide you with reliable and affordable power.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, Pitt and Greene EMC is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters.

for the safety of our members. If trees are close too or touching power lines, electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor, such as a tree. If a child were to climb a tree close enough to a power line and an arc happens, this would be fatal.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, Pitt and Greene EMC will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow.

Five Ways to Safeguard Your Home This Winter

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months. Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

1 Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.

2 Inspect electrical cords. We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip.

3 Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips. When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the

strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

4 Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency. There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow

and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.

5 Practice safety in the kitchen. As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

Pitt and Greene EMC wants you and your family to stay safe during the winter season.



What is your thermostat set on?

Colder weather has arrived, have you thought about what your heating system is set on? For example, if you have the thermostat set on 73, the system will come on more to keep it that desired temperature than if you have it set on a lower setting. The colder it is outside the more your heating system will run to keep your home warm. Which will make your utility bill higher. So when you receive your utility bill and it is higher than usual, remember the colder weather outside and what your thermostat was set on inside.



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after office hours: 252-753-8778

De lunes a viernes de 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
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CORTES DE SUMINISTRO ELÉCTRICO Y EMERGENCIAS:

Durante fines de semana, días festivos
y después del horario de oficina:
252-753-8778

Did you know? Smart ways to save energy

➤ **Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary** and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items for sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

➤ **Insulating your electric water heater** could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? You could save 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

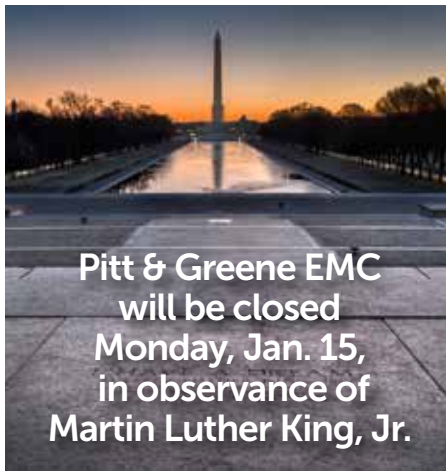
Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. The Department of Energy rates this project level as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets at most home improvement stores. Visit energy.gov for project tips and additional considerations.

➤ **One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters.** If your central air system has a furnace filter, replace it about every 30 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean regularly to boost efficiency.

➤ Do you have a home office? **Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use.** In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.



**Pitt & Greene EMC
will be closed
Monday, Jan. 15,
in observance of
Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Energy Efficiency

TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weatherstripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: energystar.gov

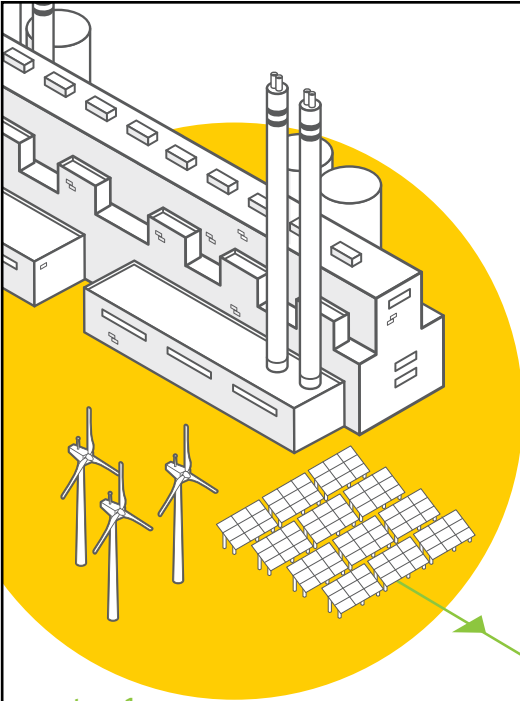


Always assume a downed power line is energized. Downed lines can energize the ground up to 35 feet away.



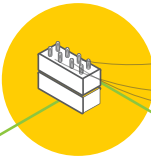
CRITICAL CONNECTIONS: HOW ELECTRICITY GETS TO YOU

The electric grid is considered one of the most complex machines in the world, delivering the electricity we need for everyday life.



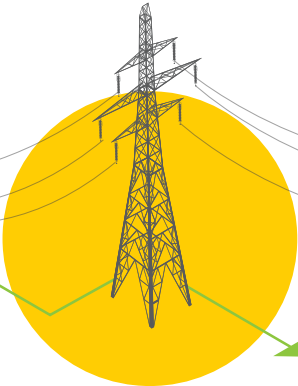
step 1
GENERATION

Power plants generate electricity using a variety of energy sources, like solar, natural gas, nuclear and wind energy.



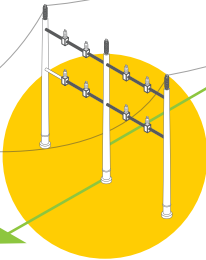
step 2
**STEP-UP
TRANSFORMER**

A step-up transformer increases the voltage to push the electricity over long distances.



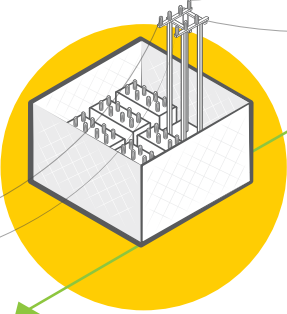
step 3
TRANSMISSION LINES

High-voltage electricity travels over long distances through these lines.



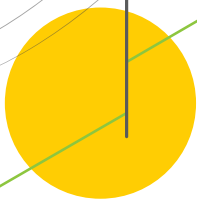
step 4
**TRANSMISSION
SUBSTATION**

Voltage is lowered at a transmission substation so electricity can travel across the local distribution system.



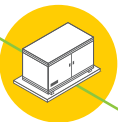
step 5
DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATION

These substations lower the voltage again so the electricity is ready to travel on distribution lines.



step 6
DISTRIBUTION LINES

Lower-voltage electricity travels through distribution lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road.



step 7
FINAL STOP

A transformer located on the ground or a utility pole reduces the voltage a final time, then electricity is sent inside your home, school or business.

