



A publication for members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Tell your legislator that you are already taxed enough.

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ALONG THE LINE

Enjoy New Payment Locations

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC we are always investigating new services and programs that can make our members' lives a little easier. That is why we recently teamed up with Friendly Check to enable our members to make electric bill payments at their convenient store locations.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members can make cash payments at any of the local Friendly Check locations. These payments will post the following business day. Friendly Check has been operating financial stores in eastern North Carolina since 1995. The company is licensed by the North Carolina Banking Commission and specializes in accepting utility bills, cashing checks, selling money orders and offering other financial services. The locations most convenient to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members are located at the following addresses:

111 N. Main St.
Tarboro, NC

500 S. Memorial Dr.
(Inside Fuel Doc)
Greenville, NC

304 S. Washington St. (Inside Wilco Hess)
Williamston, NC

3109 E. 10th Street
Greenville, NC

103 S. Fairview Rd.
Rocky Mount, NC



3 WAYS TO HELP YOU CONSERVE



1. Keep your garage door closed in the winter and summer.

2. If your home's relative humidity is consistently higher than 60%, contact your HVAC technician about lowering your AC units indoor fan speed.



3. Change the direction of your ceiling fan to blow air down in the summer.

Take Advantage of Tax Credits

There has never been a better time to look at replacing some of your old and inefficient appliances around the house. Investing in energy efficient home improvements can earn you some very lucrative tax breaks. One of the most important appliances that you should evaluate is your current heating and cooling unit. You could qualify for up to a \$1,500 tax credit by replacing your old HVAC unit with a new energy

efficient model. New split system units must be rated at 16 SEER or greater and packaged systems must be 14 SEER or greater to qualify. HVAC units installed in new home construction do not qualify for the tax credit, and they must also be installed in the consumers primary residence to be eligible for the tax incentive.

If you are still paying high prices during the winter to operate your propane

or natural gas fired furnace, you should certainly take a look at how much money you could save by installing an Energy Star® rated heat pump. Visit our website at www.ememc.com and use the Fuel Cost Comparison worksheet located under the Energy Services page to see just how much money you could be saving.

Combine the savings from operating a heat pump with available tax credits and rebates offered by certain manufactures, and you have invested in a project with a very short payback!



NC Legislators Propose Electricity Tax Hike

In late June, state lawmakers proposed a tax increase on electricity and many other service related businesses. The suggested increase on electricity would raise the current tax rate from 3% to 6.75%, more than doubling the current amount. The increase will hit the lowest incomes the hardest, and it will fall particularly hard on low income residents who live in poorly insulated, energy inefficient homes.

Senate leaders claim the plan would generate nearly \$1 billion next year and \$1.4 billion during the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Other service-oriented businesses that previously had not been subject to state taxes have also been targeted. The current proposal would require you to pay tax for lawncare, getting a haircut, plumbing and air conditioner service and several other service related jobs.

We encourage you to contact your legislative representative to express your concern about these proposed taxes. Although our elected officials are working to make up for our state's budget deficit, they need to understand that an increase on taxes is definitely not what we need during these very tough economic conditions.

Electricity prices are already increasing due to fuel costs and state mandates for renewable energy. Also, future federal energy legislation stands to increase rates. Now is not the time to add additional costs to electric bills. Call your legislator today to express your disapproval for this unnecessary tax increase!



USED POLES FOR SALE

Occasionally the cooperative has used poles for sale.

During our normal workplan efforts and diverse situations, poles are removed or replaced and made available for sale upon signing a liability release form and paying the handling fee. Customers must load and haul the poles themselves.

The cooperative does make an effort to prioritize the sale of used poles on a first-come first-serve basis for member community projects or individual needs. However, sales to non-member community projects or individual needs are available.

If you are interested in purchasing used poles or further details please contact Tim Crisp, Materials Coordinator, at (252) 641-9511. Hours of operation for purchases is Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

LINES FROM THE BOARD TREASURER

Energy Efficiency Improvements on the Farm

Energy efficiency and energy conservation is something that your cooperative works to educate members about on a daily basis. We do this because we understand the economic and environmental benefits that go along with making energy efficiency improvements. Making these types of improvements doesn't necessarily mean that you have to do without something or that you have to give up something that you enjoy. By making improvements to your home, business or even your farm, you can realize substantial savings and a short payback on your investment without modifying your past behaviors.

When you think about energy efficiency or energy conservation projects, you rarely think about how you can make your farm more efficient. We are more inclined to envision what it would take to improve the efficiency of our home or business, and it's easy to understand how insulating the envelope of your home more or switching to CFLs for lighting purposes can decrease your total energy consumption. However, there are areas on your farm that can also benefit from implementing energy-wise decisions as well.

Over the past few months I have investigated and analyzed the benefits of replacing the 450hp diesel motor that powers the pump to my irrigation system, with a 95% efficient electric motor. The soil in this area is sandy and requires adequate irrigation in order to provide satisfactory crop yields. After learning that the USDA provided assistance through their Business and Cooperative Programs (Rural Energy For America Program Grants/Renewable Energy Systems/Energy Efficiency Improvement Program (REAP/RES/EEI), I decided to continue my efforts to determine if the project would be economically feasible.

An audit was performed on the irrigation system currently in use on our farm to obtain the appropriate data, and this information was used to calculate the potential savings that could be realized by switching to a more efficient electric motor. Let me say that the results from the audit report were eye opening!

Although I would like to include all of the information from the audit and explain in detail how our irrigation system operates; there simply

isn't enough space in this newsletter for me to do that. However, I would like to share with you some of the highlights from the report.

As stated previously, the current 450hp, 35% efficient diesel engine in operation will be replaced with a 300hp, 95% efficient electric motor. The overall efficiency for the existing diesel motor, pump and transmission were calculated to be 27%, and the overall efficiency for the new electric motor, pump and variable frequency drive were calculated at 74%. During a typical farming season, the motor runs approximately 600 hours to irrigate our crops, so this figure was used when calculating the energy consumption for both systems.

It was estimated that the diesel engine would consume approximately 11,376 gal. per year to provide the necessary amount of water to our crops, while the electric motor would consume roughly 143,764 kWh per year running for 600 hours. A future cost of \$2.50 for diesel fuel was used to determine the operating cost for the existing system at \$28,440 per year. The cost to operate the electric motor system on Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's seasonal service rate schedule (Schedule D) would be \$18,130. After allowing for annual maintenance costs on the older diesel motor and new electric motor, it was determined that a operating savings of \$13,669 per year could realized by switching to the new more efficient and environmentally friendly electric motor. A simple payback of 7.4 years could be expected based on the capital investment required for the entire project. Please understand that figures for your particular project may differ depending on the specific needs and location of your irrigation system.

Thank you for allowing me to share my experience regarding this project with you. I hope that other cooperative members may benefit from my experiences in order to make their farms more efficient also.

Cooperatively Yours,

Floyd H. Harrell



Stimulating Weatherization

Want to make your home more energy efficient? Well, you may very well get the chance to do that with the aid of some of 6.2 billion dollars that has been allocated for low-income weatherization through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. North Carolina's piece of that pie will be approximately \$132 million.

The Weatherization Assistance Program has been around since 1976, but the allocation of these funds has given the program a huge boost. Through this program, weatherization service providers install energy efficiency measures in the homes of qualifying homeowners free of charge. These are not expensive upgrades—the average expenditure limit is \$6,500 per home—but they are effective, and energy savings pay for the upgrades within a few years. DOE documents the savings and compares them against costs, so that over the years it can determine the efficacy of these measures.

DOE provides funding and technical guidance to the states, but the states run their own programs and set rules for issues such as eligibility. They also select service providers, which are usually nonprofit agencies that serve families in their communities, and review their performance for quality. Martin County Community Action will be in charge of distributing funds to low-income families for Edgecombe, Martin and Pitt Counties and they can be contacted by calling (252)792-7111. Income eligibility required for low-income weatherization assistance is listed below and includes households whose income falls below 200 percent of the national poverty level.

# In Family	Poverty Income Level	200% Poverty Level
1	\$10,830	\$21,600
2	\$14,570	\$29,140
3	\$18,310	\$36,620
4	\$22,050	\$44,100
5	\$25,790	\$51,580
6	\$29,530	\$59,060
7	\$33,270	\$66,540
8	\$37,010	\$74,020

ALONG THE LINE

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BRIGHT IDEAS DEADLINE IS NEAR



**BRIGHT
IDEAS**

September 18 will be the last day to submit applications for Bright Ideas grants. Teachers in grades K-12 that work in Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's service territory are eligible to submit grant applications.

The Bright Ideas Grant Program, sponsored by North Carolina's electric cooperatives, was introduced in 1994 to provide funding for innovative classroom projects that would otherwise not be possible. Since the programs inception, more than \$6.5 million in grant money has been awarded to North Carolina teachers, and over 1 million students have benefited from Bright Ideas education grants.

Teachers can easily apply for grants by visiting the cooperatives website at: www.ememc.com and clicking on the Bright Ideas icon on the homepage. Applications received before August 17, 2009, will be entered into an "Early Bird" drawing for a Visa Gift Card. Sorry, faxed applications cannot be accepted.