

A publication for members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Tyler Jones attends Touchstone Energy Sports Camp.

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Lines from the CEO: Climate-Change legislation pushes forward.

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BRIGHT IDEAS

Last chance to submit your Bright Ideas application.

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ALONG THE LINE

Most Active Month for Hurricanes

Although the official hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30, September is historically the most active month for Atlantic hurricanes. This 6-month period encompasses 97% of tropical activity. Tropical cyclone activity peaks in late summer when the difference between temperatures aloft and sea surface temperatures is the greatest. The peak of activity in the Atlantic is around September 10 each season, so now is a good time to stay tuned into the weather that is happening around you.

This is also a great time to plan ahead. If you have not put together a hurricane preparedness kit, now would be the perfect time to do so. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC offers a complimentary hurricane watch guide in our office that can help you compile some of the necessary items that you will possibly need if a hurricane hits our area. Don't wait until the last minute to prepare. Some essential items that you should include in your hurricane kit include: drinking water, cash, battery-operated TV and radio, spare batteries, waterproof matches, flashlights, rain gear, charcoal and lighter fluid, baby supplies (if necessary), valuable papers, medicine and non-perishable food.

Some individuals also own home-standby generators for supplying power to their homes if hurricanes cause excessive power outages. Remember that it is extremely important to connect and operate generators in a safe manner. We also offer a complimentary brochure on how to operate a portable generator safely. This brochure provides a chart that will help you determine the wattage requirements for various appliances across your home, which is important when sizing and running any generator.

The most important thing to remember is to evacuate if authorities ask you to do so. Make sure your car is full of gas and have a route mapped out that will provide you with the safest and quickest direction for getting to a safe location. Also, make sure to tell friends or relatives ahead of time what your evacuation plans will be.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Proposed climate-change legislation has already passed the U.S House of Representatives. The legislation now goes to the U.S Senate to be debated and voted on.

To learn more about this very important legislation, call 1-877-40BALANCE or visit the informative websites listed below.



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America
www.ourenergy.coop

Find A
Balanced Solution
www.findabalancedsolution.com

Jones Attends Basketball Camp

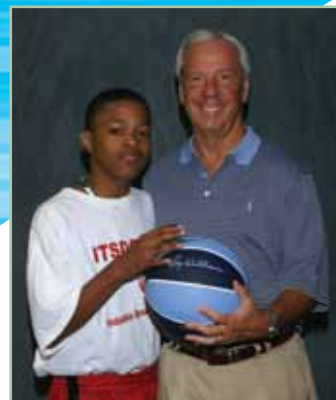
Tyler Jones of Rocky Mount participated in the Roy Williams Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill on a scholarship from Edgecombe-Martin Electric Membership Corporation. Tyler is the son of William and Valerie Jones.

Tyler was one of the 27 deserving young men awarded scholarships from North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp this year.

Winners of the Roy Williams Basketball Camp scholarship were selected by a panel of judges who reviewed an application that included an essay about the students' reason for wanting to participate in the camp. Tyler was selected based on the excellence of his application and accompanying essay. The Roy Williams Camp was held June 21-25 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

This is the fourth year that North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, including Edgecombe-Martin EMC, have sponsored young men to attend basketball camp at UNC. North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives have also provided scholarships for young women to attend basketball camp at N.C. State in Raleigh for the past six years.

Tyler Jones, pictured with Coach Roy Williams, attended UNC Basketball Camp on June 21-25 in Chapel Hill.



Students Participate in Rural Electric Youth Tour

Katelyn Whitfield of Tarboro attended the 2009 Rural Electric Youth Tour June 13-19 in Washington, D.C. Katelyn was among more than 1,500 high school students nationwide who attended the Youth Tour to learn about electric cooperatives, American history and the U.S. government. Students also had the opportunity to visit the historic sights of the nation's capital. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC sponsored Katelyn at the 2009 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

This year, North Carolina students who attended Youth Tour were able to meet 10 of North Carolina's 13 members of the U.S. House of Representatives. The representatives stressed the importance of contacting elected officials to the students. The Youth Tourists also met with Senator Richard Burr (R-NC), who talked to the students about our nation's energy policy.

The Youth Tour has brought

students to Washington, D.C., since the late 1950s, and to date, more than 40,000 students from small towns across the nation have participated in this program. The Youth Tour aims to educate youth on all aspects of rural electrification in order to promote a better understanding of the value of rural electric cooperatives.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour is a joint effort of local electric co-ops, such as Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation, statewide co-op associations and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Arlington, Va.



2009 Rural Electric Youth Tour participants pose in front of the Cannon House Office Building in Washington, D.C.



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Monday, September 7, in observance of Labor Day.

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Payments after office hours and on holidays can be placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to www.ememc.com.

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To report a loss of power or an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.

Climate Change Legislation Pushes Forward

Now more than ever, it is imperative that you let your elected representatives know how important climate-change legislation is to you. In late June, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed climate-change legislation with a 219-212 vote. This bill, referred to by many as the Waxman-Markey bill (after House Energy and Commerce committee chairman Henry Waxman and Massachusetts Rep. Edward Markey), has gone through many changes over the past several months in order to pass the U.S. House. However, one important fact still remains, and that is electric rates will drastically increase if this bill is passed by the U.S. Senate.

The legislation is also known as the Cap and Trade Bill because it seeks to decrease the amount of carbon dioxide companies can emit into the atmosphere in the future. Under a cap and trade system, our government would first set a cap, deciding how much pollution in total would be allowed. Next, companies would be issued carbon credits or allowances, which would allow them to emit a determined amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. If a company comes in below its cap, it has extra credits which it may trade with other companies. The problem is that defined emission reduction targets are not achievable and timed with the advancement and commercialization of technologies. Companies could potentially find themselves paying \$30 to \$60 or more per ton of carbon to meet the predetermined emission standards.

Several estimates show that this bill will have a significant financial impact on our country and consumers. One such analysis indicates that the bill would cost the economy \$161 billion alone in 2020. A family of four's share of that would be \$1,870 in 2020 and \$6,800 by 2035, as the restrictions on carbon emissions increase. Certain regions and populations will be impacted more than others. Manufacturing states would be hit harder than service states, and coal producing states would be impacted more than states that rely on nuclear, hydro, or natural gas. Simply stated, Americans would end up allocating more of their income to pay for increases in energy due to the legislation. We must remember however that these are estimates. A better indicator is how other countries have already been impacted by similar provisions. Britain's Taxpayer Alliance states that the average family

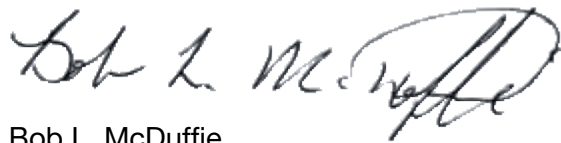
there is paying almost \$1,300 a year in green taxes for carbon-cutting programs that have been in effect for only a few years.

Edgecombe-Martin

County EMC is committed to looking out for our members' best interests, and we will continue our efforts to make sure elected officials understand the consequences of approving the current legislation. We can't do it alone though! Let your Senators know that you cannot afford the increase in electric rates this legislation will bring forth. We need you to continue contacting your elected representatives by visiting www.ourenergy.coop or www.findabalancedsolution.com. These sites enable you to easily drop your representatives a note to express your concern about the current legislation. Information is also provided there that discusses the details of the legislation and the impact it will have on our nation.

We must look for lower cost solutions that are attainable, and that enable us to realize true energy independence while protecting our environment. As we have commented before, "This isn't about fear; it's about getting this right without breaking the bank." Americans must realize that members of Congress that vote for this climate-change bill are voting for what is likely to be the biggest tax in American history! Can you afford it?

Cooperatively Yours,



Bob L. McDuffie

Here is your Senator's direct contact information:

Senator Richard Burr
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202)224-3154
Website: <http://burr.senate.gov/>

Senator Kay Hagan
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202)224-6342
Website: <http://hagan.senate.gov/>



Last Chance To Submit Your Bright Idea

Friday, September 18, will be the last day to submit applications for Bright Idea grants. All teachers who submitted their grant application before August 30 were entered in a drawing to win a \$500 Visa Gift Card. The early-bird winners will be announced in the coming weeks and you will be notified if you are a winner. Teachers in grades K-12 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 not otherwise be possible. Since the program's 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 Idea grants.

Teachers can easily apply for grants by visiting www.ememc.com and clicking on the Bright Ideas icon on the homepage. Faxed applications cannot be accepted.

For more information call 641-9513 or e-mail winston.howell@ememc.com.



It's Time to Service Your Heating System

As temperatures begin their annual decline, it's important not to forget about your heating system. In the coming weeks, we will all start turning to our heating systems to provide the heat we need to keep our homes warm. However, it's a good idea to have your HVAC unit serviced and cleaned before you enter the fall and winter months. Outside and inside coils should be cleaned, all duct work connections need to be inspected and any problems should be repaired before you begin using your heating system. A good analogy is to treat your HVAC unit like you treat the engine in your car. You would never drive your car without changing the oil and performing other maintenance on a routine basis, so why go years at a time without having your heating and cooling system serviced.

Now is also a good time to evaluate the efficiency and reliability of your current heating

system. With the federal energy tax credits that are now available you can save a substantial amount. Qualifying units are eligible for up to a \$1,500 tax credit and many manufacturers are offering rebates and incentives that sweeten the deal even further. All of these perks are nice, but you will realize the true savings when you begin to operate your high efficiency heat pump in the winter months.

If you would like to learn how much you could save on your total energy bill by switching to a heat pump this winter, please call us at 252-813-2171.

We would be happy to provide you with any information that would enable you to make an informed decision.



ALONG THE LINE

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