

A publication for members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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ALONG THE LINE

Help Support Your Local 4-H Program

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is excited to announce the date for the 14th Annual 4-H Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held on Friday, May 21, 2010 at the Links at Cotton Valley in Tarboro. Proceeds from the tournament will help our local Edgecombe County 4-H with various programs. They will use the funds to highlight the county and state in 2010 as they participate in many different events.

The winning team will receive an all-expenses paid trip to represent Edgecombe-Martin County EMC at the state 4-H Clover Classic in Raleigh. We hope that you will take the time to join us on May 21, 2010, as we join together to support our local 4-H programs.



Edgecombe-Martin County EMC 14th Annual 4-H Golf Tournament

WHEN: Friday, May 21, 2010

WHERE: The Links at Cotton Valley, Hwy. 258, Tarboro

BENEFITS: Proceeds benefit the Edgecombe County 4-H Organization

TO REGISTER: Contact Gary Hicks at 823-2171, Ext. 261



3 WAYS TO HELP YOU CONSERVE



1. Have your central cooling system cleaned and serviced before hot weather arrives.

2. Keep your thermostat set at 78 degrees in the summer.



3. Make sure attic accesses are sealed properly to prevent excess heat from entering your home.

Solar RECs Added



GreenCo Solutions®, a green, not-for-profit formed by the majority of the state's electric cooperatives, recently announced its participation in a solar project located in Arden, NC, on the roof of CPU2, a product fulfillment company.

CPU2's 224-kilowatt photovoltaic (PV) array, installed by Chapel Hill's Solar Tech South, went live in December 2009. The PV system is now producing electricity from roof-mounted solar panels.

Under a twenty-year renewable energy certificate (REC) purchase agreement, GreenCo Solutions will purchase all RECs generated by the facility for its 23 electric cooperative members. The electric cooperatives will use the RECs for compliance with the state's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) which begins in 2010 with a 0.02% solar requirement that

increases to 0.20% by 2018.

This solar project is one in a number of renewable energy projects in the electric cooperatives' portfolio, and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be allocated approximately 6 RECs per year from this solar facility.



The solar array located on the roof of CPU2's Asheville area headquarters is expected to generate nearly 300,000 kWh of power annually.

Apply for the 2010 Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

The Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarships are offered to members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC who plan to complete a one or two-year vocational/technical/community college program of study. The technical school or community college must be accredited in North Carolina.

These scholarships give prospective students the opportunity to further their education so they can acquire new skills and knowledge to better themselves.

In 2009, the Volunteer Action Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC awarded two Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarships to Donnie Stroud, Jr. and David Robert Jones.

Applications will be accepted now through July 23, 2010. Scholarships will be awarded at the beginning of the Fall semester. You can access, complete, and submit

applications online at www.ememc.com. If you wish to receive an application form by mail, please call the cooperative at (252) 823-2171.

The Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarships are made possible through the dedicated work of the Volunteer Action Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and other private donations. The Volunteer Action Committee helps raise funds for the scholarship by selling desserts and holding raffles at the Annual Meeting of Members each year.



Donnie Stroud, Jr. and David Robert Jones were awarded Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarships in 2009 from the Volunteer Action Committee.



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Friday, April 2 in observance of Good Friday.

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.

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

LINES FROM THE COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

Regulation of “Greenhouse Gases”

In 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court determined the definition of “pollutant” in the Clean Air Act is so broad that it includes emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), and directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to make a determination as to whether or not emissions of these gases from new automobiles “endangered” public health and welfare, and therefore should be regulated under the existing statute. However, the Court did not impose any deadlines on EPA, nor did it indicate that EPA must regulate greenhouse gases. It also did not address regulating emissions from stationary sources.

EPA has finalized the agency’s endangerment finding, which opened the door to using the Clean Air Act (CAA) to regulate GHGs from motor vehicles, and plans to issue a final motor vehicle rule in March. However, any regulation of GHGs under the mobile source provisions of the existing CAA must recognize the cascading regulatory effects on other programs, including the prevention of significant deterioration (“PSD”) and Title V permitting programs, and how those effects would impact the electric power and other sectors.

According to EPA, using the CAA to regulate emissions from motor vehicles will automatically trigger PSD and Title V for stationary sources, including power plants, industrial facilities, etc.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC believes the CAA is ill-suited for controlling GHG emissions, including carbon dioxide, for stationary sources like power plants, and should not be used in such a capacity. One of the law’s principal authors, Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) famously said using the CAA to regulate greenhouse gases would result in a “glorious mess.” We agree, and urge Congress and the Administration to step in and prevent the EPA from using the CAA as a tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from stationary sources.

Generally speaking, the CAA was enacted to control pollutants on a local and regional scale that cause direct health effects. Congress did not intend it to be used to require reductions or limitations on greenhouse gases blamed for global warming or climate change. Given the design of the CAA and its focus on local and regional pollution, it is poorly designed to address

greenhouse gases. The nature of the climate change issue demands a different response.

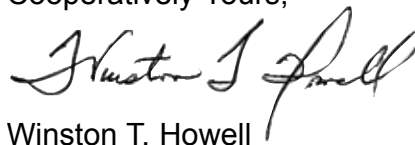
Allowing the EPA to enact legislation that limits or caps the release of greenhouse gases could cause energy prices to increase drastically. It’s simply another attempt at passing expensive Cap and Trade legislation that we have advised members could increase electric rates by 40%.

Several Members of the House and Senate have introduced, or are developing, proposals to limit the use of the Clean Air Act to regulate CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions. We urge Senators and Representatives to work with the Administration to develop a responsible plan that will prevent the use of an inappropriate tool to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the “threat” of the Clean Air Act as a prod to get Congress to act on comprehensive legislation.

We simply cannot ignore the potential impact on the economy without appropriate safeguards which can be legislated through Congressional action. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC believes in the accountability and fairness of Congress and cannot support regulation of carbon emissions under EPA’s current regulatory framework.

It is important for you to stay informed and to contact your legislative representatives regarding this issue. Let them know that the CAA is not the right tool for regulating greenhouse gases, and ask for their support to ensure your electric rates remain economical.

Cooperatively Yours,



Winston T. Howell



Rebates Offered on Appliances in April

North Carolinians will be able to save on major appliance purchases during Earth Day weekend, which begins on Thursday, April 22 and runs through Sunday, April 25. This is Phase 1 of the rebate program and rebates will be 15 percent on Energy Star-rated appliances. The rebates will be in addition to any store, manufacturer or other discounts being offered. Qualified Energy Star clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, and freezers will be eligible for the rebates.

North Carolina residents who are replacing older clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, and freezers are eligible for the rebates on designated Energy Star appliances. The program is only available to those replacing appliances. Those purchasing multiple appliances or appliances for commercial properties are not eligible. The N.C. Energy Office is working with the N.C. Retail Merchants Association and expects major retail chains as well as most independent appliance dealers to participate in the rebate program. You may receive rebates on more than one appliance, but it must be for different appliances. For example, you may receive rebates on a refrigerator and clothes washing machine, but not on two refrigerators. It is also important to note that this program is not retroactive.

By replacing older, conventional appliances with the 49,960 Energy Star items it is estimated will be purchased in the program, enough electricity will be saved to power 536 homes for a year. Natural gas savings would serve 390 homes for a year. The energy savings can be significant. For example, a new Energy Star-rated refrigerator uses half the electricity that the same size refrigerator built before 1995 uses.

Depending on the funds available, a second phase in June will offer rebates on Energy Star residential gas storage water heaters, tankless gas water heaters, central air conditioners, heat pumps and gas furnaces that replace older items.

North Carolina is receiving \$8.8 million in federal funds to help homeowners purchase energy-efficient appliances, from furnaces and room air conditioners to refrigerators and dishwashers. The funds are part of nearly \$300 million from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act being distributed nationwide by the U.S. Department of Energy.



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ALONG THE LINE

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