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Cooperative to distribute CFLs for FREE in office to members this month.

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# Renewable Mandate Charge to Hit Bills in July

# ALONG THE LINE

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has been working diligently since the beginning of 2008 towards meeting the requirements set forth in Senate Bill 3. This legislation, which was signed into law before the North Carolina General Assembly adjourned in 2007, made major changes to the state's energy policy. Specifically, this legislation requires all cooperatives in North Carolina to generate or purchase 10% of their total sales from renewable energy resources, or to reduce electricity consumption through energy efficiency improvements.

A majority of the cooperatives across the state joined together in 2008 to form a non-profit organization named GreenCo Solutions, Inc. GreenCo was formed to help participating members achieve economies-of-scale as they worked towards meeting these state mandates. Many energy efficiency programs and renewable energy projects have already been implemented by GreenCo members.

Beginning in July 2009, a new charge will be applied to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members' bills in order to recoup some of the

incremental costs associated with these various projects. The monthly charge will appear on your bill as the NC Renewable and EE Charge and will be billed as follows: Residential, \$0.29; Commercial, \$1.49; Industrial, \$14.89. The Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Rider will be reevaluated and adjusted annually to reflect the true incremental costs associated with meeting the mandates set forth in our state's energy policy.



The QVC solar project is just one example of how members of GreenCo Solutions have worked together to gather the necessary REPS resources mandated by the state.

## 3 WAYS TO HELP YOU CONSERVE



1. Inspect duct connections in your homes crawlspace or attic to verify they are sealed properly.

2. Make sure the insulation in your attic and crawlspace is installed correctly.



3. Condensation forming on windows is a sign that conditioned air is leaking from your home.

# Come Get Your CFLs in June!!

## AND START CONSERVING ENERGY IN YOUR HOME

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is rolling out one of its largest programs yet as part of the energy efficiency initiatives needed to meet North Carolina's new energy policy requirements.

Beginning this month, members of the Cooperative can pick-up five (5) complimentary compact fluorescent bulbs at the co-op office. All you have to do is ask one of our member service

representatives for your complimentary bulbs and they will provide you with five, 14-watt CFLs to use in your home or business. These CFLs will provide the same amount of light output as a standard 60-watt incandescent bulb, but they will use 46 watts less if left on for one hour.

CFLs are a great way to reduce your energy consumption and they also last much longer than

incandescent bulbs.

This program will last until the end of June or until supplies run out, and bulbs will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Each member is limited to five bulbs total and they must be picked-up inside the office.

Don't delay, stop by our office and get your complimentary energy-saving CFLs today!



## Tarboro High Students Complete Internship

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and Tarboro High School's Career Development Coordinator, Cynthia B. Bell, coordinated a job-shadowing internship program to give students a first-hand look at how electric cooperatives operate. The Cooperative was pleased to offer the opportunity for students to gain the experience of the business world before entering the workforce. Mrs. Bell's eagerness to re-establish this program recently benefited two Tarboro High students with on-the-job training for the development of their future careers.

Will Scott and Paul Parrisher participated in the internship program for a period of two months. Both students used the experiences learned through the internship towards meeting the requirements for their senior projects. Employees at the Cooperative provided training appropriate to the student's abilities in the field of line work, and Will and Paul were allowed to participate in various job tasks by job-shadowing and limited hands-on involvement. They

were also subjected to extensive safety training in order to stress its importance at the Cooperative. Both students spent time with our Safety Coordinator for the introduction of legal regulations and training in a safe and correct manner. Training was also administered by each department (member services, engineering, and operations) to allow the students to gain knowledge about the process of service installations, upgrades, maintenance and repairs.

Will and Paul have already enrolled in the Nash Community College lineman program for the Fall, and hopefully the knowledge gained from this experience will be carried with them throughout their careers.



## IMPORTANT BANK DRAFT INFORMATION



If you have your account(s) set up on Bank Draft with a debit or credit card, please make sure that we have your up-to-date card information. We will not be able to process your payment if your card information has changed, and these accounts will be charged a NSF fee of \$25. Anytime you receive a new debit or credit card that is linked to an account set up on Bank Draft, please contact us so we can update your account(s) with this pertinent information.

*Tarboro High School seniors Will Scott (left) and Paul Parrisher (right) participated in a job-shadowing internship at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC over the past two months. Cynthia Bell (middle), Career Development Coordinator for the school, worked with the Cooperative to re-establish this program.*

# LINES FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



## Continue to Let Your Voice Be Heard

This is the third time in three short months that I have spoken about the extremely important issues facing our country regarding Carbon Tax and Cap and Trade legislation. The plans that are currently being proposed by some of our congressional representatives stand to impact your electric rates more than any other legislation in history if they are passed. That is why it is so important for you to act now. If you don't let your elected officials know now that you cannot afford a 40% increase or your electric bill, then it may be too late. If you have not acted yet, please use the telephone number or web address listed at the end of this article to contact Congress now!

Our mission as your electric cooperative is to bring you reliable electricity at an affordable price. While we work hard at this every day, our costs have increased in recent years. As we have previously explained, these cost increases are a direct result of higher fuel prices and the cost of maintaining our electric system. Also, we understand that due to today's economic recession, many of you are cutting back to save money, and some are having trouble paying bills.

We want to let you know how things look for the future. Our Congressional representatives and senators are discussing possible legislation that will make our country more energy efficient and energy independent. Your cooperative believes that these are worthy goals; however, we are concerned about how that will happen and how much it will cost consumers like you.

There's been a lot of talk in Congress and the news media about making electricity from renewable resources, such as the sun and the wind; addressing climate change by using new technologies to produce electricity; and changing the ways in which we use electricity. Along with other cooperatives, we have invested in sun and wind energy and are working hard to help you save electricity with energy efficiency advice; but the big question for us is: how can we balance our commitment to provide you with reliable and affordable electricity, while helping the environment at the same time?

Congress is currently looking at some bills that would require your cooperative to invest in additional renewable energy projects as well

as take steps to address climate change—all of which will result in increased costs and, thus, higher electricity rates.

The pace at which these changes take place will determine the amount and timing of increased costs. For example, past proposals considered by Congress last year would have increased your electric bill by an additional \$4 to \$10 a month, or \$48 to \$120 a year. New proposals stand to increase your electric bill even more. Although the outcome is uncertain and depends on what Congress decides to do, the increases to you, our member, could be even more.

We will continue to keep you informed about these issues as they progress, but you must also take the initiative to act in order to keep your electric rates stable. To learn more and better help us represent your interests in Washington, D.C., please visit [www.findabalancedsolution.com](http://www.findabalancedsolution.com) or call your members of Congress by dialing 1-877-40BALANCE

Cooperatively Yours,

Bob L. McDuffie



*Could you afford a...*

**40% INCREASE**  
in your electric bill?

*If not, contact Congress NOW!*

Find A  
Balanced Solution

# Summer Weather Brings

# Thunderstorms

As summer approaches, weather patterns can become unpredictable. Thunderstorms can produce heavy winds, rain, hail and lightning. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC encourages everyone to monitor the weather closely over the next several months here in eastern North Carolina.

Each year, 75 people are killed by lightning in the United States. About 25 percent of those struck by lightning are outside and unprotected.

It is important to stay inside and away from windows and doors during a storm. If you get caught outside during a storm, try to stay away from open water such as lakes, rivers, ponds and streams. If

you are boating, get to shore as quick as possible. Do not use the telephone during a thunderstorm because the telephone wires are conductors of lightning.

Summer storms can inevitably cause power outages when trees and limbs fall onto power lines. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will respond quickly and safely to make repairs and restore power after the storm has passed. If you see a downed power line, immediately call our Outage Reporting System at 1-800-690-0657 and advise everyone to stay away from the downed line.

If your lights go out the first thing you should do is check your fuses or multi-breakers to

ensure none of them are blown or tripped. Next, check to see if your neighbor's lights are also out. Finally, call our outage reporting number listed below and leave a clear and detailed message that includes your name, account number and any other important information regarding the power outage.

## ALONG THE LINE

[www.ememc.com](http://www.ememc.com)

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(M-F)

After Hours Outage  
Reporting  
1-800-690-0657

## TRADING POST

The Trading Post is a free service to advertise non-commercial items for members and employees of the Cooperative. Members are asked to submit a name and account number for each ad. Members and employees are limited to two ads per year. The Cooperative reserves the right to edit, condense or refuse any ad. We do not endorse services advertised and are not responsible for the reliability of services listed. Please submit ads two months in advance. (All phone numbers are 252 area code unless noted)

### FOR SALE

#### Camper

Fleetwood pop-up camper. 2004 year model. Sleeps 6, no A/C. Can be seen at 425 S. Shiloh Farm Rd., Tarboro. Asking \$3,500. Call 823-6932

#### Barrels

50 Gallon pickle barrels. \$11 each. Call 813-0877

## Rogers Named 2008 Safety Employee of the Year



Larry Rogers, 1st Class Lineman with the Cooperative, was presented the 2008 Safety Employee of the Year award on April 14, at the co-op's annual safety luncheon. This award is presented to an employee that has not recorded any lost time due to a work related accident during the year. Larry has received the award multiple times during his 14 year career at the Cooperative.