

A publication for members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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ALONG THE LINE

Customer Appreciation Day '09

October is here and Fall is in the air. With cooler temperatures comes the time to celebrate Co-op Month. Each year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC holds Customer Appreciation Day in October to show appreciation for our member-owners and to recognize the importance of cooperatives around the world. Nearly 900 member-owned electric cooperatives provide electricity for 37 million people in 47 states. Owned and governed by the consumers they serve, electric co-ops have been demonstrating strong commitment to their local communities since they turned on the lights in rural America in the 1930s.

This year Customer Appreciation Day will be held at the Cooperative on **Thursday, October 29**. Each registered member will be treated to a hot dog lunch with chips and a drink. Members and guests will receive a meal voucher upon registering in the main lobby of the office, and **lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.** The first 300 registered members will also receive a water heater blanket to help insulate their water heater, and a water conservation kit to help them save energy in their homes.

We look forward to seeing you at Customer Appreciation Day on Thursday, October 29!



Co-op members enjoy the festivities at Customer Appreciation Day every year. Members are treated to a hot dog lunch and they receive energy conservation kits to use in their homes.

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

College Scholarships Awarded

Donnie Stroud, Jr. and David Jones were selected as the 2009 recipients of the Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarships by the Volunteer Action Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. Donnie and David both received \$600 scholarships to assist them with school related costs, such as tuition, books and laboratory fees.

Donnie was also a recipient of the scholarship last year and he continues working toward his degree in Criminal Justice at Pitt Community College.

David Jones is attending Edgecombe Community College as he completes the coursework necessary to become a Surgical Technician. David is a NC Certified Personal Trainer and he works part-time with B&G Fitness in Tarboro.

Applicants must be a member of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC or live in a home served by the co-op, to be eligible for the Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is intended for a student who plans to attend a one or two-year vocational, technical or community college program of study

from a North Carolina accredited school. Applications can be completed online at www.ememc.com.

To receive more information, please call (252) 641-9513.



Ann Andrews, Volunteer Action Committee Chairman, presents Donnie Stroud (L) and David Jones (R) with their \$600 Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial scholarship checks.



2nd Annual Change A Light Contest Begins



This marks the second year Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has held the Change A Light Contest. The contest encourages members to replace their old incandescent light bulbs with Energy Star® fluorescent bulbs by December 31, 2009, for a chance to win a \$300 credit on their electric bill.

All you have to do is mail-in or drop-off a receipt that shows the purchase of a fluorescent bulb between September 1, 2009, and December 31, 2009. On the back of the receipt write your account number, name and telephone number and you will be entered in our drawing. Only one lucky member will win the \$300 credit on their electric bill, but every member that installs a fluorescent bulb in their home or business stands to save as much as \$30 per year.

All receipts must be

received at our office by 5 p.m. on December 31, 2009, in order to be eligible for the drawing. Receipts should be mailed to: Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, Attention: Change a Light Program, P.O. Box 188, Tarboro, NC 27886.

As an Energy Star® partner, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is helping members facilitate the "Change a Light, Change the World" pledge. If every American home replaced just one light with an Energy Star® light, we would save about \$700 million in annual energy costs!



Delores Porter was the winner of the 2008 Change A Light contest. Enter your receipt and you could be this years lucky winner!



ENERGY STAR TAX HOLIDAY

Each year the state of North Carolina honors a sales tax holiday for Energy Star qualified products. This holiday is observed between 12:01 AM on the first Friday of November and ends at 11:59 PM the following Sunday. These three days offer shoppers the opportunity to save money on Energy Star qualified appliances. In 2009, the sales tax holiday will run from November 6th through November 8th.

Plug-in Hybrids are Making Significant Strides

The days of pulling up to your favorite local gas station and asking the attendant to filler'up have long since passed. Most gas stations today are all self-service and it is highly likely that you are putting ethanol based fuel in your automobile when you fill your tank. Flex-fuel vehicles are found in just about all automobile manufacturers' product line today, but newer developments with regards to electric and hybrid vehicles are the hot-ticket item in the highly competitive automobile industry.

Did you ever imagine that filler'up may involve plugging your automobile into an electrical outlet? Well, more and more consumers are choosing to leave their gasoline powered vehicle behind for a chance to experience the benefits of an all electric or hybrid automobile. Several electric cooperatives across the nation have placed plug-in hybrid vehicles in their fleet of automobiles to get a feel for the benefits of operating them. When plugged in, a PHEV (Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle) can recharge in four hours. This recharge consumes approximately 4 kilowatts on average and would cost about 40 cents under your Cooperatives residential rate schedule.

Factory-built hybrids achieve better gas mileage when driven at slower speeds, such as the driving conditions you would encounter in a city or town setting. The nickel-metal hybrid battery/electric motor and gasoline engine both provide power in a hybrid automobile, and the battery constantly gets charged by the engine and regenerative braking system.

General Motors recently announced the launch of their Chevy Volt hybrid. The volt is being advertised to achieve a city fuel economy of 230 MPG. The EPA procedure for plug-in electric vehicles, which is still being finalized, assumes a single charge each day. In the EPA testing procedure, the Volt is expected to achieve up to 40 miles of electric-only, gasoline-free driving in both city and highway test cycles. Unlike traditional electric cars, the Chevy Volt has a propulsion system that uses a lithium-ion battery with a gasoline-powered engine. The gas engine drives a generator to provide electric power when you drive beyond the 40-mile battery range. General Motors plans to launch the Chevy Volt in 2010.

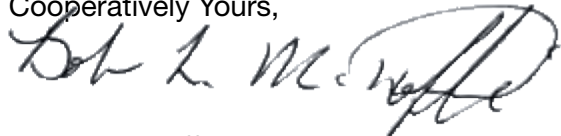
Hybrid vehicles are not just limited to cars either. Several manufacturers offer pickups, SUVs

and vans in hybrid models that are sure to satisfy your individual needs. Just about all automobile manufacturers offer a hybrid vehicle in their product line now. Ford, General Motors, Honda, Toyota, Nissan and Volkswagen are just a few of the manufacturers you can look to if you are interested in buying a new hybrid vehicle.

You also must keep in mind some of the current constraints related to hybrid vehicles before you make your purchase. Many new buyers are realizing that they must learn how to drive these cars properly to achieve their stated miles per gallon rating. This includes learning how to "pulse and glide", which helps balance the car's use of electric and gas when in speeds ranging from 30 to 40 miles per hour. There is also the issue of battery-life and battery-warranty that concerns some buyers. They are worried that the batteries will not be reliable and that they will be expensive when it comes time to replace them. The other major issue is determining if a hybrid automobile matches your driving patterns. If you primarily drive long distances (more than 40 miles) on a single commute, then today's hybrid vehicles may not be well suited for you at this time.

Make sure to look at all the options out there before you buy. Hybrid vehicles can be a viable option for many driving scenarios, and you can rest assured that you will start seeing more and more of them on the road daily.

Cooperatively Yours,



Bob L. McDuffie



Reminder Regarding Seasonal Services

This is just a friendly reminder that seasonal accounts are only billed three times a year – August, September and October. These accounts also have a monthly base charge like all other rate schedules, even though the account is only billed three times a year. Please contact our office at (252) 823-2171 if you have a bulk barn seasonal account that will not be used for next year's curing season, or if you plan on adding bulk barns to your seasonal account.



Call to disconnect or update information regarding your seasonal account(s) before next year's curing season begins.

National Fire Prevention Month

October is National Fire Prevention Month, and because electrical fires claim the lives of hundreds of people in the United States each year and injure thousands of others, now is the perfect time to become reacquainted with electrical fire safety basics. According to the United States Fire Administration, more than 28,000 residential electrical fires are reported in the United States each year, and sadly, most could have been prevented if safety measures had been taken. In recognition of National Fire Prevention Month, follow these simple tips and precautions to help prevent electrical fires in your home.

- Only plug three-prong appliances into three-slot outlets. Never remove the grounding pin or force a three-prong plug into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Replace any appliance or tool immediately if it causes even a small electric shock, overheats, shorts out or gives off sparks or smoke.
- Do not use a light bulb with wattage that is too high for the fixture. If you are using a compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb, look at the package to determine wattage equivalents.

- Never plug more than two home appliances into an outlet at one time.
- If your light switches are hot to the touch or your lights are flickering, immediately turn them off and have a professional replace them.
- Replace all worn, old or damaged appliance cords immediately.
- Keep all electrical appliances away from wet floors or counters. Be especially aware of this precaution when using appliances in the kitchen or bathroom.
- Place any electric heaters away from all clothes, furniture and curtains.
- When a fuse blows or a breaker is tripped, find out what is causing the overload before replacing or resetting it. Correct the problem, but if you cannot easily find the source or you feel uneasy, call an electrician to correct the problem for you.

In recognition of National Fire Prevention Month, inspect the electrical cords, outlets and appliances in your home to help prevent residential electrical fires.

ALONG THE LINE

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