



Along the LINE

JUNE 2020

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Clark Receives the President's Volunteer Service Award

Sammy Clark, along with 12 other linemen from North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, received the President's Volunteer Service Award.

This award recognizes the important role of volunteers in America's strength and national identity. It honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities and inspires others around them to take action.



Clark received this award for his achievement and dedication in building infrastructure that brought first-time electricity to a rural village in Bolivia through the 2019 Brighter World Initiative.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is proud to present this national recognition to Clark for his commitment to service, and for his achievement in bringing the benefits of electricity to a community that will forever be positively impacted.

His efforts are a true demonstration of the Cooperative purpose and represent the power of what can happen when we all work together for the common good.



Download SmartHub

SmartHub allows you to manage all aspects of your Edgecombe-Martin County EMC account. Use SmartHub to check your energy usage; pay your bill (or set up autopay); and report outages and service issues.

SmartHub can be accessed by a computer, mobile phone or tablet device. If you have a mobile phone or tablet, download the SmartHub app for free.

Revised Renewable Energy and EE Riders Become Effective July 1

In July 2020 updated renewable energy and energy efficiency rider charges will be applied to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members' bills to recoup the incremental costs associated with the state mandated REPS (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard).

These two riders appear on your bill as the NC Renewable Charge and the NC EE Charge.

The NC Renewable Charge has been billed monthly as follows since July 2019: Residential, \$0.21; Commercial, \$1.17; Industrial, \$7.76.

Beginning with the July 2020 billing, the rates will be billed as follows: Residential, \$0.09; Commercial, \$0.47; Industrial, \$3.15. The NC EE Charge will also be updated for all bills rendered after July 1, 2020,

and the current charge will increase from \$0.00050 per kilowatt hour to \$0.00076 per kilowatt hour.

Each of these riders will be reviewed annually and updated if approved by your board of directors in July. Changes in each rate come from participation in additional renewable energy projects and implementation of energy efficiency programs.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's participation as a member of NCEMC has allowed us to make market purchases of various types of renewable energy to help keep us in compliance with the NC REPS.

We will keep you informed as we work to meet the required compliance standards set forth in this energy legislation.



Please Inform Us Before Adding Load to your Service

Don't forget to let Edgecombe-Martin County EMC know about any changes that may have been made that have added load to your service.

As electric vehicle technology improves, and the cost of electric vehicles decreases, more Americans will continue to make the switch to electric. If you own or are considering the purchase of a plug-in electric vehicle, please let us know so that we can ensure our equipment is set up to properly handle the increased load and help you save energy and money!

Due to these advancements in technology, modern farms and agricultural operations work far differently than those a few decades ago too. These changes include the sensors, devices, machines, and information technology. We need to be informed of any changes or upgrades you have made to your operations since last year's curing season. It is possible that we may need to make changes to our distribution system to allow for any added load, such as additional bulk barns or grain dryers.

Call the Cooperative now at 1-800-445-6486 or (252) 823-2171 to let us know of any change to your account(s).



Edgecombe-Martin County EMC offers a rate schedule designed specifically for EV owners who use most of their energy overnight charging their vehicle. The co-op is also offering a \$200 rebate for members with an electric vehicle that switch to this rate.



At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we are constantly striving to provide greater value to our members. This involves exploring new sources of technology that will increase efficiency, provide better service, and ultimately lower the cost of energy for members.

In September of last year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC began upgrading our current Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system to an advanced Landis + Gyr AMI Gridstream system. In April, the installation of Landis + Gyr AMI system was completed.

The new AMI system uses two-way communication over a secure network to provide members the latest in advanced metering technology. The upgrade to the AMI system is significant.

The data received from the new Landis + Gyr meters will be critical to the operations of the Cooperative and will provide numerous benefits. These meters will provide more data to answer consumption questions and allow for faster outage response. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has more capabilities to analyze our distribution system better to recognize issues that could potentially cause an outage and correct the issue before an outage occurs.

Now that the meters are fully installed, members no longer have to call in to report power outages. When a power outage occurs, a signal from the affected meters will notify the co-op, providing more information on the location and numbers of members affected by the outage. These meters also help us understand if the outage is related to the utility service or is a problem on the member's side of the meter. We can then take the proper action to resolve the problem in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Members will still need to contact us for emergency situations such as a house fire, a downed power line, or car accident involving one of our utility poles.

From the member perspective, more information will be available to their own meter usage data anytime and anywhere. By logging into SmartHub through a computer or mobile device, members can view energy usage data in either hourly or 15-minute intervals (depending on the type of meter installed). Members can view daily, weekly or monthly usage to better manage their energy consumption or track performance

of energy conservation measures. In addition, current billing period usage can be compared to past billing periods for members to understand how their usage is trending.

While AMI technology requires a significant investment, much of that investment can be recouped through lower meter reading costs, faster outage detection, and improved member service. There will be no additional per-member cost for the new meter to our members. With any electric distribution system, the cost to maintain and upgrade the system is ongoing. Based on our work plan, we budget to perform maintenance and upgrades to our system, so you have access to safe, reliable electricity. Those upgrades include meter installation and replacement.

As with all technology advancements that Edgecombe-Martin County EMC implements, we are committed to safety and security of member's information. Our new AMI meters are built with safety in mind first and foremost. These meters are built to the same or higher, industry standards of our old meters. More importantly, the new AMI meters can help alert us to a problem before it becomes dangerous.

Cooperatively,

Winston Howell

Winston Howell

A Brighter Future for All

From the time we were formed by local community members, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has been committed to building a brighter future for the people, businesses and communities we serve.

Our original mission was to bring electricity and new opportunity to our region, and it has since expanded to include the pursuit of new energy solutions, community enrichment and economic development initiatives that provide us new ways to deliver value to our members.

Looking to the decade ahead and beyond, we remain focused on providing you electricity that is reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible. To achieve this low-cost, low-carbon future, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is working with the state's other electric cooperatives to reach significant carbon reduction goals, targeting a 50 percent drop in carbon emissions from our 2005 levels by 2030, and net zero carbon emissions by 2050. To meet these sustainability goals while upholding our commitments to reliability and affordability, our efforts will be focused in areas that make the electric grid more flexible, efficient, resilient and capable of supporting new energy solutions and the vitality of our communities.

New technologies are already leading to the creation of a virtual power plant, which coordinates thousands of resources across the grid, ranging from solar energy, battery storage, microgrids, smart thermostats

and electric vehicle charging stations to balance supply and demand on the system. This sophisticated approach provides growing potential for increased power reliability and lower costs for you, as well as greater convenience and control of your home electricity use. Electric cooperatives like Edgecombe-Martin County EMC are at the forefront of these efforts, and strong partnerships with members like you will ensure that we all continue to benefit from a rapidly evolving energy landscape.

In addition to powering our communities, we are also contributing to a brighter future by empowering those we serve. This concern for community is a hallmark of the cooperative difference, and our commitment to community support has been amplified by the unprecedented circumstances of the past few months. We want to make sure that our communities have the strength to succeed no matter the challenges we face, which is why we continue to invest in education grants, zero-interest economic development loans and other efforts aimed at improving the daily lives of our members. Because we are located in and belong to the communities we serve, we understand our local needs firsthand and remain driven to make a real difference, now

and in the years to come.

To learn more about all the ways we are ensuring a brighter future for all, visit ememc.com.

See the Viewpoints column in this month's issue of Carolina Country for more about how electric cooperatives throughout the state are working together to serve and strengthen our members and communities.

Along The LINE

ememc.com

Board of Directors

Bert Pitt, President
Jimmie Jernigan, Vice Pres.
Joseph Suggs, Secretary
Billy Trevathan, Treasurer
Rejeanor Scott
Norman A. Roberson
Wayne Harrell
Edward B. Simmons, Attorney

CEO

Winston T. Howell

Editor

Monica Speight

Hwy. 33 East, P.O. Box 188
Tarboro, NC 27886
252-823-2171 • 1-800-445-6486
Office Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (M–F)

After Hours Outage Reporting 1-800-690-0657

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive thru canopy, by calling our automated telephone service at

1-855-356-6358, placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to ememc.com



**Low
Carbon**



**Grid
Flexibility**



**Beneficial
Electrification**