



Along the LINE

July 2026

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



Revised Renewable Energy and EE Riders Become Effective July 1

In July 2026, 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 Clean Energy Portfolio Standard (CEPS). 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 since July 2025 at the following rates: \$0.48 for residential members, \$2.67 for commercial members, and \$17.81 for industrial members. Beginning with the July 2026 billing cycle, these rates will decrease to \$0.05 for residential, \$0.27 for commercial, and \$1.74 for industrial. The NC EE Charge will also be updated for all bills rendered after July 1, 2026, increasing from \$0.000041 per kilowatt-hour to \$0.000185 per kilowatt-hour. These riders are reviewed annually and updated each July, if approved by your board of directors. Changes to each rate reflect Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's participation in additional renewable energy projects and the implementation of energy efficiency programs. As a member of NCEMC, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has been able to make market purchases of various types of renewable energy to help remain in compliance with NC REPS requirements. We will continue to keep you informed as we work to meet the standards set forth in this energy legislation.



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC
will be closed on
Friday, July 3, in observance of
Independence Day.

After-hours and holiday payments
can be made using the following
options:

- Kiosk under the drive-thru canopy
- Calling our automated telephone service at 1-844-967-2463
- Placed in the night deposit box
- Online bill-pay by logging on to ememc.com



2026 Hurricane Season Outlook

The 2026 Atlantic hurricane season officially begins on June 1 and runs through November 30, and early forecasts suggest the season will be near-average to slightly below average.

Researchers, including those at North Carolina State University, are predicting 12 to 15 named storms, with 6 to 9 developing into hurricanes. Of those, 2 to 3 are expected to become major hurricanes, meaning Category 3 or higher. While slightly lower activity is anticipated this year, conditions in the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico can still support storm development, especially during peak months.

The potential for a less active season is largely tied to the expected presence of El Niño conditions, which can create stronger wind shear and make it more difficult for storms to form and intensify. Even so, history has shown that quieter seasons can still produce impactful storms.

The peak of hurricane activity typically occurs from mid-August to mid-October, making early preparedness essential. It only takes one storm to cause significant damage and disruption to our communities. Now is the time to review your personal storm plan, check your emergency supplies, and ensure you're ready if a storm threatens our service area. As always, our team remains committed to safety and service, and we encourage everyone to stay informed and be proactive.

Let's hope for minimal impacts this season—but let's also stay prepared.



2025 Safety Employee of the year

Ethan Thomas was recognized as Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's 2025 Safety Employee of the Year during our annual Safety Luncheon held in April.

Ethan is respected by his peers for his attention to detail, proactive approach and steady focus on maintaining a safe work environment. He consistently looks out not only for himself but for those around him, reinforcing the importance of safety through his everyday actions and decisions. His commitment helps strengthen a workplace culture where safety remains a top priority.

In addition to honoring Ethan, we proudly celebrated the achievements of several employees who reached major safety milestones:

- Tyler Perkins (5 Years), Steve Lewis (30 Years) and Lisa Tolson (35 Years).

These milestones represent more than time on the job—they reflect years of dedication, accountability and a shared commitment to doing things safely and correctly. Each achievement is a reminder of the role every employee plays in protecting one another.

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, safety is more than a policy—it's a mindset. Every safe decision made in the field, every procedure followed, and every precaution taken directly protects our employees and the communities we serve. A strong safety culture also helps reduce injuries, control costs, and prevent service disruptions—ultimately benefiting both the co-op and its members.

Congratulations to Ethan and all of our safety milestone recipients. Your commitment sets the standard, and we appreciate the example you provide each day.



Board President, Bert Pitt, presenting Ethan Thomas with his 2025 Safety of the Year Award.

Lineman Sammy Clark helps power a rural village in Guatemala

This spring, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Sammy Clark joined a team of 15 volunteers from across North Carolina to bring electricity for the first time to the village of El Plan Nuevo Amanecer in Guatemala. From framing poles to constructing more than three miles of line, they helped complete every step of the project by hand, ultimately powering more than 50 homes, a school, two churches and the community's only health clinic.

"This project reflects the heart of the cooperative spirit — neighbors helping neighbors, no matter the distance," said Winston Howell. "We are incredibly proud of Sammy for using his skills to help bring electricity, opportunity and hope to families in



Guatemala. Access to reliable power changes lives, and this effort is a reminder of the impact electric cooperatives can make when we work together to serve others."

This project is part of a larger effort known as the Brighter World Initiative, a project led by North Carolina's electric cooperatives. This offers volunteers an opportunity to carry the cooperative way beyond the communities they serve at home, using their skills to bring first-time access to electricity in underserved

areas around the world. The projects are coordinated in partnership with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) International Foundation, working to expand access to electricity across the globe.

In El Plan Nuevo Amanecer, where access to education and job opportunities has been limited, electricity will make a real difference in everyday life. With power now in place, students will have better resources to learn, and homes and roads will be lit after dark, improving safety across the community. Electricity also opens the door for small businesses to grow and gives families new ways to cook and



preserve food. Over time, these changes can help create new opportunities and a stronger future for the village.

To mark the project's completion, community members, local leaders and volunteers gathered at the school for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration. Volunteers were honored with plaques, and a commemorative sign was installed in the village to recognize the achievement.

Helping Seniors Stay Safe and Cool

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is once again partnering with the Senior “Beat the Heat” program to help local seniors stay cool during the hot summer months by providing 25 box fans to eligible residents in Edgecombe County.

As temperatures climb, access to proper cooling and air circulation becomes especially important for older adults and individuals with disabilities, who can be more vulnerable to heat-related illnesses.



Alex Tucker, Crystal Teel, Elizbaeth Revels, and Winston Howell stand alongside Deborah Coley from the Edgecombe County Office on Aging.

The Beat the Heat program began in 1986 through support from North Carolina’s electric cooperatives and utility partners and continues to make a difference for seniors across the state each summer.

Fans are available on a first-come, first-served basis for Edgecombe County residents age 60 and older. To apply or learn more, contact the Edgecombe County Office on Aging at 252-641-5831. Applicants will need to provide a valid photo ID to verify age and residency.

Along The LINE

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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

July Rights-of-Way

In order to provide safe, reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. We do this through rights-of-way and vegetation management. This requires pruning, removing, and cutting vegetation to prevent interruption of your electric service.

Throughout July, Lucas Tree Experts will utilize the sky trim, buckets and bushhogging equipment, in the Whitakers area and various hotspots on the system.

Examples of trimming methods

Flat Top Trimming



Trees are cut 15 feet below the lowest electric line.

Side Trimming



Trees are cut at least 15 feet from the center of the utility pole. As well as danger trees outside the 15 feet.

"L" Trimming



Trees are cut 15 feet from the neutral.