

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBER-OWNERS OF TIDELAND ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: Fridge & freezer recycling program

In the fall of 2009, a 30-day offer to pay Tideland members a “bounty” for their old, working refrigerators and freezers resulted in more than 300 units being recycled. Since then quite a few co-op members have asked if we would repeat the program. We’re pleased to announce that the program is back and will run through the end of 2014.

Tideland has contracted with Appliance Recycling Centers of America, Inc. (ARCA) to manage this 3-year recycling effort. ARCA has 35 years of experience in the appliance recycling industry and works with more than 150 utilities nationwide.



Tideland members will deal directly with ARCA personnel, starting with program enrollment and ending with the scheduled pickup from the member’s home. Once proper disposal has taken place, ARCA will notify Tideland and the co-op will issue the appropriate credit on the member’s

electric bill. Each co-op member may recycle up to TWO qualifying units annually.

Keep in mind that this program is only

for working refrigerators and freezers and they must be secondary units. We won’t be taking away your kitchen refrigerator to make room for a newer model. Additional details can be found on page C of Tideland Topics.

WARM & FUZZY:

November brings lower winter rates

A reminder to our residential members: Lower winter rates go into effect November 1. While the basic facilities rate remains fixed year round to reflect costs associated with utility hardware, the per kilowatt hour (kWh) energy charge drops nearly a penny for all bills rendered between November and April.

For residential time-of-use rate-payers the kWh charge remains the same, however kilowatt demand (kWd) charges drop from \$10.75 to \$8.75, November through April.

Keep in mind that rates are only ONE component of the electric bill equation. The most important part is energy consumption. Energy efficiency and conservation are still the best ways to achieve a lower bill.



Message to our Member-Owners: Recovery continues

By Paul Spruill
General Manager & CEO

Right-of-Way Update

Tideland has hired Lewis Tree Service to trim and cut trees in our right of way. In November they will work on the Hwy 32, Hwy 99 and Long Ridge circuits which feed out of the Plymouth substation. The following roads will be included in trimming activities:

- Hwy 32 from Styons Rd to Old Hwy 97
- Hollis Rd (the Hwy 32 end)
- Hwy 99 from Hwy 32 to the Railroad Bed Rd
- Morratock Rd
- Long Ridge Rd from Hwy 64 to Reno Rd

We are still mowing in the Lowland area.

As this issue of Tideland Topics went to press the second week of October, approximately 340 electric services remained disconnected as a result of Hurricane Irene. That represents approximately 1.5% of all Tideland accounts.

We know that at least a handful of those services will never be restored because the structures are simply gone. Other buildings quickly succumbed to post-storm mold or were so violently wrestled from their foundations that they were ultimately leveled. Many more remain in limbo while members navigate the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) application process or meet with insurance adjusters.

We anticipate making quite a few service connections to FEMA trailers as they arrive. Needless to say we will continue to dig out from under Irene for quite a while.

At this time it does appear that all or most of our storm-related expenses will be reimbursed by FEMA and North Carolina Emergency Management. Co-op employees and directors were actively engaged in lobbying Congress to approve the FEMA assistance and we are appreciative to those legislators who understood the magnitude of the tragedy and loss experienced by their constitu-

ents. With Tideland's cost to restore power and make post-storm repairs now topping \$2.5 million the reimbursement outlook is welcome news given the economic challenges so many co-op members face.

In the wake of Hurricane Irene, several members have called to inquire about wiring their household for an emergency generator. Keep in mind that if you do so you are required to install a double pole, double throw switch which will prevent the emergency generator from back-feeding onto our electric system. When a generator backfeeds, it runs the risk of killing innocent bystanders including utility linemen working to restore power.

After hearing from our members and other co-ops about the reliability of social media during Hurricane Irene, we have established a Tideland EMC Facebook page. As more and more members come to rely on mobile devices as their primary form of communication, Facebook gives us an additional way to deliver important information to members. However, you should still use our automated outage reporting system to alert us to service interruptions. Our internet applications are not monitored 24 hours a day.

Seed money

Congressman Walter Jones, Jr. was on hand to help West Craven High School students and their teacher Brenda Laughinghouse dedicate the school's new agriculture education center on Tuesday, September 27.

Laughinghouse and her students already run a successful greenhouse and produce operation, raise chickens and sheep and recently added a few pigs to the mix. They hope that the new



ag center will one day serve as the backdrop for a local farmer's market. Tideland EMC has previously awarded Laughinghouse two Bright Ideas grants: one for livestock fencing and the other for a horticultural project.



The dedication ceremony was presided over by officers of the Future Farmers of America.

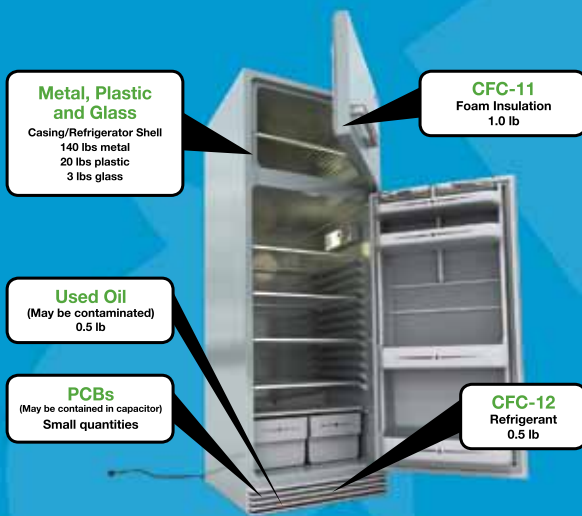
THE COLD, HARD FACTS:

How to claim your recycling rebate



Inside Your Refrigerator...

With the Fridge & Freezer Farewell Program, each appliance is properly destroyed and recycled, preventing it from entering a landfill.

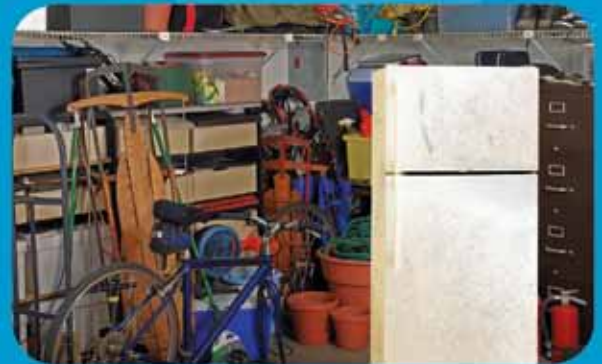


Source: www.epa.gov

Let us pick up your old refrigerator or freezer and we'll give you \$50!

We'll give you **\$50** to let us properly recycle your old, working secondary refrigerator or freezer. We'll even pick it up, **free of charge**, without you having to lift a finger.

By recycling that old appliance, you can save **over \$200 a year** on your energy bill. **Big results... little effort.**



Save Energy. Save Money.

- ❖ Each old refrigerator or freezer requires an average of 700 to 1,600 kilowatt-hours (kwh) to operate annually.
- ❖ If a spare refrigerator used in a basement or garage is removed and not replaced, energy savings can amount to 1,200 kWh/year, with an average \$100 reduction in annual electricity charges.*

*Actual energy and cost savings will vary by equipment model and region. These estimates are conservative and based on national averages (www.energystar.gov).

How to Participate...

- ❖ You must be a residential electric customer with a valid account number to participate.
- ❖ Appliances must be secondary units.
- ❖ Refrigerators and freezers turned in for recycling must be in working condition (cooling), 10-30 cubic feet and owned by you.
- ❖ Appliances will be picked up from the residential address listed on the billing account.
- ❖ A \$50 credit will be applied to your residential electric bill within 4-6 weeks after collection.
- ❖ Limit of two appliances per household per year.



To schedule your free pickup
call **877.341.2310**

Hidden viewing costs may surprise you

REAL PEOPLE.
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If you've got cable or satellite TV, odds are a set-top box came with it. But finding out how much electricity that box is using could be scarier than a horror movie.

The utility consulting firm Ecos has been crunching the numbers for a typical home. If you have two set-top boxes—one a high-definition DVR, the other a regular HD box—they're using about 450 kilowatt-hours per year.

"What's notable is that that combination of set-top boxes is using more energy than a typical refrigerator. And most people don't know that—they think devices that are smaller use less energy," said Laura Moorefield, Ecos senior manager of research and policy.

But wait, there's more.

"The typical set-top boxes in a home can use more energy than a TV, which they're intended to be a part of that system, not the main part," said Moorefield. "These devices typically draw the same amount of power no matter what you're doing. If you're watching TV, if you're recording a show they're drawing an average of 30 to 40 watts round the clock."



And don't bother yelling at the kids to shut off the box when they're done. "If you punch the button to turn off the set-top box, in most models, the only thing that's turning off is the little LED indicator light," Moorefield said. "There's no drop in power."

But set-top boxes are only a part of what's known as "plug load"—devices that draw power even when they're off. Moorefield said the Energy Information Administration projects plug loads to be the nation's fastest-growing section of electricity use. Ecos estimates as many as four million plug load devices are now in use nationwide.

And if that's not reason enough for co-ops to encourage members to unplug things like cell phone chargers and coffeemakers, Moorefield added one more. "In homes, plug loads are anywhere from 10 to 15 percent of residential electricity use. They cost the homeowner more than \$100 to operate every year."

Tideland Topics

www.tidelandemc.com

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HOLIDAY SCHEDULE: TIDELAND WILL BE CLOSED NOVEMBER 24 & 25

Give a HUG this holiday season

Want to brighten the Holiday Season for someone special? Give a H.U.G. ... a Home Utility Gift! We'll be glad to credit any Tideland EMC member's account in the gift amount of your choice. Gifts must be paid in full with cash, check or credit card. We'll also provide you with a special holiday greeting card to notify the recipient of your gift. Call or visit any Tideland office for details.

