

# Tideland Topics

## REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

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

## GROWTH SPURT: Right-of-way upkeep costs continue to climb

To provide reliable electric service, Tideland EMC is responsible for maintaining more than 2,500 miles of right-of-way. Under the best circumstances the task can be daunting. In 1999, Tideland increased tree-trimming frequency, moving from a 7- to 5-year cutting cycle. Mowing is on a 2-year cycle. Combined these activities cost the cooperative \$1.2 million annually, which equates to \$53 per metered service. These costs contribute to a portion of the monthly basic facilities fee included on your electric bill.

Our rural territory is home to a robust forestry industry with large tracts of land set aside for tree farms. Homeowners and businesses increasingly look to trees to promote privacy, act as a buffer to wind and noise, and of course the energy benefits that come from strategically planted shade trees. Interestingly, when talking with local nursery owners, several said the tree selection process by most consumers begins with one question: Which trees grow quickly? Consumers want their shade...and they want it now!

Turns out they may be growing a little too fast. Warmer temperatures combined with increased precipitation have resulted in tree and vine growth spurts throughout Tideland territory. This has in turn led to more spot trimming than usual, which isn't the most efficient use of co-op resources.

You can help the co-op reduce these growing costs by:

1. Planting trees well outside the utility right-of-way, taking into account the eventual mature height and spread of trees prior to planting. While the co-op has a 30-foot easement (15 feet on either side of the power line), a tree that will grow 30 feet tall should be planted at least 30 feet away from power lines.
2. Allowing the co-op to remove rather than trim high-maintenance trees.
3. Reporting to the co-op dead or dangerous trees that are within the fall zone so we can proactively remove them and avoid an eventual outage.
4. Supporting our tree-trimming efforts whenever crews arrive in your neighborhood so we can cut down on repeat visits within the 5-year cycle.

## *WPCA credit rebounds as electric sales soar*

Unusually high electric sales and other factors contributed to an increase in the wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) credit last month after it had dipped to a 29-month low in June.

For the month of August, the WPCA credit increased to \$2.20 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) billed. That is nearly three and a half times higher than the WPCA credit in June.

Tideland's power suppliers billed the co-op for more than 40 million kWh in July as the long, unseasonably hot summer continued. Previously the co-op has only exceeded that total twice: July 2012 and January 2014. That comes on the heels of an unusually hot June when the co-op purchased nearly 37 million kWh for member use.

Fortunately, the heatwave that gripped Tideland territory for weeks on end finally broke the second week of August, bringing some measure of relief for members.

As we head into fall, Tideland's billed rates are expected to remain below published rates through the end of the year.



## Message to our Member-Owners: Plug into powerful service options

### Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our right-of-way. During the month of September crews will be working in Rose Bay and if adequate progress is made the crews will move on to Engelhard. Before year end we plan to Gaylord's Bay and Pamlico Beach.

Our mowing contractor will focus on right-of-way closest to the Silverhill and Edward substations to clear areas that contract line crews need better access to for the purpose of installing new fault detection devices.

### By Paul Spruill

General Manager & CEO

Year to date, ending July, electric sales to members have increased by 8.2 million kilowatt-hours, compared to the first seven months in 2014.

Despite steady improvements in energy efficiency and new construction standards, weather continues to be the single largest contributor to energy use. Since we can't control the weather it becomes even more important for homeowners and businesses to redouble their efforts to control what they can.

We know that sealing air leaks delivers the most bang for the buck in terms of energy improvements. The typical home has enough air leaks to equal one open window year round. That's why for the next three months "Tideland Topics" will feature a series about air infiltration starting with HVAC system sealing tips.

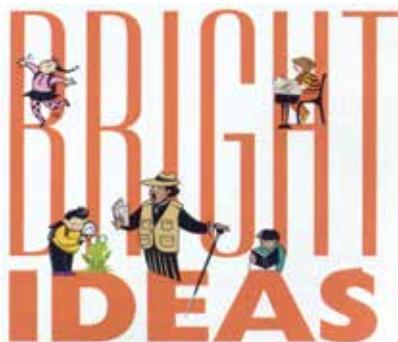
If you haven't done so already, please consider signing up for high-use alerts so we can let you know via text or email when your energy consumption exceeds a daily goal that you determine. A Beaufort County member already enrolled in the service, promptly detecting a hot water leak thanks to a high-use alert that indicated \$13 worth of energy use in a single day while the home was unoccupied. Catching the leak early saved her from more than just a high energy bill. It prevented an exorbitant water bill and untold amounts of household damage had the leak gone undetected. This notification service is available to all our members at no cost.

We continue to offer low-interest weatherization loans for energy improvements that go beyond the typical do-it-yourself project. The maximum loan term is 60 months at a fixed 5% interest rate. Loans over \$10,000 must be secured by a first or second deed of

trust. For more information, please call our loan officer Karen Heffley at 252.943.3046, ext. 1141.

We continue to offer rebates for high-efficiency heat pumps, electric hybrid water heaters and Energy Star manufactured homes. If you hope to utilize any of these rebates, please call program manager Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 before completing the sales transaction. We've recently had to deny two Energy Star manufactured home rebates because the mobile home dealerships didn't install the proper equipment. So call us and we'll help you navigate the process to ensure that your needs are met.

Last but not least, consider signing up for leveled billing, which will take the roller coaster affect out of month to month energy bills. This service is best suited for members who have the ability to pay their bill on time every month or utilize bank draft services.



### Last call for 2015 grant applications

Classroom teachers have until September 11 to submit Bright Ideas grant applications to Tideland EMC. Awards up to \$2,000 are made to K-12 teachers to improve classroom instruction and encourage innovative teaching methods. Grant proposals that involve the study of energy are highly encouraged including renewable energy or energy efficiency. Teachers may access the co-op's online application by visiting [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

For more information call program coordinator Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410 or 1.800.637.1079, extension 1140.

# DUCT SEALING TECH TIPS: PLENUM CONNECTIONS

**1** Apply Mastic To Collar At Plenum / Aplique masilla donde conecta el cuello con el plenum



**2** Apply Mastic To Collar Before Flex / Aplique masilla al cuello donde conecta con el ducto flexible



**3** Attach Flex Duct And Zip Tie / Asegure el ducto flexible con un amarre plástico



**4** Apply Mastic To Connection / Aplique masilla a la conexión



**5** Insulate Collar To Code / Forre el cuello con aislante de acuerdo al código



**6** Seal All Seams In Plenum With Mastic / Selle todas las uniones en el plenum con masilla



**7** Use Mastic And Fiberglass Mesh Tape To Connect Plenum To Air Handler / Use masilla y cinta de fibra de vidrio para unir el plenum a la manejadora de aire



**4**  
WAYS TO  
MONITOR  
OUTAGE  
UPDATES

1.

ONLINE  
OUTAGE MAP  
Found at [www.tidelandemc.com](http://www.tidelandemc.com)

2.

FACEBOOK  
<https://www.facebook.com/TidelandElectric>

3.

TWITTER  
@TidelandEMC

4.

OUTAGE TEXT  
MESSAGING  
Text "TEMC" to  
short code 85700  
to enroll then  
reply with your  
electric account  
number so we  
can assign you  
to the proper  
substation  
message group.  
To opt-out text  
"STOP" to 85700.

# DUCT SEALING TECH TIPS: BOOT CONNECTIONS

REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

## Tideland Topics

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

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Tideland EMC is an equal  
opportunity provider & employer



**1** Apply Mastic To Boot / Aplique la masilla al cuello del adaptador



**2** Pull Liner Onto Boot / Meta el cuello del adaptador en el ducto



**3** Install Zip Tie / Asegúrelo con un amarre plástico



**4** Apply Mastic To Connection / Aplique masilla en la conexión



**5** Insulate Boot To Code / Forre el adaptador con el aislante de acuerdo al código



**6** Seal Seams Of Boot / Selle las uniones del adaptador por dentro



**7** Seal Seams Of Boot / Selle las uniones del adaptador por fuera



**8** Seal Boot To Subfloor / Selle las uniones entre el adaptador y el piso falso



**9** Seal Boot To Sheetrock / Selle las uniones entre el adaptador y la tabla yeso

