



Tideland Topics

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

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

ARE YOU IN? Tideland first but member participation rate last

In 1991, Tideland EMC became the first co-op in North Carolina to introduce charitable giving through rounded up electric bill contributions. The purpose of Operation Round Up has always been to help members in crisis meet their basic electric needs when no other means of assistance are available.

But while we were the first co-op in the state to launch the program, we also have the lowest rate of member participation to date. We know firsthand about the goodness of our members when it comes to helping those in need, so clearly we haven't done a very good job asking you to participate. We hope a chance to win a \$1,000 electric bill credit will catch your attention.

How does Operation Round Up help those in need? We provide short-term financial relief in the

form of a grant up to \$100 that is applied directly to the member's electric bill. Grants are often accompanied by a free home energy audit so the cooperative can

help the member find ways to reduce future expenses because, like you, we know a penny saved is a penny earned.



To begin contributing to Operation Round Up you may return the postcard on the magazine cover wrap stating your giving preference (round up or fixed monthly contribution of your choosing). If you prefer to make a one-time donation, please use the envelope provided in the center of this newsletter. And if you already contribute to Operation Round Up, you don't have to send anything in. You are automatically entered into the grand prize drawing.



Carolina Country Mobile App

The new Carolina Country app is free to all Tideland EMC members! The monthly digital edition brings you:

- Easy-to-read stories and informative columns
- Interactive guides and how-to's
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- Spectacular color and images
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To download the app for iPad or Android tablet, go to carolinacountry.com/app today!



Message to our Member-Owners: *Change well invested*

By Paul Spruill
General Manager & CEO

Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

During the month of April, Lucas Tree Experts will be trimming trees from Shipyard Rd in Manns Harbor to both East Lake and Stumpy Point.

Mowing crews will be working along Cotton Patch, Clay Bottom School, Ephesus Church, Mouth of the Creek and Old Blounts Creek roads and all sideroads in the area.

Please lend your full support to our right-of-way maintenance efforts.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Tideland's Operation Round Up program. Since 1991 we have provided nearly 2,900 grants for electric utility relief to help members in a crisis situation. Often the request for help comes from a local church or charity that has identified someone in need. Sometimes the request comes from our own employees or board members who learn of a local tragedy.

While people rightly worry about any charitable program being taken advantage of, we are proud to report that Operation Round Up has avoided those pitfalls due to thorough application procedures. But we have seen requests increase in recent years as the result of numerous factors. Several local non-profit organizations have stopped providing energy assistance to focus their limited resources on food bank efforts.

We've also seen a worrisome rise in the use of electric space heaters when low-income members can't afford expensive propane tank fill ups. While auditing the home of one Operation Round Up recipient we found the family using a gas

grill propane canister inside their home to fuel an unvented gas heater. They could only afford to buy gas in a small quantity at a premium price. One church in our service territory even purchases electric space heaters for elderly residents that can't afford propane and then the church helps pay on the electric bills when they come due. We help as well.

Since hurricanes Isabel and Irene, we are finding more and more homes without floor insulation, which makes home heating more challenging and costly. In fact, if your church or civic group is looking for a dirty but fairly easy service project, we would recommend finding an elderly or disabled homeowner in need of floor insulation. Many could also use some general weatherstripping and air sealing.

Operation Round Up is a convenient and proven way to contribute to the energy security needs of others. I hope you will consider signing up to give monthly. You can trust us to be good stewards of not only your funding but also your faith in us to act compassionately and competently and to help our neighbors help themselves.

Incumbent directors deemed elected

Tideland Electric's nominating committee met on February 11 to consider candidates for director districts 1, 3 and 9. Nominated for re-election in their respective districts were incumbents Rudy Austin of Ocracoke, Dawson Pugh of Engelhard, and J. Douglas Brinson of Arapahoe. No candidates were nominated by written petition.

In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, unopposed candidates are deemed elected to the board of directors for a three year term.

Austin, Pugh and Brinson will retake their oaths of service at the cooperative's June board meeting.



Rudy Austin
District 1



Dawson Pugh
District 3



J. Douglas Brinson
District 9



Watt Bulb Works Best for Your Home?

President George W. Bush signed the **Energy Independence and Security Act** of 2007, requiring all light bulbs use nearly **30% less energy** by 2014.

Average Price		
\$1.25	\$3.50	\$8.00
Lifespan (@ 3 hrs/day)		
Less than 1 year	Approx. 9 years	At least 22 years
Average Annual Energy Cost		
\$3.50 - \$4.80	\$1.20	\$1.00
Lumens per Watt		
13 to 14	55 to 70	60 to 100

Incandescent Bulbs	Compact Fluorescent (CFL) Bulbs	Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Bulb
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Electricity runs through a wire filament , heating the filament until it glows and creates light.	Visible light results when UV light, created when electricity is driven through a tube containing argon and mercury , reacts with the coating on the tube.	Electricity passes through semiconductor material , illuminating the semiconductor devices called light-emitting diodes.
Produce heat and light in every direction.	75% less heat than incandescent bulbs.	Uses diodes, not heat, to produce light.
Loses up to 50% of the light before it even exits a fixture.	75% more energy savings.	85% more energy savings as compared to incandescent bulbs.
Contains no hazardous materials.	Because CFLs contain mercury (about 4 mg, which is less than 1% found in old thermometers), they require proper disposal.	Contains no hazardous materials.
More efficient bulbs could save consumers \$6 billion in 2015 alone.	Visit Earth911.com for tips on how to properly clean up a broken bulb or recycle intact bulbs.	Some localities recycle used LEDs.

Wattage: The amount of electricity consumed by a light source.

Lumens: The amount of light that a light source produces.



Only use bulbs **labeled** for use in enclosed fixtures to prevent **dangerous heat buildup.**

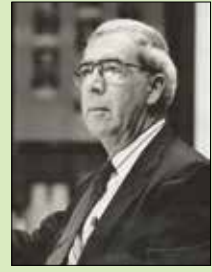
Install bulbs with **extended lifespans** in hard-to-reach locations to **limit the number of times** you have to climb a ladder, move furniture, or otherwise engage in potentially dangerous activities.

This month in Tideland history

April 24, 1950: Engelhard's investor-owned utility, Pamlico Ice & Light, changed its name to Pamlico Power & Light.



April 15, 1997: Tideland EMC general manager Lloyd Lee unexpectedly died while attending the NC Electric Membership Corporation annual meeting



April 2014: Tideland territory was hit by two powerful tornadoes within a 10-day period



High water table can take a toll on underground

We've seen an increase in individual underground service problems due to record amounts of rainfall in recent months.

Your house has three wires entering your meter base: two hot wires, each carrying 120 volts, and a neutral wire. Your 120-volt appliances, such as your refrigerator and microwave, lights and plugs, only need one leg to work. Your 240-volt appliances, however, such as the oven, clothes dryer, central HVAC system and

water heater, need both legs to operate. If one leg becomes broken either at the power line, underground, or in your electrical panel, your 240-volt appliances and any lights or outlets on the broken leg will not operate.

If you experience part power in your home, first check your breaker box to make sure one or more breakers haven't tripped. If that doesn't resolve the problem call Tideland.

The neutral keeps the proper voltage between both legs. If the neutral fails, the voltage of each leg can swing out of tolerance. You would likely notice lights in your home getting too bright and too dim. If that occurs, unplug electronics and appliances and call an electrician or Tideland. It could be a problem with the neutral bus bar on your side of the meter or a bad neutral on Tideland's side of the meter.

Always better to be safe than sorry.

REAL PEOPLE.
REAL POWER.

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www.tidelandemc.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Sasnett, President
J. Douglas Brinson, Vice President
Clifton Paul, Secretary
David Ipock, Treasurer
Rudy Austin, Mark Carawan,
Garry Jordan, Dawson Pugh,
Wayne Sawyer & Charles Slade

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Paul Spruill

EDITOR

Heidi Jernigan Smith

Member Service

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24 Hour Outage Reporting & Automated Services

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opportunity provider & employer



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PREMIUM SEATING AVAILABLE

TIME-OF-USE PARTICIPANTS: REMEMBER TO REDUCE DEMAND DURING THE HOURS OF 4 PM TO 8 PM, MON-FRI, APRIL 16 THRU OCTOBER 15

Celebrating 75 Years of Member Service

Our story is and always will be about real people. People who dare to dream. People committed to principled leadership. People for whom service isn't just a job, it's a calling. People who value the communities we call home. People who are resilient and faithful and not afraid of heavy lifting when their purpose is true.

What makes a power company a cooperative? The same thing that makes a house a home. People. And in our book, Tideland people are the best.



Learn more about the history of Tideland EMC at www.tidelandemc.com/history