



New Year's Resolutions Worth Keeping

Thought about kicking a bad habit as the New Year rolls around? Why not consider starting a few good habits this year as well? Here are some energy efficient habits sure to save you money:

- Learn how and when you use energy to identify opportunities to save; to get started, keep a meter reading diary and track your daily kilowatt hour use for a two to three week period
- Always use the “air dry” setting on your dishwasher
 - Never put hot foods directly into the refrigerator or freezer; let foods cool before storing
 - Reduce your water heater's temperature to 120°F; remember that dual element water heaters usually have two thermostats, so set both
 - Change heating and cooling system filters once a month when in regular use
- Use cold water settings on your washing machine whenever possible; do full loads to reduce energy use
 - Clean the lint filter on your clothes dryer after every use to reduce drying time and prevent fires
 - Don't leave televisions, lights or computers running when not in use
 - Keep lids on pots when cooking to reduce energy use as well as indoor humidity levels

Tideland Helps Hillsborough Co-op Restore Power

When the potential for weather-related outages subsided on December 5th, Tideland EMC sent its line crews and tree trimmers packing. But they didn't head for the comfort of hearth and home. Instead, they headed for ground *subzero* in Hillsborough, NC, to literally

pick up the pieces of an electric system hit hard by ice and snow.

Responding to a plea for help from sister-cooperative Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation, Tideland's chief executive officer Bill Stacy authorized the release of eight men and four vehicles to assist with repairs.

“Knowing the integrity of our system was intact, I authorized the departure of eight employees with three bucket trucks and one digger-derrick to help Piedmont,” reported Stacy. “We also released our tree

trimming and overhead contract crews to assist with the Piedmont repairs.”

By daybreak December 5, approximately 19,000 of Piedmont EMC's 28,000 members were without power. Most of the problems were caused by heavy icing on trees and power lines. At press time, Tideland crew members were expected to be away several days while cleanup efforts continued.

“Piedmont EMC helped us restore power after two hurricanes so we're just returning the favor,” explained Stacy.



Co-op membership: a growing trend

*William H. Stacy, PE
Chief Executive Officer
December 5, 2002*

It is always amusing to hear someone say, "Those electric co-ops may have been a good idea a long time ago, but nobody would create a new business that old-fashioned way now."

But not so fast. Today, cooperatives are the fastest-growing segment of the electric utility industry, with a growth rate that is nearly three times that of investor-owned utilities. And it's not just the established electric cooperatives that are growing. New cooperatives are popping up in places one might least expect to find them.

One of the more interesting new cooperatives, based in the heart of New York City, is First Rochdale Cooperative. Primarily consisting of housing cooperatives, it buys power on the wholesale market and offers its members energy-efficiency services.

Another new cooperative is the California Oil Producers Electric Cooperative (COPE), organized in 1999. The co-op's leaders say they chose the cooperative approach because it "allows the members to combine their purchasing power in the marketplace." In the highly volatile energy market that followed deregulation in California, the cooperative form of governance turned out to be a particularly good idea.

A group of citizens on Hawaii's Kauai Island have created an electric cooperative to acquire the investor-owned utility that serves the island. The community's desire

for local control and local ownership of its own utility is evidenced by the overwhelming grassroots support for the co-op. At presstime, the acquisition was currently pending before the Hawaii Public Utility Commission.

The simple truth is that the principles upon which electric co-ops were founded—providing near-cost electric service through a private, locally operated business, governed by its customer-owners through an elected board of directors—is as attractive today as when electric co-ops were founded in the 1930s.

Nationwide, electric co-ops are serving an additional one million people each year. The nearly 1,000 cooperatives comprising America's largest electric-utility network serve 35 million customers in 47 states. Not bad for an "old-fashioned" idea.

Frankly, such growth does not surprise me. Nor am I surprised by the continued acceptance of the cooperative form of business for electric utilities. There is no better control than to be owned by those we serve.

Quality service, pride of ownership and community involvement have always distinguished cooperatives from our competitors. As long as we emphasize these distinctions, the cooperative form of enterprise will never go out of style.

Happy New Year,

William H. Stacy

Kerosene Heater Safety

Use only water-clear 1 K grade kerosene. Never use gasoline. Small amounts of gasoline or other volatile fuels or solvents substantially increase the risk of fire or explosion

- Always store kerosene in a separate container intended for kerosene, not in a gasoline can or a can that has contained gasoline. Kerosene containers are usually blue.

- When purchasing kerosene make sure to use the kerosene pump, not the gasoline pump. Most service stations have separate islands for kerosene.

- Never refuel the heater inside the home. Fill the tank outdoors, away from combustible materials, and only after the heater has been turned off and allowed to cool down. Do not refuel the heater when it is hot or is in operation. Do not fill the fuel tank above the "full" mark. The space above the "full" mark is to allow the fuel room to expand without causing leakage while operating.

- Install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors near each sleeping area in the house

- Operate your heater in a room with a door open to the rest of the house.

- If you must operate your heater in a room with the door closed to the rest of the house, open an outside window approximately an inch to permit fresh air to effectively dilute the pollutants below a level of concern.

- Keep the wick in your heater clean

2002-2003 Tideland EMC Bright Ideas Award Winners

“Read On!”

Debbie Varner

Pines Elementary

Funds will be used to pursue a summer reading program for at-risk 1st graders. \$150

“Publication Station”

Amy Barsanti

Pines Elementary

Students will publish & record their own books on tape. \$566

“Hatching Eggs in the Classroom”

Carol Wainwright

Chocowinity Middle School

“Geometric Concepts Through Quilting”

Barbara Jones

Aurora Middle School

Students will design geometric quilt pieces. \$453.71

“Exploring Energy & Power”

Laura Hummell, Mary Ann

Hodges, Marlene Stalls, Dawn

Tillett, Virginia Wise

Manteo Middle School

Students will design displays about energy sources, design LED displays, build solar devices & create electrical circuits. \$1,465.10

“Tessellmania”

June Zurface

Aurora Middle School

Students will design tessellations on acoustic ceiling tiles and replace their existing classroom ceiling with the tiles they have created.

“What’s Bugging the First Graders?”

Jackie Butcher

Terra Ceia Christian School

Through literature, living exhibits, games and other activities,



Bright Ideas award winners pose for a group photo with Tideland EMC directors and employees at the Greenville Hilton.

Students will be responsible for caring for eggs in an incubator and the chicks after their hatch. \$479

“Let’s Get Wired”

Eddie Cahoon

Northside High School

Students will build miniature walls and install receptacle and switching circuits to prepare for electrical trades. \$1,684

“Getting the Salt Out”

Sonya Roughton

Chocowinity Middle School

Students will construct a model desalination plant to demonstrate the distillation of ocean water to produce freshwater. \$1,774.50

“Panthers Pun Around”

Gladys Howell

Northside High School

Students will publish a literary/art magazine containing their own works; magazines sales are expected to replenish the fund for future editions. \$700

“Teacher, Is it a Rembrandt?”

Donna Johnson

Pungo Christian Academy

Funds will be used to pursue a summer reading program for at-risk 1st graders. \$150

students will explore the insect world. \$437.14

“Solving Earth’s Puzzles”

Jerry Meadows & Thomas

Tharps

Mattamuskeet High School

Students will engage in lab activities to enhance their understanding of landform changes. \$600

“Science Too!”

Roxanne Beeman

Eastern Elementary

Grant funds will purchase a classroom incubator, butterfly nurseries and caterpillar activity kits. \$600

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Washington, D.C. Youth Tour Applications Due February 21st

High school juniors interested in attending the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. have until February 21st to submit an application and essay for consideration.

This year Tideland EMC will select one high school junior to attend the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The event is coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Some 1,200 high school students from 40 states participate annually. During their week long stay in the nation's capital students tour the Smithsonian, Arlington Cemetery, the National Cathedral and other historic venues. They also meet with their home state's

Congressional delegation. Educational programs focus on the importance of rural electrification, cooperatives as a business structure and the legislative process.

Tideland's Youth Tour winners are eligible to apply for the \$2,000 Gwyn B. Price Scholarship and the \$1,500 Katie Bunch Memorial Scholarship. Scholarship selection criteria: Need 50%; Scholastic achievement 25%; and Extracurricular Activities 25%.

To apply students should ask their guidance counselor for an application or visit our website for an application at www.tidelandemc.com and click on the Bright Ideas link. For more information call Heidi Smith at 1-800-637-1079.

Bright Ideas Award Winners continued from page 23

"History Alive!"

Andrea Sawyer

Northside High School

Funds will be used to purchase the "History Alive!" series of books to make learning an interactive experience. \$941.60

"Know This"

**Isis Woods & Johnnie Hawkins
West Craven Middle**

Using Hooked on Phonics, learning disabled students will improve reading skills. \$650

Congratulations to all the winners!

Correction

In the December 2002 edition of Tideland Topics we incorrectly reported the method being used for capital credit distributions. Active members with a capital credit refund in excess of \$10.00 were mailed a check in lieu of an electric bill credit adjustment. Credit adjustments were only given to those members who either had delinquent account balances or whose refund was less than \$10.00. We regret any confusion created by the December article.



*A newsletter for the member-owners of
Tideland Electric Membership Corp.*

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