

SEPTEMBER ■ 2009



REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

Tideland Topics

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

PEACE OF MIND: Surge protector sales increase after July storms

July 2009 was one of the 10 coolest Julys since official record keeping began. That's good for containing summer cooling costs. Unfortunately, when cold fronts collide with warm fronts, the result is often stormy skies accompanied by thunder and lightning. Even an indirect lightning strike can wreak havoc on consumer owned electronics.

To protect yourself from expensive losses it is important to develop a surge protection strategy for your home or business that addresses all potential points of surge entry. That starts with a meter base surge protector. Tideland EMC sells and installs Kenick brand surge protectors. Hard wired at the meter base, our newest Kenick product can handle

over 2 times the energy from an average lightning strike. It can last for years without multiple surges hurting it. It also features a visible indicator to verify that the unit is working and ready to protect your home. Tideland currently offers a surge protection solution that can be installed on services up to 200,000 Amps with a response time of less than 1 nanosecond.

The purchase price of \$290 includes installation and free ground rod testing. Financing is available with a \$90 down payment and 10 monthly payments of \$21 each.

For more information or to request installation, call Tideland EMC at 1-800-637-1079.

State expands green energy tax credits



In August, North Carolina lawmakers voted to extend and expand a state income tax credit for small-scale renewable energy projects. The credit can now be taken on geothermal heat pumps as well as solar and wind energy production systems. The tax break is worth 35 percent of the cost of a geothermal heat pump up to \$8,400.

Message to our Member-Owners: Continuing to work on your behalf



Cecil O. Smith, Jr.
General Manager & CEO

While federal energy legislation has taken a backseat to health care in most media outlets, electric cooperative leaders remain actively engaged in shaping an energy bill that is fair and affordable for consumers.

Gains made by electric cooperative members in the US House of Representatives must now be duplicated and expanded in any legislation put forth by the Senate. Among the items that make up our "wish list" is the recognition of nuclear energy as a climate mitigating technology. We would also like the Rural Utilities Service, the electric cooperatives' primary lender, to reestablish a program to finance the construction of new generating plants.

When debate resumes this fall, we will deliver to Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagan postcards from more than 1,800 Tideland members who want energy solutions that are both attainable and affordable.

If you have not yet engaged in this discussion I encourage you to do so by visiting www.findabalancedsolution.com.

In the meantime, Tideland EMC continues to build on its long standing commitment to environmental stewardship and promoting energy efficiency.

We are gearing up at our offices to be fully compliant with the state's new plastics recycling mandates, effective October 1.

Tideland also has one of the highest NC GreenPower participation rates among the state's electric cooperatives.

We have seen a significant increase in the number of members utilizing our free energy audit services which were first introduced in the 1970s. During the first nine months of 2009, we completed more than 120 walk through audits.

For nearly 20 years now we have made weatherization financing available to credit worthy members. When combined with tax credits and the state's Energy Star tax free holiday weekend, energy efficiency is increasingly affordable.

Beginning November 1, 2009, the co-op will return to summer and

winter residential rate schedules. This will make home heating more affordable this winter. It will also reflect a more equitable method of revenue collection during the summer season when it costs more for the cooperative to purchase power.

We also remain committed to the efficient operation of the cooperative and the wise use of member funds. Having concluded a recent cost of service study, we have determined that a 1.9% revenue increase, averaged across all rate classes, should be sufficient to meet Tideland's financial goals through the end of 2010. Details and new rate schedules will be included in next month's newsletter.

Geothermal makes dollars & sense

Geothermal heat pumps are one of the most efficient residential heating and cooling systems available today. They have heating efficiencies 50 to 70% higher than other heating systems and cooling efficiencies 20 to 40% higher than available air conditioners. That directly translates into savings for you on your utility bills. Coupled with a 35% state tax credit and a 30% federal tax credit there's never been a better time to tap into this tried and true renewable resource.



GEO FACT:

Every 100,000 homes with geothermal heat pump systems reduce foreign oil consumption by 2.15 million barrels annually and reduce electricity consumption by 799 million kilowatt-hours annually.

The best defense is a good offense

KNOWLEDGE
IS REAL
POWER



Heating and cooling generally consume the largest percentage of our home energy dollars. The first step towards heating and cooling efficiency and increased comfort is to keep conditioned air in and unconditioned air out. That means establishing a good thermal barrier.

CRAWLSPACE/FLOOR

- Ensure proper grading prior to construction to keep water from entering the crawlspace or damaging the slab due to poor drainage
- Install an adequate vapor barrier that covers all ground surfaces and is well bonded to the foundation walls with mastic which is a durable, adhesive paste
- Restrict access to the crawlspace to prevent damage to ductwork and floor insulation
- Make sure all plumbing and utility penetrations are caulked and sealed; tell contractors they own the holes they make and must seal them up to stop air infiltration
- We highly recommend completely sealed crawlspaces which are now allowed by North Carolina building code. For more information visit www.crawlspaces.org

ROOF/ATTIC

- Use the lightest colored roof shingles possible to minimize solar gain
- Minimize the use of recessed lighting and only install Energy Star rated fixtures

- Verify that insulation coverage is thorough and consistent throughout the attic
- Make sure your attic access is well insulated to prevent conditioned air from being pulled into the attic
- Avoid the use of powered attic ventilators

WALLS

- Walls usually represent more total exterior surface than floors & ceiling so good insulation is a must
- Insulation should fit snugly between studs; faced insulation should be stapled to the edges of the wall studs

DID YOU KNOW?

The typical home has enough air leaks to equal two open windows year round! These air leaks include plumbing and wiring penetrations, fireplace dampers, chimneys, attic access hatches, recessed lights, electrical outlets and switches on exterior walls, windows, doors, baseboard moldings, dropped ceilings, and kneewalls in finished attics. Caulk is best for cracks up to ¼". Select a high quality caulk that will remain flexible. Use expanding foam for larger gaps. Weatherstrip windows and doors.



50%

Only 10% of the energy used by an incandescent bulb produces light; the rest is given off as heat. If you replace 25% of your light bulbs with fluorescents, you can save about 50% on your lighting bill.

1/5

Households use about 1/5 of the total energy consumer in the US annually

\$1,500

The typical US family spends about \$1,500 a year on utility bills

10%

You can save 10% or more on your energy bill by stopping the air leaks in your home

14%

Water heating is the third largest energy expense in your home. It typically accounts for about 14% of your utility bill.

National Electricity Outlook

Retail sales of electricity in the industrial sector have continued to decline, falling 12% during the first quarter of 2009 compared with year-ago levels. Total consumption of electricity is projected to fall by 2% for the entire year of 2009 and then rise by 0.8% in 2010.

Nationally, residential electricity prices rose by 8% during the first quarter of 2009 compared with the first quarter of 2008. Lower generation fuel costs will keep the annual average growth in prices at around 4.7% and 3.3% in 2009 and 2010, respectively.

The projected electric-power-sector consumption of about 990 million short tons of coal in 2009 would be the first time since 2002 that annual consumption would be below the billion-short-ton level. The 5.2% decline in coal consumption in the electric power sector is the result of lower total electricity generation coupled with projected increases from other generating sources, including natural gas, nuclear, hydroelectric, and wind. Coal consumption in the electric power sector is expected to

increase by 1.6% in 2010 as natural gas prices rise.

Long-Term National Forecast

Electricity demand fluctuates in the short term in response to business cycles, weather conditions, and prices. Over the long term, however, electricity demand growth has slowed progressively by decade since 1950, from 9% per year in the 1950s to less than 2.5% per year in the 1990s. From 2000 to 2007, increases in electricity demand averaged 1.1% per year. The slowdown in demand growth is projected to continue over the next 23 years as a result of efficiency gains in response to rising energy prices and new efficiency standards for lighting, heating and cooling, and other appliances.

Source: Department of Energy



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- As featured in Good Housekeeping magazine

Kitchen Faucet Aerator

- Easy fingertip on/off feature

Two Bathroom Faucet Aerators

Total
Kit Value:
Over
\$50!

Available at all Tideland EMC offices while supplies last

Interested in the
green building business?

2009 Green Building Orientation

October 26-29, 2009
UNC-Wilmington

For details & workshop pricing visit: http://www.energy.appstate.edu/docs/2009_GBB-workshop.pdf

