



# REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER. Tideland Topics

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

## MEETING MESSAGE: Tideland is committed to energy diversity

Tideland EMC's annual meeting of members was held on Friday, May 21, at Beaufort County Community College in Washington. While annual meetings traditionally focus on recent achievements, the theme of the Tideland event was clearly on the future.

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation executive vice president and chief executive officer Rick Thomas kicked things off with a discussion of coordinated efforts among the state's 26 electric cooperatives to implement more renewable and clean energy policies. He praised co-ops like Tideland for recognizing energy efficiency as the

"fifth fuel" and for delivering to co-op members effective ways to manage and control their energy use.



**Annual meeting grand prize winner Margaret Brown Ward of Pinetown received a \$350 electric bill credit.**

Tideland general manager and CEO Cecil Smith, Jr., reminded the audience that the state's electric cooperatives are in fact greener than many of their utility counterparts. Together the co-ops own 70% of Catawba Nuclear Station 1. Collectively we also own 5 natural gas peaking generators with another approved for construction. A portion of our power supply needs are met through federal hydroelectric power resources. The co-ops have also invested in both in-state solar generating units and out-of-state wind farms.

## *Does your farm or business qualify for 0% sales tax?*

Effective July 1, 2010, sales of electricity to farmers or manufacturers for certain qualifying purposes will be exempt from North Carolina sales and use tax.

Sales of electricity to farmers used for purposes other than preparing food, heating dwellings, and other household purposes qualify for the exemption.

Sales of electricity to a manufacturing industry or plant for use in connection with the operation of the industry or plant, provided the fuel is not used for residential heating, qualify for the exemption.

To obtain the exemption, the farm or manufacturing facil-

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ity must file NC Dept. of Revenue Form E-595E with Tideland.

This reduction was passed in 2007 as part of NC Senate Bill 3, and has gradually reduced the sales tax rate to 0% beginning July 1, 2010.

The statute requires that the electricity subject to the exemption be separately metered.

For more information please call Tideland EMC's Director of Billing Laura Willis at 252.944.2412 or 800.637.1079, extension 1174.

## Message to our Member-Owners: First stop on the legislative tour

By Cecil O. Smith, Jr.  
General Manager & CEO

The last week of May, Tideland EMC board members Ray Hamilton, Doug Brinson, Leon Bryant and I joined more than 120 North Carolina electric cooperative peers on Capitol Hill. With Congress poised to debate energy legislation, we wanted to personally discuss critical energy issues, including funding and regulation, with Sens. Richard Burr and Kay Hagan, as well as representatives from every North Carolina congressional district.

We urged Sens. Burr and Hagan to take a balanced approach to energy legislation – one that achieves real environmental goals without draining family budgets or doing harm to the already struggling economy.

Co-op representatives also discussed these issues with Congressmen G.K. Butterfield and Walter Jones, Jr. Proposals before Congress could limit the emission of carbon dioxide from mobile and stationary sources in the United States. Regardless of whether Congress passes legislation, the Environmental Protection Agency has begun the process of regulating emissions, regulations that will take effect if Congress fails to act. We reiterated our believe that Congress is better suited to develop fair and balanced energy legislation that takes into account the broader impact on the economy, consumers, and the benefits to the environment.

It should be noted that during our visit

all eyes were on the Gulf oil spill. The new Senate energy bill (see page 24 for more information) contains a great deal of support for expanded off-shore drilling. This bill lost the sponsorship of South Carolina's Senator Lindsey Graham due to the attention in Washington on immigration. Therefore, the bill will likely be delayed which will allow time to dissect the 987 page document and pass along recommendations for change.

Once again funding for the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) lending program has been targeted for reduction while corporate tax breaks for investor owned utilities remain intact. RUS is Tideland EMC's primary lender offering competitive rates for expenses related to electric system expansion and upgrades. We expect RUS funding to remain intact once the dust settles.

The last item of business on our agenda was to lobby in favor of legislation to create the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP). The legislation nationally could create 20,000 or more jobs annually by providing \$4.9 billion in loan authority to RUS which would in turn allow electric cooperatives like Tideland to make low-interest micro-loans to residential and small business consumers for energy saving projects.

Next stop on our legislative journey: Raleigh. We'll keep you posted.



Tideland EMC and its employees have donated more than \$5,335 to the American Cancer Society this year.

Tideland was a corporate sponsor for the Relay for Life events in Beaufort, Hyde and Pamlico counties. Tideland employees fielded a team of walkers for the Beaufort County event under the direction of team captain Steven Barber.

# DON'T LET THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER GET YOU DOWN

Cutting back unnecessary energy use is an easy way to save money. Here are some things you can do at home to save energy and cash this summer.

## TURN UP YOUR THERMOSTAT

Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and even higher when you are away. Use ceiling or room fans to aid in cooling but remember to turn them off when you leave the room. Always take into account health considerations and be sure to drink plenty of fluids in warm weather.

## USE YOUR APPLIANCES WISELY

Boost laundry efficiency by using cold water settings for washing and rinsing clothes.

Line dry clothes. When you need to use the dryer, run full loads, use the moisture-sensing setting, and clean the lint trap after each use.

Conserve energy by running your dishwasher only when it is fully loaded, and turn off the drying cycle and air dry dishes instead.

## ELIMINATE WASTED ENERGY

Turn off appliances, lights and equipment when not in use.

Unplug electronic devices and chargers when not in use. Most electronics use electricity even when switched "off."

Unplug that spare refrigerator in the garage if you don't need it. This could save you over \$150 per year!

## INEXPENSIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Replace air conditioner filters monthly. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer, increasing energy use.

Plug your home's leaks. Weather-strip, seal, and caulk leaky doors and windows and install foam gaskets behind outlet covers.

Replace incandescent bulbs with CFLs. Not only do CFLs use less energy, they also generate less heat.



## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

Use your microwave for cooking whenever possible. They use 50 to 65 percent less energy than conventional ovens and do not heat up your house in the summer. However, conventional ovens may be more appropriate for larger size items when cooking time is increased.

Source: Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

## How to Clean Up a Broken Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb (CFL)



- 1** Ventilate the room. 
- 2** Scoop up powder and glass fragments using stiff paper or cardboard. Seal in a plastic bag. 
- 3** Use duct tape to pick up any fragments or powder.
- 4** Immediately place all materials used to clean up and the plastic bag in an outdoor trash container. Remember to wash your hands. 
- 5** Discard any clothing or bedding that comes in direct contact with broken glass or powder from inside the bulb. Washing tainted items may cause mercury fragments in clothing to contaminate the machine and/or pollute sewage.

To learn more about CFLs and why you should be careful when cleaning up a broken bulb, visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov). 

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation Institute, YASLY

## Be Prepared Before the Storm

Here are some basic items you should store in your home in case of emergency:

-  **Water:** Three day supply, one gallon per person per day
-  **Food:** Three day supply, non-perishable, high-energy
-  **Clothing, bedding, and sanitation supplies**
-  **Tools:** Can opener, plates, utensils, flashlight, batteries, cash, bleach, hand sanitizer
-  **First aid supplies, medicine**
-  **Important documents**



REAL PEOPLE.  
REAL POWER.

## Tideland Topics

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

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HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR E-BILL? VISIT [WWW.TIDELANDEMC.COM](http://WWW.TIDELANDEMC.COM) TO ENROLL

## Energy diversity

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Smith also talked about the co-op's support for any renewable energy facilities that might locate in the Tideland service area which would not only boost eastern North Carolina's tax base but provide a much needed revenue stream for local landowners.

Next Smith turned his focus to a discussion of the legislative landscape. In the week before the annual meeting, a 987 page bill entitled the "American Power Act" was introduced in the US Senate. It replaces a lengthier climate change bill introduced in 2009. Smith indicated that once the co-ops had ample opportunity to review the new bill and its likely impact on rural electric consumers, Tideland would once again look to co-op members to help articulate their message to elected

officials to reiterate the need for reliable electric service at reasonable rates. (For a further discussion of co-op lobbying activities see page 22).

While Smith said the co-ops unilaterally oppose the wholesale regulation of greenhouse gases by the Environmental Protection Agency, he said we are in agreement with the broad tenets of Energy Secretary Steven Chu's proposed blueprint for a national energy policy:

1. Accelerate efforts in energy efficiency;
2. Develop and deploy cleaner technologies for electricity generation including renewables, nuclear, and clean coal technology including carbon capture;
3. Modernize the electric grid;
4. Implement transportation policies and technologies that

cut emissions and reduce dependence on oil; and

5. A sustained commitment to energy research and development.

The challenge will be to translate those lofty goals into workable solutions that preserve affordable access to adequate energy supplies for all.



**Tideland has contracted with Lewis Tree Service to trim trees in our right of way.**

**In July they will be working in Dare & Hyde counties:**

- Stumpy Point
- North Lake Road from Hwy. 264 to the cotton gin
- Swamp Road off North Lake Road
- Intersection of North Lake Road & Hwy 264 going through Engelhard

**and all small roads & lanes off of the above listed roads.**