

Tideland Topics

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

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

PEAK PRECIDENCE: Records broken two consecutive months

Once upon a time, Tideland EMC, like most southeast power companies was a summer-peaking utility. Those days now appear to be over. Since 2005, the co-op's peak winter demands have consistently exceeded summer loads.

This winter, for the first time in Tideland history, our peak demand exceeded 100 megawatts. The first record-breaking event occurred the morning of January 8 when temperatures dipped to 16 degrees and a steady blow produced wind

chills of 3 degrees. Tideland EMC set a new peak demand record of 104.7 megawatts during the hour ending 8:00 am. The previous system peak record was 97 megawatts.

When forecasters predicted even colder temperatures for February 20, the previous month's peak demand record was shattered as the system reached 115.9 megawatts during the hour ending 7:00 am when temperatures dipped to 10 degrees with a wind chill of minus 6 degrees.



Time-of-Use Participants: Get ready to switch

Residential time-of-use rate participants are reminded that summer on-peak hours begin on Thursday, April 16. At that time we will be in summer mode and the on-peak hours to be observed are 4 pm to 8 pm, Monday through Friday. The following summer holidays are off-peak: Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day.

Time-of-use members will continue to pay just 6.544¢ per kilowatt hour less any wholesale power cost adjustment credits. However summer on-peak demand charges increase slightly to \$10.35 per kWd. The demand charge during winter is \$9.40 per kWd.

We will switch back to winter on-peak hours starting October 16.

Need more information? Call Heidi Smith at 252.944.2410.

MEGA-WHAT?

One megawatt equals 1 million watts. So when Tideland set a new power delivery record of 115.9 megawatts on February 20, that was the equivalent of operating 77,266 1,500-watt space heaters at the same time.

That same day, co-op members used a record 1,932,519 kilowatt hours (yes, that's 1 million). And despite being a 28-day month, Tideland members used over 37 million kWh during February.

To see how weather impacted your individual energy consumption, log into the member portal: www.tidelandemc.com and go to MY ACCOUNT.





Message to our Member-Owners: Why we issued a call for conservation

Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

Tideland has hired Lucas Tree Experts to trim trees in our rights-of-way. Due to unusually wet conditions we are approximately one month behind schedule. In April crews will complete work in the Pantego and Sidney area.

This includes all connected lanes and roads in that area where overhead power lines are present.

Mowing crews will be working in Hyde County between Sladesville and Swan Quarter.

Please lend your full support to our tree trimming efforts. Trees are the number one cause of outages.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

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By Paul Spruill
General Manager & CEO

For the first time in over a decade, Tideland EMC issued a weather-related emergency conservation alert in February.

The last time we issued an alert in early 2002 our rated system capacity was 105 megawatts. Today our rated system capacity stands at 125 megawatts.

On February 18, we issued an alert asking members to practice conservation strategies on the mornings of February 19 and 20 when forecasters predicted record-breaking low temperatures. In particular, we asked members to reserve energy resources for the two most critical needs during the cold snap: home heating and water pumps.

To make sure our message reached as many members as possible we contacted all media outlets, issued an email blast to nearly 5,000 members, posted information to our Facebook page and Twitter feed, and attempted to do a mass telephone message to members. We also took the unprecedented step of issuing a mass text message to all cell phone numbers in our member database. The

text message was sent to more than 8,000 Tideland members, including the 1,100 already subscribed to our outage text messaging service.

We have no way of knowing how many members heeded our call for conservation, but south of the Pamlico River peak demand still exceeded the capabilities of our Silverhill substation transformer. At 4:03 am on the morning of February 20, the substation shut down due to load. We issued an outage text message to members on the Silverhill substation asking that they practice breaker shutoff immediately so we could bring the substation back online. Service resumed at 5:25 am and no additional load problems occurred. (We published a detailed article regarding breaker shutoff strategies in the February 2015 issue of Tideland Topics)

Despite no significant residential construction in recent years we are seeing system peaks rise at an unprecedented rate. Based on the nearly 200 energy audits we perform annually we have seen a significant increase in space heater use. In many cases, electric space heaters now serve as a primary heating source

as opposed to short-term, supplemental heat. During a February energy audit we visited a home with six electric space heaters that were operating non-stop. At another home, the member was using an electric range to provide additional heat. Three days before the February 19-20 event we called multiple retailers in Tideland territory and all reported having sold out of electric space heaters as consumers scrambled for extra heating resources. We also have a large number of homes on our system that still lack floor insulation following Hurricanes Isabel and Irene which likewise contributes to higher winter energy use.

To keep pace with load growth the co-op has included the construction of two new substations in its current four-year work plan. We are also conducting an appliance saturation survey to obtain as much information as possible about connected household load as we plan for the future. If you receive the survey it is imperative that you be as thorough as possible in your responses. They will be an integral part of our planning process as we strive to right size system capabilities with consumer needs.



The wholesale power cost adjustment CREDIT for the month of March was 0.591¢ per kilowatt hour (kWh). That's a \$5.91 credit for every 1,000 kWh you were billed for during the month of March. All residential rate 1 and 3 accounts were billed at the rate of 9.989¢ per kWh during March, which is below the published winter rate of 10.58¢.

REAL PEOPLE. REAL CHANGE.

Celebrate Earth Day

EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22

Spring is here and now's a great time to reconnect with the earth and protect our natural resources.

VISIT A STATE PARK OR WILDLIFE REFUGE

We're especially lucky in eastern North Carolina to have vast amounts of land set aside for wildlife habitat and public recreation. So put on your walking shoes and go explore the great outdoors.

START A BACKYARD GARDEN

Think of all the energy used to transport produce to your local grocer. There's never been a better time to cultivate your inner gardening spirit. If you just can't seem to conjure up your own green thumb, shop local produce stands.

CHANGE A BULB

Install compact fluorescent or LED bulbs to replace energy wasteful incandescent bulbs

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Paper and plastic make up the



majority of landfill waste. Set up a recycling bin at your home or office. Empty water bottle? Reuse it and save money by filling up at the water cooler.

INSTALL A LOW-FLOW SHOWERHEAD

Through water and energy savings you'll recoup the cost of installation in no time.

DRY CLOTHES NATURALLY

Clothes lines are making a comeback. Worried about the look of your backyard? Don't be. There are plenty of retractable models to choose from.

BUY AN ELECTRIC LAWN MOWER

No fumes, no oil or fuel spills, cheaper to operate and quieter too.

SIGN UP FOR PAPERLESS BILLING

Visit www.tidelandemc.com and complete an online account update form or log into the member portal.

WAYS TO CONTROL ENERGY BILLS SO THEY DON'T CONTROL YOU

1.

SUBSCRIBE TO HIGH-USE ALERTS (TEXT MESSAGE OR EMAIL) SO YOU'LL KNOW RIGHT AWAY WHEN ENERGY USE EXCEEDS YOUR DAILY GOAL

2.

IF YOU PAY YOUR BILL ON TIME EACH MONTH CONSIDER ENROLLING IN LEVELIZED BILLING, WHICH WILL SMOOTH OUT THE PEAKS AND VALLEYS OF SEASONAL ENERGY USE

3.

LEARN ABOUT FLEXPAY, OUR PREPAID ENERGY SERVICE THAT ELIMINATES ALL LATE FEES AND SERVICE INTERRUPTION FEES. WITH FLEXPAY YOUR CURRENT SECURITY DEPOSIT CAN BE CONVERTED INTO AN IMMEDIATE ENERGY PAYMENT

4.

LOG ON TO THE MEMBER PORTAL TO TRACK YOUR DAILY AND HOURLY ENERGY USE WITH WEATHER AND TEMPERATURE OVERLAYS



Wrap up in Savings

Save Energy, Save Water, Save Dollars

Buy this for only **\$14.99** plus tax

Electric Water Heater Blanket & Pipe Insulation

- 3-inch thick insulation w/cap
- Includes tape & instructions
- One size fits all up to 60-gallon tank
- 6 feet of pipe insulation



... and get all this FREE!

Earth Massage showerhead

- Adjustable 9-jet turbo massage
- As featured in Good Housekeeping magazine



Kitchen Faucet Aerator

- Easy fingertip on/off feature



Two Bathroom Faucet Aerators



Total Kit Value: **Over \$50!**

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www.tidelandemc.com

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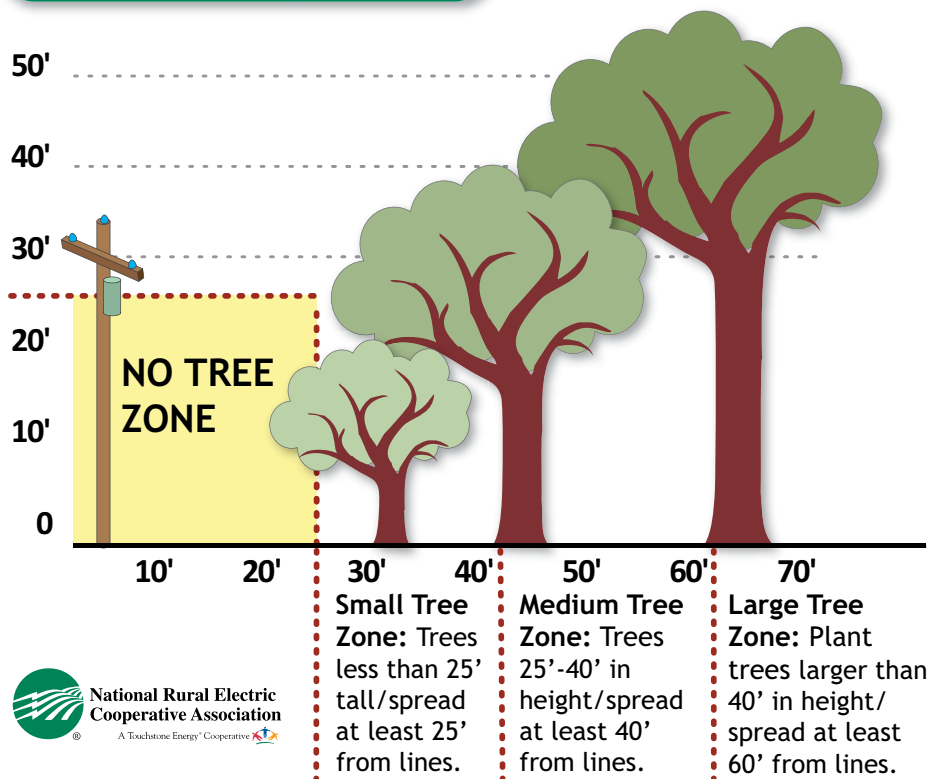
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Tideland EMC is an equal
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Tree Planting Guide



Tideland EMC and The Arbor Day Foundation encourage thoughtful practices that help preserve community trees while also benefiting electric co-op members.

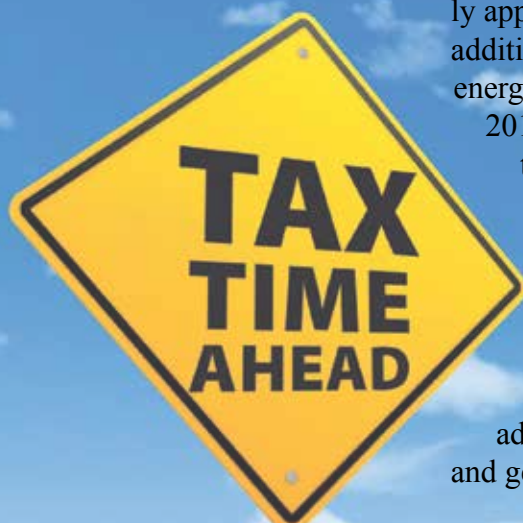
Trees can help cool your home and neighborhood, break cold winds to lower your heating costs, and provide food for wildlife. Properly placed trees can lower line clearance costs for

utility companies, reduce tree mortality, and result in healthier community forests. When planting near utility lines, consider a tree species that will not exceed 25-foot maximum mature height and 20-foot spread.

To learn more about which trees might work best in your yard, visit www.arborday.org.

The April 15 tax filing deadline is quickly approaching. If you are in search of an additional tax credit and made qualifying energy-efficiency investments during 2014, you may be eligible for a reduction in income taxes. To learn more visit: http://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits.

Most federal tax credits expired December 31, 2014, but you have through 2016 to take advantage of remaining solar, wind and geothermal heat pump incentives.



SAVE THE DATE

Tideland EMC's
Annual Meeting
of Members

Thursday, May 28
Beaufort County
Community College
Washington, NC

Tideland EMC's 2014
Annual Report will be
included in the May 2015
issue of Carolina Country