



Tideland Topics

REAL PEOPLE. REAL POWER.

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

RE“CAP”: 2015 capital credit retirement came to \$2.4 million

When the December magazine went to press last month we acknowledged that the 2015 capital credit refund amount had not yet been determined. Shortly thereafter, the co-op's board of directors approved a \$2.4 million retirement.

While the cooperative has retired \$8.9 million to Tideland members in the past 10 years, the \$2.4 million for 2015 represented the largest single retirement in our co-op's history. Of that amount, \$1.98 million was issued through a combination of checks and electric bill credits during the month of December to members and former members of the cooperative during service years 1986-1989 and 2014. The remaining dollars were set aside to provide refunds to the estates of deceased members.

Capital credits represent member margins that are collected through electric bill revenues and reinvested in the cooperative's

utility infrastructure. At the end of each year, Tideland's expenses are deducted from revenue and the remaining funds are proportionally assigned to each member as capital credits based on a percentage of what they paid for electricity during the calendar year. By utilizing member capital to maintain our electric system, Tideland is able to minimize reliance on outside lenders thus reducing borrowing costs for the entire membership.

Tideland's ability to retire capital credits is based on the co-op meeting financial performance goals as established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service. The amount returned to an individual member is based on the total amount they paid for electricity during the years for which the refund is made.

continued on page 20



75th Anniversary Year Underway

2016 marks the 75th Anniversary of Tideland EMC. We will celebrate throughout the year, marking various milestones in our cooperative history.

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.



Message to our Member-Owners: Our changeless core

By Paul Spruill
General Manager & CEO

Right-of-Way Maintenance Update

In January, Lucas Tree Experts will complete tree trimming of the Rose Bay circuit before beginning work along Highway 264 between Ponzer and Rose Bay. This will include Scranton, Germanton and Sladesville area sideroads.

By late January they will begin work in Manns Harbor including Hwy. 64, Old Manns Harbor Road and Mashoes Road.

Mowing crews will be working along the Lowland circuit. Please lend your full support to our tree trimming efforts. Trees are the No. 1 cause of outages.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of electric cooperative service in Tideland territory. One of the first items I received when I accepted the job as Tideland's general manager and CEO was a copy of the co-op's history book, "Real People. Real Power."

The book details the individual histories of the four power companies that eventually merged to become Tideland EMC. It is inspiring to read about the pioneering men and women who decided they had just as much right to electric service in rural areas as those who lived in town. When investor-owned utilities refused to extend service to them, they rolled up their sleeves, formed a cooperative, provided for themselves and electrified the countryside.

Long gone are the days when members helped dig the holes and set the poles. We've evolved from member-read meters, to employee-read meters, to meters that automatically send readings to our computer system nightly.

But what has remained steadfast through three-quarters of a century of service is the importance of the

membership relationship. I want to paraphrase a passage from "Real People. Real Power." It comes from the eulogy delivered at the funeral of Tideland manager Lloyd Lee, who unexpectedly died while attending NC Electric Membership Corporation's annual meeting in 1997.

Every co-op that wants to grow, be competitive and meet the needs of its members must be willing to change. But that change must be guided by a changeless core within....a changeless sense of who you are, what you are about and what you value.

You are who we are.
You are what we are about.
You are what we value.

Membership matters.
That is our changeless core.



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REAL PEOPLE. REAL INGENUITY.

Trashcan turkey



Tideland member Mike Harper of Bath shared with us in November how he saves kilowatt hours at Thanksgiving. He cooks his turkey in a trashcan. Here are his awesome photos and cooking instructions.



Start charcoal and bury a post 6 inches in the ground.



Create a pit out of tinfoil. Bundt pan is for drippings.



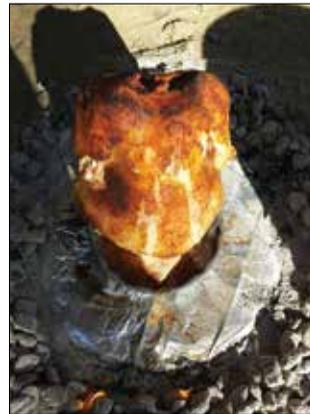
Slide turkey on post and put trashcan on top.



One pound of charcoal for each pound of turkey



Pile coals around base and on top of the trashcan



Cook 1 hour and 15 minutes for every 10 lbs. of turkey

New Dual Fuel Heat Pump Rebate

In addition to Tideland's existing rebate programs, we're rolling out a \$300 rebate for new dual fuel heat pump installations.

Dual fuel heat pumps represent the best of both worlds. When outdoor temperatures are above freezing you get the benefit of heating in normal heat pump mode which produces 300 percent more energy than it consumes. During cold snaps that drop below the unit's setpoint the heat pump switches to propane supplemental heat instead of auxiliary heat strips. In recent years it has been cheaper to operate heat strips. Now that propane prices have come back down there are clear advantages to a dual fuel system both for the consumer and

the cooperative when it comes to system demand on the coldest days of the year.

To qualify for the rebate you must install a dual fuel heat pump that has been properly sized by the HVAC installer using a Manual J calculation. A copy of the installer's calculation along with the paid invoice must be included with your rebate request. The unit must also have a minimum 15 SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) rating.

You must submit your rebate request and all supporting documentation within 90 days of purchase. Rebates are issued as a credit on your Tideland account. Rebate forms can be found online at www.tidelandmc.com.

1. Enroll in high use energy alerts

Catch potential problems before they catch up with you. Available from the co-op as text and/or email alerts.

2. Check with the co-op about available rebates before replacing HVAC or water heating equipment

3. Commit to cold water clothes washing

You'll cut laundry costs up to 90%

4. Keep your winter thermostat at or below 68°

Every degree higher increases heating costs 3-5%

5. Boost your existing water heater efficiency with an insulating jacket

The co-op sells insulating kits for \$14.99

According to Tideland EMC’s chief executive officer Paul Spruill, this unusually large refund is primarily attributed to historically high electric sales last winter. “While it is always a pleasure to refund member dollars, ideally we don’t want to collect more money than is needed to comfortably meet our obligations,” said Spruill. “Last winter’s extended cold snap, coupled with a much more stable energy market than was originally forecast, resulted in significantly higher member margins than anticipated. This one-time, large refund allows the cooperative to meet its financial obligations while getting member dollars back into our local communities.”

This retirement is in addition to wholesale power cost adjustment credits that have been included monthly on all 2015 electric bills. The average credit for the year was 0.385¢ per kilowatt-hour (kWh). The credit was highest during the final month of 2015, with a December WPCA credit of 0.704¢ per kWh. That brought

the billed residential rate per kWh down to 9.876¢, well below the cooperative’s published rate of 10.58¢. Coupled with extremely mild weather throughout November and the first week of December, Tideland members should have enjoyed lower energy bills this fall. For the first 11 months of 2015, WPCA credits totaled \$1.15 million.

It is very important that members maintain an up-to-date mailing address with the cooperative when they leave the system. Otherwise, future capital credit refunds will be returned unclaimed. Undeliverable or unclaimed refunds are eventually escheated to the North Carolina Department of Treasury and can be searched and a claim filed at www.nctreasurer.com/Claim-Your-Cash.

In the case of a deceased member, the estate executor or clerk of court should contact Tideland to request a refund application. The form can also be downloaded at the cooperative’s website www.tidelandemc.com.

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www.tidelandemc.com

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HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSING: FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2016

FOR EMERGENCY SERVICE OR TO REPORT OUTAGES CALL 1.800.882.1001



Tideland College Scholarships

Eligible: Graduating high school seniors served by Tideland

Eight \$1,000 non-renewable scholarship for students attending college or community college

Deadline To Apply: March 11, 2016



Youth Tour to Washington, DC

Dates: June 13-19, 2016

Eligible: Rising high school juniors and seniors served by Tideland

All-expense-paid trip to learn about co-ops as well as our nation’s history and governance

Deadline To Apply: March 4, 2016



UNC & NC State Summer Basketball Camps

Camp Dates: to be determined

Eligible: Rising sixth, seventh and eighth grades served by Tideland

All-expense-paid trip. Girls attend NC State Camp. Boys attend UNC Roy Williams Camp

Deadline To Apply: March 31, 2016

For details & application forms visit www.tidelandemc.com