

NEWS



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for Bright Ideas**

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After 37 Years**

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Manager's Message:

New Ways to Use Electricity

If you listen carefully, you can hear a quiet transformation happening. Electric appliances and equipment are becoming more popular than ever among consumers.

Advancements in technology and battery power coupled with decreasing costs are winning over consumers looking for comparable utility and versatility. A bonus is that use of electric equipment is quieter and better for the environment.

Inside the home, consumers and homebuilders alike are turning to electric appliances to increase energy efficiency and savings. Whether a traditional electric stove or an induction stove top, both are significantly more efficient than a gas oven. That's because conventional residential cooking tops typically use gas or resistance heating elements to transfer energy with efficiencies of approximately 32% and 75% respectively (according to ENERGY STAR®). Electric induction stoves, which cook food without any flame, will reduce indoor air pollution and can bring water to a boil about twice as fast as a gas stove. Robotic vacuums are also gaining in popularity. Fortune Business Insights attributes the growth and popularity of robotic vacuums like Roomba to a larger market trend of smart home technology and automation (think Alexa directing a Roomba to vacuum).



J. Michael Davis
General Manager



More tools and equipment with small gas-powered motors are being replaced with electric ones that include plug-in batteries. In the past few years, technology in battery storage has advanced significantly. Hand-held tools with plug-in batteries can hold a charge longer and offer the user the same versatility and similar functionality as gas-powered tools. In addition to standard offerings, consumers can now purchase a wider array of specialty tools that plug-in such as power inverters, air inflators and battery chargers.

Keith Dennis, an energy industry expert and president of the Beneficial Electrification League notes that, "A few years back, the list of new electric product categories that were making their way to the market was limited—electric scooters, lawn mowers, leaf blowers and vehicles."

Today, the number of electric products available is exploding.

"There are electric bikes, school buses, pressure washers, utility terrain vehicles, backhoes—even airplanes and boats," says Dennis. "With the expansion of batteries and advancements in technology, we are seeing almost anything that burns gasoline or diesel as having an electric replacement available on the market."

Electric equipment also requires less maintenance, and often the biggest task is keeping them charged. In addition, electric equipment is quieter so if you want to listen to music or your favorite podcast while performing outdoor work, you can; something that wouldn't be possible with gas-powered equipment. On the horizon, autonomous lawn mowers (similar to the robotic vacuum cleaners) will be seen dotting outdoor spaces.

Another benefit of using electric appliances or equipment is that by virtue of being plugged into the grid, the environmental performance of electric devices improves over time. In essence, electricity is becoming cleaner through increases renewable energy generation, so equipment that uses electricity will have a diminishing environmental impact over time. Quite a hat trick—improving efficiency, quality of life and helping the environment.

Safety Tips for Before, During and After the Storm



Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds over 200 miles per hour.

In April, a video of NBC Washington chief meteorologist Doug Kammerer went viral. During a live broadcast, Kammerer called his teenage son to warn him of a tornado that was headed straight for their home. Knowing the kids were likely playing video games and not paying attention to the weather, he told them to head straight to the basement. Kammerer debated if he should call his family on-air, but he knew it was the right thing to do. Luckily, the kids made it safely through the storm.

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That's why it's so important to talk to your family and have a storm plan in place. Here are a several tips you can share with your loved ones.

BEFORE the Storm

- ➔ Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: when you hear thunder roar, head indoors.
- ➔ Make a storm kit. It doesn't have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable foods, a manual can opener, a First-Aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

DURING the Storm

- ➔ Pay attention to local weather—alerts either on the TV, your smartphone or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it's time to take action.
- ➔ If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter, and protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows.
- ➔ If you're driving during a severe storm or tornado, do

not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

AFTER the Storm

- ➔ If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- ➔ Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- ➔ Wear appropriate gear if you're cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind.

Practice Storm Safety

- Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.
- Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.
- Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.

The Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible – until everyone has power.

- 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines**
These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.
- 2. Distribution Substations**
Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.
- 3. Main Distribution Lines**
Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.
- 4. Individual Homes and Businesses**
After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

Educators: Apply Early for a Bright Ideas Grant and You Could Win \$100

It pays to apply early for a Bright Ideas education grant! Teachers who submit their grant application by the Aug. 15 early bird deadline will be entered into a statewide drawing to win one of five \$100 gift cards.

The final deadline to apply for a Bright Ideas grant of \$1,000 from Tri-County EMC is Sept. 15.

Collectively, Tri-County EMC and North Carolina's electric cooperatives have issued more than \$14.3 million supporting 13,536 projects benefiting well over 2.8 million students statewide.

Beyond powering the lives of our local members, Tri-County EMC is committed to building a brighter future by supporting our youth and future leaders. Since 1994, Tri-County EMC has issued more than 1.7 million dollars in grants, making possible 1,891 projects that have benefited students in in Duplin, Lenoir and Wayne counties.

Interested applicants can learn more and apply at ncbrightideas.com.



HAPPY
Father's
DAY

Five Tips for Hiring an Electrician

A licensed electrician can help with a variety of home projects from lighting upgrades to full renovations. Keep the following tips in mind if you're looking to hire an electrician.



- 1. Hire a licensed, qualified electrician for the job.**
Look for a master electrician to manage the project. Master electricians have the most experience and will often oversee the work of a journey-level electrician or apprentice.
- 2. Make sure the electrician is insured.**
Seasoned electricians know the importance of protecting themselves in case of an accident.
- 3. Read *all* the reviews.**
Hire an electrician that has several positive reviews – not just one or two. Read reviews on different sites, like Nextdoor, Yelp and HomeAdvisor, and consider asking your neighbors for recommendations.
- 4. Determine your budget. Get two quotes.**
Knowing your budget upfront helps move the process along. Prices can greatly vary, so get multiple quotes (at least two).
- 5. Talk timeline.**
Some electricians accidentally overbook projects. If your job is time-sensitive, convey that early on and discuss a realistic timeline with the electrician.

Saying Goodbye: Longtime Co-op Employee Retires

Mike Wood, manager of Operations, retired on April 29, 2022, after 37 years of distinguished service with electric cooperatives. In appreciation for Wood's service to the cooperative, Tri-County EMC hosted a floating luncheon on April 27 at the cooperative in Dudley.

Wood began work at Tri-County EMC in 2010 as the manager of Operations. He came from South River EMC in Dunn, where he spent 25 years serving as Engineering Technician, District manager, Operations manager and vice president of Engineering and Operations. Wood says he has seen a lot change in 37 years, however one thing that has not changed and that is focus on the member.

"I will miss working for the membership. I enjoy helping people and

the greatest feeling was getting lights back on after a storm," said Wood. "I will also miss working with the most-talented employees in the country. It has been such an honor to work alongside so many during my tenure. These folks are more than my co-workers, they are family, and I am thankful for them."

The old saying goes; you become busier once you retire. So what is next? Mike plans to take time doing what he loves, fishing, hunting, playing in the band and most importantly spending time with his family. "I'm going to turn off the alarm clock, sleep in," he said. "And for the first time in 40 years I can be home during a major storm with my family."

"Over the years, it has always been a pleasure to work with Mike," said Mike Davis, general manager of Tri-County EMC. "I want to thank Mike



for his many years of service to the cooperative and for the impact he has made on our overall electric operations. Mike's leadership created a culture of safety that surpassed expectations, his leadership will be missed."

Tri-County wishes Mike a happy retirement and thanks him for the many years of service to the cooperative and its members!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know you can use the Home Energy Saver tool to conduct a do-it-yourself audit? Home Energy Saver can also help you plan next steps following your DIY energy audit. Visit hes.lbl.gov/consumer for more info.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation in Dudley, N.C., was chartered May 8, 1940.

Mission Statement:

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation is a member-driven cooperative committed to providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost, to offering superior service, and to taking an active role in supporting the communities it serves.

We are here to serve you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

For Outages or Emergencies:
919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869

tcemc.com

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Worth Overman

Employees Ready to Serve You



Pete Jones

Pete Jones is one of 50 employees ready to serve you. Pete has worked with Tri-County since Sept. 7, 1989, and is a Serviceman for the cooperative. Pete resides in Princeton with his family.