

Tri-County news

Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation Dudley, N.C.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

News and Information For Cooperative Members

January 2017

Winter Preparations

There's lots to love about winter: hot chocolate, cozy sweaters and fires crackling in the hearth. At the same time, tumbling temperatures make heating systems work harder and create weather conditions that can sometimes lead to power outages.

With Old Man Winter settling in, we're preparing at Tri-County EMC. Here's how you can prepare, too.

Connect with your co-op

Join many of your friends and neighbors in our social spaces, and get real-time updates about energy efficiency, our community, power outages and more. Connect at www.facebook.com/tricountyemc.

Drop the inside temperature

When it's cold outside, your heating system has to work harder to heat your home. By lowering the thermostat a few degrees to 68 or as low as is comfortable, you can reduce your energy use—and your bill.

Then, layer up

By adding blankets to beds and sofas, and wearing layers of warm clothing, you'll be cozy and comfortable even if your home is a few degrees cooler.

Stock up

Winter conditions, especially icy precipitation, can cause power outages. Just in case, keep emergency supplies on hand. Include flashlights and extra batteries, food and water (for humans and pets), essential medications, salt for icy sidewalks and driveways, and a battery-powered radio to stay connected.

As your local electric cooperative, Tri-County EMC exists to provide the best electric service at the lowest possible cost. Here are a few of the ways we're working to make sure your lights stay on this winter:

Clear lines

An ice-laden tree that brings down a power line could result in loss of power to hundreds of our members. Year-round, we carefully trim limbs and manage vegetation that grows around our power lines to prevent

outages, blinking lights, safety hazards and ultimately to help our employees restore service more quickly during storms.

Constant vigilance

Tri-County EMC vigilantly monitors our system all winter long, around the clock. When bad weather threatens, trucks are fueled, equipment is tested and skilled local crews are poised to respond quickly.

As the temperature drops, our commitment remains the same: to provide you, our members, with excellent electric service and powerful information to help you manage your energy use and weather the storm. No matter what conditions Old Man Winter brings, Tri-County EMC is prepared, and we hope you are prepared, too.



J. Michael Davis
General Manager



SAY YES to North Carolina's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.! June 10–16, 2017. Apply Now!



YOUTH TOUR REMINDER

Don't miss your chance at the trip of lifetime by being part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.! Applications are due Monday, January 9, 2017.



Approximately 688 members participated in the Annual Meeting of Members held on November 12, 2016, at Kornegay Arena on the campus of the University of Mount Olive.

Tri-County EMC Holds 76th Annual Meeting

Members and employees joined the Tri-County EMC Board of Directors on November 12, 2016, to celebrate the 76th Annual Meeting of the Members at Kornegay Arena on the campus of the University of Mount Olive.

Approximately 688 members and their families joined in the celebration to receive \$5 and a gift bag by registering and participating in the business part of the cooperative. The business meeting included entertainment from Encore Entertainment and 76 cash prize

drawings in the amount of \$76 each.

General Manager J. Michael Davis gave an overview of last year's accomplishments, reporting the value of the cooperative was \$81 million with \$66 million of that being invested in plant facilities. Davis noted that Operation Round-Up has the highest membership participation in the nation with 95% of Tri-County EMC members participating. Davis also reported that Tri-County EMC had scored one of the highest scores in the nation based upon reliability of service, knowledgeable

employees and good value for the members' money.

Mr. Davis noted his appreciation for the Board of Directors and employees of Tri-County EMC. He thanked the members for their participation in the community activities sponsored by the cooperative.

In addition to the regular business session, the membership returned four members of the Board of Directors to another three-year term: Dallace Grady, Worth Overman, Jr., William H. Farmer, Jr. and Leland Heath, Jr.



Members of Tri-County EMC donated items to the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina.



Encore Entertainment of Goldsboro provided entertainment for this year's 76th Annual Meeting.

Improved Home Efficiency: A Resolution With Big Impact

Eat more vegetables. Eat less chocolate. Exercise three times per week.

New Year's resolutions give us the opportunity to start fresh and consider changes to our habits that lead to personal improvement. But what if our personal resolutions had a bigger impact? There's one that can—a resolution for a more energy efficient 2017.

Collectively, small changes add up to big savings, and a resolution for improved efficiency at your home could benefit not just your personal budget, but also the environment.

Consider these five low- and no-cost tips to increase your home energy efficiency in 2017.

1. Make power strips work for you: Plugged-in appliances and electronics use small amounts of power even when they are turned off. This is called phantom energy use, and it can be eliminated—in the flip of a switch—if your electronics are plugged into a power strip. According to www.Energy.gov, you can save \$100 per year by using power strips to reduce phantom load. Just be careful to never overload a power strip.
2. Use sunlight to help heat your home: On bright, sunny, winter days, open your blinds or curtains to let the natural light from the sun warm up your home. Be sure to close your window treatments as the sun begins to set.
3. Save hot water in three ways: It takes energy to heat water, and you can save energy by: 1) Adjusting your water heater's setting to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. If you've never adjusted it, chances are it is set at 140 degrees. 2) Installing low-flow showerheads, which will help not only with your energy bill for heating the water, but also with your water bill because you'll use less! 3) Washing clothes in cold water.
4. Install a smart or programmable thermostat, or be diligent about adjusting yours manually: According to www.Energy.gov, you can save as much as 10 percent on heating and cooling per year by turning your thermostat back 7–10 degrees for eight hours a day in the winter

and by setting it that much higher in the summer. You can do this while you're away during the day, as well as overnight. If set, smart or programmable thermostats can do this automatically, and you can achieve the same savings by remembering to adjust your manual thermostat.

5. Understand more about your home energy use: Knowledge is power, and Tri-County EMC offers several ways for you to learn more about your home energy use so you can make informed energy decisions. Log on to our customer service portal at www.tcemc.com to track your daily

energy use and understand the factors that influence it. Or consider the prepay program where you pay for your electricity in advance; this helps create a stronger connection between energy use and budgeting, which often leads to improved energy decisions.

Let's make creating a more energy efficient 2017 not just a resolution, but a movement. Ask your neighbors, friends and family to consider these goals, and take to social networks to share your ideas because in the case of energy efficiency—peer pressure is a *good* thing.

Tips for a more efficient 2017



Make power strips work for you:

Plugged-in appliances and electronics use small amounts of power even when they are turned off. This is called phantom energy use, and it can be eliminated—in the flip of a switch—if your electronics are plugged into a power strip.



Use sunlight to help heat your home

On bright, sunny, winter days, open your blinds or curtains to let the natural light from the sun warm up your home. Be sure to close your window treatments as the sun begins to set.



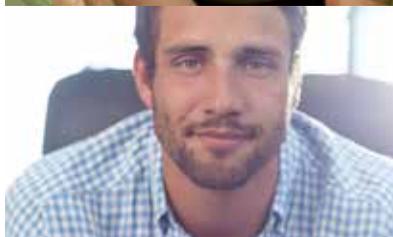
Save hot water

It takes energy to heat water, and you can save energy by adjusting your water heater's setting to 120 degrees Fahrenheit, installing low-flow showerheads and washing clothes in cold water.



Be smart about your thermostat

You can save as much as 10 percent on heating and cooling by turning your thermostat back 7–10 degrees for eight hours a day this winter. Set a smart or programmable thermostat to do this automatically or be diligent about adjusting your manual thermostat when you're away from home or at night.



Knowledge is power

Better understanding your home energy use will lead to more informed energy decisions. Contact us to be connected with the right tools and resources to understand and control your energy use.

The Cooperative Exchange

A Service For Members of Tri-County EMC

Members of Tri-County EMC may submit ads to The Cooperative Exchange on a first-come, first-serve basis. We ask that no commercial business ads be submitted and we reserve the right to refuse ads of questionable content. We also reserve the right to edit ads of unreasonable length. You may mail your ad to Cooperative Exchange Tri-County EMC, PO Box 130, Dudley, NC 28333. Please include your area code with your phone number. Or, you may call 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869, ext. 621. Deadline for ads is the 1st of each month.

FOR SALE

EARLY AMERICAN TABLE W/ 4

CHAIRS 40x60 extends to 40x84 with 2 leaves, seats 8. Asking \$200 OBO. Call 910-340-5734 (8).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS Dremel 16' Scroll Saw Floor Model (\$70) and Double bag Grass Catcher for riding lawnmower (\$50). Call 910-289-0605 (8).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS antique hand held tobacco planter, chicken crate, Dale Earnhardt jacket, Cracker Barrel doll, Push Lawn mower, Sledge Hammer and Water Melon Bowl. Call 919-635-9687. (8)

LAND FOR SALE 1 ACRE Lot in Deer Acres, partially wooded, level and dry. \$30,000. Call 919-735-8265 (8).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS Heat Pump Air conditioner, Dryer, Uniforms (navy and black), Clothing Sizes 16-18 and Women Shoes 10-11. Call 919-273-1623 (8).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS Files, Papers, Books compiled over 40 years by a First Aid/Safety Instructor (\$25). Ten Pair of Work Pants, 36 or 38x32 (\$5). Baby Stroller, Good Condition (\$30). 919-581-0046 (10).

CORNICE BOARD 11ft. x 10 ft. wide, hunter green, covers three windows with matching pleated drapery 4ft wide, floor length. (Best Offer). 252-559-3235 (10).

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS Sentria Kirby vacuum cleaner, rug shampooer, and extra disposal bags. 252-559-3235 (10).

PORCELAIN TILE 5 Boxes (7 pieces per box) of 18x18" Mesa Rust Colored Porcelain Tile. \$30. Call 919-731-3033 (12).

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT 2Bdr/2Bth. Single-Wide on Private Lot (Grantham Area). Call 919-222-2920. (12).

TUFLINE DISC 10.5ft. \$2200. Call 919-738-4710 (12).

Tri-County EMC will gladly publish announcements of fundraisers for non-profit organizations or special benefits for individuals if space is available. The deadline is the 1st of each month for the announcement to come out in the next newsletter. Call Deidra Locklear at 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869, Ext. 621.

Please show courtesy to those selling, renting and wanting items listed in the Cooperative Exchange by not calling before 7AM nor after 10 PM.

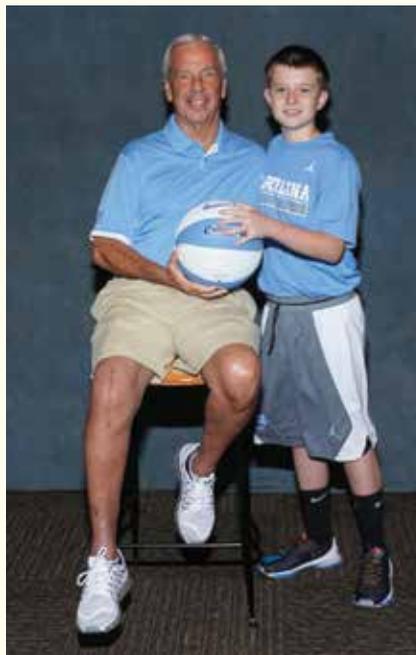
UNC and Wolfpack Basketball Camp Scholarships: Apply Today!

Tri-County EMC is accepting applications from middle-school students for all-expense-paid scholarships to summer basketball camps at the University of North Carolina and NC State University. Young men can apply to attend the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp in Chapel Hill, and young women can compete for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp in Raleigh.

Students can download an application at www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/community beginning Jan. 2, 2017. Tri-County EMC will select one student for each camp in a competitive process based on academics, extra-curricular activities and a short essay. Rising sixth through eighth graders are eligible to apply, and the final application deadline is March 31.

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship program, sponsored by Tri-County EMC and the state's other 25 electric cooperatives, sends more than 50 students statewide to learn from renowned collegiate coaches and athletes each year. Both camps will work closely with students to develop fundamental skills like sportsmanship and leadership that will help the young athletes excel both on and off the court.

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camps program provides a unique educational and athletic opportunity for outstanding students across our state and is yet another way the cooperatives are demonstrating their commitment to North Carolina communities.



Matthew Hines, pictured with Tar Heel coach Roy Williams, attended camp last summer on a scholarship from Tri-County EMC. Matthew is the son of Lisa Hines of Calypso.

Tri-County news

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

J. Michael Davis
General Manager

Management Staff
Kenneth E. Davis, Jr.
Manager of Finance & Accounting

Robert B. Kornegay
Manager of Marketing & Member Services

Deidra Locklear, Editor
Manager of Communications & Public Relations

Tony Grantham, P. E.
Manager of Engineering

Michael Wood
Manager of Operations

Board of Directors

Carl W. Kornegay, Jr.—President
Leland Heath, Jr.—Vice President
William H. Farmer, Jr.—Secretary
Worth Overman, Jr.—Treasurer
Keith Beavers
Dallace Grady
Jeff Henderson
Randy McCullen
Jennings Outlaw
Brandy Rouse
David Vinson

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 Call 919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869
www.tcemc.com



Employees—Ready To Serve

Steve Mason is one of 49 employees ready to

serve you. He has worked with Tri-County EMC since April 7, 2014, and is a Member Services Representative for the cooperative. Steve, his wife Rena and daughter, live in Mount Olive.