

NEWS



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Manager's Message:

The path to efficiency independence

While fireworks and Independence Day parades are synonymous with the Fourth of July, no such fanfare comes to mind when discussing energy efficiency. Perhaps it should. If you think about it, energy efficiency not only benefits individuals and families, but the country as a whole. Energy efficiency combined with energy conservation and advances in technology in the utility industry, ultimately help our country on a path toward greater energy independence. And that's worth celebrating.

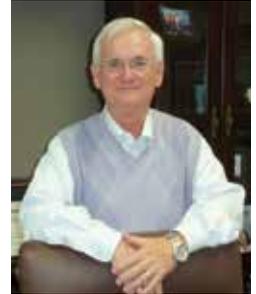
Benefits of efficiency

At its essence, greater efficiency means less energy is used for the production of goods and services. For individual consumers, a reduction in energy use usually translates to a tangible financial benefit – more money in your wallet at the end of the month. If your co-op neighbors are also using less energy, collectively, it means the overall cost of providing that electricity could be lower and may result in reduced costs for co-op members. For many, this is reason enough to strive for greater energy efficiency. On a national level, energy efficiency, sometimes called the “fifth fuel,” has a more profound impact. It can potentially boost the economy by allowing consumers and businesses to investment in other areas. As importantly, greater energy efficiency may slow the rate at which domestic energy is depleted, and therefore reduce or diminish the need for foreign energy.

Strike up the band

There's no need to wait for the first exploding burst of fireworks in the night sky to start your energy efficiency efforts.

J. Michael Davis
General Manager



Every American can take charge of their own energy use, regardless of the date on the calendar. Small steps can lead to a big difference for you and your neighbors, whether across the road or across the country.

Energy efficiency can generally be achieved two ways. The first is with mechanical change, such as replacing an older HVAC unit or less efficient appliance or with a new ENERGY STAR model or upgrading to new, insulated windows. Less expensive actions include improving the seal of your home's “envelope” by caulking exterior windows and doors and sealing openings where pipes and ductwork meet the outside. Swapping out the last incandescent bulbs (inside and outside) with LEDs also makes a noticeable difference.

Smart control

The second way to realize energy efficiency is through smarter management of your energy use. Leveraging smart thermostat technology is a good place to start. Most smart thermostats contain an app allowing remote control by mobile phone or tablet. Program your thermostat to reflect your family's schedule. Many thermostat programs allow you to view and edit your thermostat schedule and monitor the amount of energy used. Sometimes, however, energy efficiency is simply a matter of changing old habits such as washing clothes in cold water instead of hot or running the dishwasher during off-peak times.

Regardless of the path you take on the road to energy efficiency and independence, Tri-County EMC can help you on the journey. For information about energy efficiency programs, give us a call at 919-735-2611.

Metrics of the Month

5,652

members using TCEMC Home Energy Advisor Tool



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Here's a cool tip for your fridge! Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder.

Source: energy.gov

Summer vacations can turn into energy savings

Taking a summer vacation? Whether you're headed down the street or around the world, here are some easy adjustments to make before you leave so you can save energy and money while you're away.

- **Turn up the thermostat.** Setting your thermostat to 85 degrees will prevent your air conditioning system from working overtime to cool your home while you're not there.
- **Turn down the water heater.** Similarly, turning your water heater down to the lowest setting will ensure that you are not using energy to heat water when you don't need it.
- **Turn off AND unplug electronics.** Electronic devices like computers, TVs and microwaves use energy even when they are turned off. Use a power strip so that you can fully shut down all of your unused devices with a single flip of a switch.
- **Turn off the lights.** Turn off all unnecessary lights, and consider using a timer if you want to use a light for security at night.
- **Turn to technology.** Technology can be a huge help when it comes to saving energy while you're not at home. Smart and programmable thermostats can be set to automatically adjust the temperature setting when you are away from home. In addition, smart thermostats are Internet-connected and allow you to remotely control the temperature in your home from your phone, computer or tablet.

For more energy efficiency tips, visit tcmc.com



For summer vacation savings, set your thermostat to 85 degrees while away.

Surges can harm your valuable electronics

Power Guard to protect your valuable electronics

With summer storms at their peak, it's time to protect your electronics. Power Guard is a surge protection package offered by Tri-County EMC that helps protect your home appliances and electronics from serious damage caused by unexpected power surges.

You might ask: "What is a power surge?"

A "power surge" occurs when there is a rapid rise in the flow of power and usually causes damage that is often unseen. Surges can be caused by downed power lines, bad weather, birds and squirrels coming in contact with power lines, and the normal on and off cycling of large appliances. Surges can also be caused by faulty wiring or poor grounding.

"How can PowerGuard help?"

Surge suppressors are made to protect your electronic equipment by diverting surges away from sensitive electric circuits. PowerGuard utilizes a two-step approach to be most effective in a home. The first step is a high-energy surge suppressor professionally installed in your meter base by a Tri-County technician. This suppressor will provide

increased life for your motor driven appliances such as your refrigerator, and washer and dryer.

Secondly, plug-in surge suppressor modules are used inside the home that connect to equipment such as your entertainment center or personal computers. The plug-in suppressors are designed to protect your appliances from surges from other sources, such as a telephone or cable wire. It also provides supplemental protection from external surges. It is an affordable means of added security and peace of mind!

"How do I purchase PowerGuard for my home?"

Contact Bob Kornegay, Manager of Member Services and Marketing, at 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869 for prices and to schedule an appointment for our qualified utility technician to install the unit.

Lightning can destroy your home electronics! Help protect them by installing PowerGuard equipment. Stop power surges with PowerGuard!



Tri-County takes it to the Green for TCEMC Scholarships

Despite rain clouds and gloomy skies, the Eighth Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament experienced a successful day, raising over \$22,000 and attracting 164 golfers.

Funds raised at the May 31 event at Southern Wayne Country Club will support the scholarship foundation for high school seniors. This year, Tri-County EMC awarded 58 scholarships to local high school seniors in Wayne, Lenoir and Duplin counties totaling \$28,000. Over the years, Tri-County EMC has awarded \$368,250 to high school seniors.

“This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication from the employees of Tri-County EMC,” said Mike Davis, General Manager. “We are extremely thankful for the generosity of our sponsors and the enthusiasm of our golfers.”

Team Lee Electrical with Scott Summerlin, Todd Kantor, Ricky Coltren and Matthew Coltren took first place honors in the morning round first flight, and team Wayne Country Day with David Flowers, Michael Taylor, Kevin Herring and Jason Pate to second place honors in the morning round first flight. Team Moore’s with Eddie Brogden, Ronald Brock, Charlie Tew and Chip Waters took first place honors in the morning round second flight, and team Kornegay Insurance with Tim Smith, Larry Kornegay, Nick Herring and Ray Lewis took second place honors in the morning round second flight.

Team PowerTech with Steve Stroud, Jeff Allen, Jeremi Magers and Donnie Smith took first place honors in the afternoon round first flight, and team Mount Olive Rotary Club with Sprunt Hill, Tom Morgan, Barton Baldwin and Kyle



Best took second place honors in the afternoon round first flight. Team Hood’s Tree Removal with Daniel Hood, David Phillips, Ryan Demnicky and Mark Raynor took first place honors in the afternoon round second flight, and team Oak Wolfe Boys with Tim Wolfe, Joseph Rogers, Lance Davis and Josh Kennedy took second place honors in the afternoon round second flight.

Morning players enjoyed McDonald’s biscuits for breakfast, and both morning and afternoon players enjoyed lunch catered by McCall’s Restaurant. Tri-County EMC employees would like to thank this year’s individuals and companies who sponsored a hole or entered a team in the Eighth Annual Tri-County Scholarship Golf Tournament.

Play it safe in the summer heat

North Carolina summers are hot, blazing hot. And in July we typically see our thermometers creep even higher. These temperatures can be dangerous; in fact, according to the National Weather Service, heat is one of the leading weather-related dangers in the United States, causing hundreds of fatalities each year. Follow these simple tips to keep heat-related dangers out of your life this summer and beyond.

- Drink plenty of water, non-alcoholic and decaffeinated fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Wear lightweight clothes and minimize direct exposure to the sun.
- Visit public, air-conditioned places like malls or libraries during peak hours of the day to stay cool and take a load off of your HVAC system at home.
- Use portable electric fans to exhaust hot air from rooms or draw in cooler air.
- As tempting as it may be, don't sit in front of portable electric fans when a room's temperature is hotter

than 90°F. The dry blowing air will dehydrate you faster and exacerbate the problem.

- Save strenuous activities until the coolest part of the day, usually during early morning or late evening hours.
 - Take a cool bath or shower.
 - If you must go outside during times of extreme heat, minimize your exposure to the heat by staying in shady, grassy areas.
 - Check on family members, friends and neighbors, especially if they are elderly.
- Please be aware of the symptoms of heat exhaustion, which include: heavy sweating, weakness, clammy or pale skin, nausea, confusion and a fast, weak pulse. If you experience any of these symptoms move to a cooler location, loosen your clothing, lie down and take sips of water. Don't let heat exhaustion become something more serious, like heat stroke. If you think you see someone who could be experiencing a heat stroke, call 911 immediately.

Be safe, be cool and be encouraged that autumn breezes are around the corner!



Tri-County EMC Employees:

Ready To Serve

Pete Jones is one of 47 employees ready to serve you. Pete has worked with Tri-County since September 7, 1989, as a Foreman. Pete lives in Princeton with his family.



Holiday Closing

Tri-County EMC will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in observance of Independence Day.

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to tcmc.com. You may choose to call the numbers listed below to pay by phone.

To report a loss of power or an emergency, please call 1-800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

tcmc.com

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.

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