

NEWS



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Manager's Message: Let's Beat the Peak Together



J. Michael Davis
General Manager

As a member of Tri-County EMC, you know how to make smart energy choices that help you save money. But did you know that when you use electricity can be just as important as how much you use?

Throughout the day, energy use fluctuates based on consumer demand. Typically, most households use larger amounts of electricity in the morning when most people are getting ready for their day, and in the evenings when people return from work, cook dinner, wash clothes and watch television.

These times when people in our community are using more electricity at the same time are called “peak” hours. The cost for Tri-County EMC to provide power is higher during these times because of the additional demand for electricity.

By shifting some of your energy use to hours when demand is lower, also known as off-peak hours, you can save money on your energy bills and help keep rates lower for our community.

Here are a few easy ways you can shift energy use to off-peak hours:

- Adjust your thermostat. During summer months, raise the thermostat a few degrees during peak hours.
- Wash full loads of clothes in cold water during off-peak hours.
- Run the dishwasher right before you go to bed, or air-dry dishes by opening the dishwasher instead of using the heated dry cycle.
- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. (Try to make this a daily habit, whether during peak or off-peak hours.)

There are many ways to save energy and money by making a few minor adjustments to your daily routine. We're here to help. Contact us if you have questions about your energy bill or for additional energy-saving tips.



DRIVE-THRU ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2021
9AM TO 3PM
TRI-COUNTY EMC CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS
4255 US HWY 117 ALT, DUDLEY, NC 28333

Members will remain in their vehicles to register, vote & receive registration gifts!

Stop 1: Registration
Stop 2: Voting
Stop 3: Registration Gift Claim

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation

SAVE THE DATE 2021 Drive-Thru Annual Meeting

With the health and safety of our members and employees in mind, Tri-County EMC's 2021 Annual Meeting will again be drive-thru only. Members can register for the meeting and vote without leaving their vehicle. Drive-thru lanes will be set up at our corporate office in Dudley, NC. Be on the lookout for more details in the next issue of Carolina Country!

Saturday, November 13, 2021
Tri-County EMC Headquarters
Dudley, NC
9 a.m. – 3p.m.



Tri-County EMC Lineman Honored with SAVE Award for VFD Service

Tri-County EMC Apprentice Lineman Landon Stroud, who also serves as a Lenoir County volunteer firefighter, was recently presented a SAVE Award by NC Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey. Stroud and seven other firefighters helped rescue victims from an April mobile home fire. SAVE Awards go to first responders who go above and beyond the call of duty in their service to the public.

“We always get that fire call and don’t know the situation until we arrive—our guys put their training to the test that night,” Stroud said. “It is an honor for us to be recognized for our hard work.”

In the early morning hours of Friday, April 30, the Sandy Bottom, Southwood and Deep Run volunteer fire departments responded to a mobile home fire on Albritton’s Road in Kinston. Upon arrival, the firefighters learned that there were five occupants trapped in the mobile home.

Firefighters entered the mobile home through a window. Some of the firefighters worked to help the victims escape while others fought the blaze to keep the fire from spreading. Unfortunately, one of the victims succumbed to injuries from the fire.

Stroud, who has served five years with Sandy Bottom VFD and was recently promoted to Captain, received the award along with Sandy Bottom Fire Chief Daniel Chewning, Deputy Chief Scott Hardison, Assistant Chief Timothy Mooring Jr., Capt. Kyle Owens and firefighter Chris Locke. Southwood VFD Capt. Tyler Foyles and Deep Run VFD firefighter Blake Ellis also received awards.

“I have always enjoyed helping others, this is why I became a volunteer firefighter,” Stroud said. “It’s very rewarding to help individuals in a time of need.”



HOLIDAY CLOSING

Tri-County County EMC will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6, in observance of Labor 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 tcemc.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.

Be Prepared For Peak Hurricane Season

Hurricane season is in its peak from mid-August to late October, and as North Carolinians know too well, any part of our state can be impacted by a hurricane – not just the coast. As the frequency and intensity of these storms increases, it's more important than ever for our members to make hurricane safety and preparedness a priority.

Tri-County EMC is prepared to respond if severe weather causes power outages and encourages you to prepare by taking simple steps, including:

- Outline a communications and evacuation plan for your family before a hurricane or storm warning is issued to minimize confusion and fear. If you have pets or livestock, include them in your plan.
- Create an emergency kit that includes:
 - ▶ Important documents sealed in a watertight plastic bag
 - ▶ Cash
 - ▶ Three days' worth of non-perishable food, water and medication
 - ▶ First-aid kit

- ▶ Battery-powered radio
- ▶ Flashlight
- ▶ Extra batteries
- ▶ Personal hygiene items
- ▶ Extra clothes and blankets
- ▶ Food and other supplies for pets
- Sign up for local weather alerts and warnings.
- Follow Tri-County EMC on Facebook and Twitter to stay informed about weather, outages and other information.
- Bookmark our live online outage map to find real-time outage information: tcemc.com/outage-center
- Review safety tips and information at tcemc.com/storm-preparation

In the event of a power interruption, members should report outages by calling 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869. Members are also reminded to never go near or drive over downed power lines, as they may remain energized. For more information and safety tips, visit tcemc.com.

Teachers: Final Deadline to Apply for Bright Ideas Grants is Sept. 15

K-12 educators, the 2021 Bright Ideas education grant program application deadline is almost here! To apply for project funding for the 2021-22 academic school year, submit your application on or before Sept. 15. This year, Tri-County EMC is awarding up to \$1,000 in grant funding to teachers with innovative, hands-on learning experiences that will enrich the lives of students.

Grants for the 2021-2022 school year will be awarded in November for projects in all grade levels and disciplines, including music, art, history, language, reading, science, mathematics and information technology, just to name a few. Last year, Tri-County EMC awarded more than \$60,000 to local teachers to fund 81 projects.



For more information and to check your eligibility status, please contact Deidra Grantham at deidra.grantham@tcemc.com or 919-735-2611.

To learn more about the program and apply online, visit ncbrightideas.com. Stay up to date with the Bright Ideas Education Grant program by following @NCBrightIdeas on Facebook!

To learn more about the program and start your application, visit: ncbrightideas.com



Tips for a Safe Harvest

Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers. In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S.

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous—even deadly—when farming near electrical equipment. Every year we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages.

These dangerous accidents can be avoided by looking up and around your surroundings when operating large farm machinery. If you're preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 9-1-1 immediately and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.
- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.
- September 19-25 is National Farm Health and Safety Week but practicing safety on the farm year-round yields positive results. We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you'll remember these safety tips.



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
Brandy Rouse

Employee Ready to Serve You



Charles Pate

Charles Pate is one of 49 employees ready to serve you. Charles has worked with Tri-County EMC since Jan. 2, 2014, and is a Warehouseman for the cooperative. Charles resides in Mount Olive.