

NEWS



Ways to Save on Winter Electric Bills

13



Sports Camp Scholarships Now Available

14

Manager's Message:

Doing Our Part

Small changes make a big difference in energy savings

J. Michael Davis

General Manager



If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Tri-County EMC must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply — regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Tri-County EMC must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities including Tri-County EMC typically pay more for electricity — either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power — during those morning and evening "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak times" concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want

the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper — like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple

steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use of large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a

programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S.

Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.



Payment Options Made Easy for You!

You can forget about paying your electric bill if you sign up for **Automatic Bank Draft**. It's safe and convenient. Why worry about paying your bill each month when you can take advantage of this service. You will still receive a monthly statement by mail or email and we draft your monthly electric payment from your checking or savings account on a specified date. You'll never have a late fee, and you'll never pay early.

Combine bank draft with our **Budget Billing Program**, and you know exactly how much your bill will be each month — no ups and downs with the weather. Your monthly electric bills are totaled for the year and then divided into twelve equal payments.

If you are interested in signing up for these services, please contact our office at 919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869.



Contact Tri-County EMC to learn more about your billing options

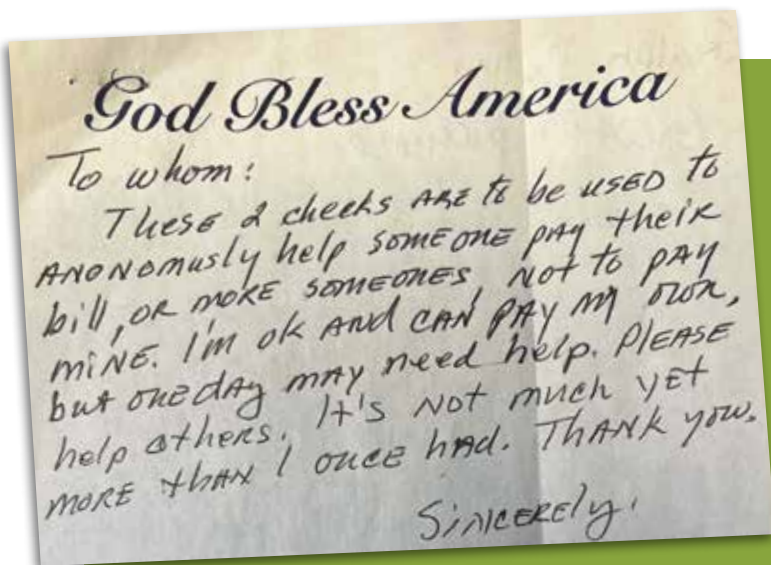


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.

Source: energy.gov



Doing For Others

You have heard the saying "what goes around comes around" — and with kindness it really does. Tri-County EMC and its employees have big hearts for service and giving back to others. So do our members!

Over the Christmas holiday, a member offered their capital credit check and personal check to someone in need. Tri-County EMC truly has the best members in the nation. Remember, kindness is contagious, and it makes our communities a nicer place to be!

Why Does My Bill Increase During Winter?

Cold weather brings more than frigid temperatures and the chance for that white form of precipitation. Winter also means that consumers can expect an increase in their utility bill. This increase is not due to an increase in rates, but it is the direct result of consumers' heating systems running longer and more often to keep your home comfortable.

Your heating system accounts for 50% of your total energy costs during the winter months. That is why it is so important to make sure your heating system is serviced properly

and operating as efficiently as possible. Other small increases in your energy bill can be attributed to Christmas lighting and more family members in the home during the holidays, but heating costs still rack up the largest percentage of your total energy consumption per month.

Remember to set your thermostat to 68 degrees during the winter to help reduce the time your heating system operates. You should also check and/or replace your system's return filters on a monthly basis to ensure airflow is not being restricted.



5 Ways to Save During Winter

Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy—and money!

Mind the thermostat. If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

Get cozy. Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle up under your favorite heavyweight blanket.

Don't block the heat. If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

Take advantage of sunlight. Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

Block air leaks. Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.



Students: Apply Now for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship

Calling all middle school basketball players! Tri-County EMC is now accepting applications for full scholarships to attend overnight basketball camp at UNC-Chapel Hill and NC State University this summer.

Young men who will be in 6th or 7th grade during the 2023-2024 school year can apply for a scholarship to attend the Carolina Basketball School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Young ladies who will be in 6th or 7th grade during the 2023-2024 school year can apply for a scholarship to attend the Wolfpack

Women's Basketball Camp at NC State University in Raleigh. Both camps will be held in June.

Each winner will receive an all-expenses-paid scholarship to attend the camp, which will include meals and lodging. Winners will be expected to secure their own travel arrangements.

Visit ncelectriccooperatives.com/community/sports-camps for more information or to download the application.



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

J. Michael Davis
General Manager

Management Staff

Kenneth E. Davis, Jr., CPA
Manager, Finance & Administration

Robert B. Kornegay
Manager, Member Services

Deidra Grantham, Editor
Manager, Marketing and Communications

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Employee Ready to Serve You



..... **Todd Harrell**
Todd Harrell is one of 48 employees ready to serve you. Todd has worked as a lineman for Tri-County EMC since Oct. 10, 2005. Todd resides in Four Oaks with his family.