

# MEMBER

## News

From Cedar Island to Cedar Point  
and many places in between



A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

March 2008

## Overhead vs. underground power lines

At the end of 2007, Carteret-Craven had nearly as much of its 2,182 miles of power distribution line underground (47 percent) as overhead (53 percent), an increase brought on primarily by a significant number of new subdivisions developed over the past few years.

Aesthetics is the main reason those lines are buried in new construction projects, and they do fail less frequently than overhead lines, but underground lines are not without problems.

First, when underground lines do fail, it takes longer to

find and fix the problem than it does for overhead lines. However, with technology improvements in newly installed underground service, crews can better isolate problems, and outages are shorter than they were just a few years ago.

While it may make sense to go underground with power lines in new developments, replacing existing overhead lines in developed areas is not usually a financially feasible option. It's costly to install lines in a way that minimizes disruption to residences and businesses. Replacement

means disturbing existing landscaping and boring under existing driveways. The work can cause accidental damage to other utility lines such as cable, phone or water. Conversely, underground lines can be accidentally damaged by crews working on other underground utilities, such as cable television or phone lines.

Today, overhead lines are still more affordable to construct, repair and maintain. They're more accessible for maintenance and repair. Faults on the line can be visually inspected, and repairs are usually made quickly.

## Copper wiring thefts pose serious safety risk

With the high price of copper and other metals, CCEC has seen an increase in thefts of these materials from its utility poles and substations.

"These acts are extremely dangerous," said Line Superintendent Shannon Inman. "Thieves need to know that they can be exposed to electric shock or even death and can cause fires and power outages."

According to Safe

Electricity, a program under the Energy Education Council, increasing copper thefts across the country are met with rising deaths and outages to thousands of people.

North Carolina legislators last year increased the penalty for theft and damage of utility wiring and fixtures from a misdemeanor to a felony punishable by 3 to 15 months in prison.

If you have information about possible copper thefts or sees any suspicious activities around CCEC equipment or facilities please contact your local law enforcement agency.

### on the web

We may have a check for you! To find out, follow the link on our home page at:

[www.carteretcravenelectric.coop](http://www.carteretcravenelectric.coop)



## What it means to be going 'green'

As consumer-owned electric businesses, cooperatives are on a mission to provide safe, reliable energy at the lowest possible cost, while paying close attention to environmental concerns that can impact the way we do business and our quality of life.

That's a tough balancing act. Climate change rules and an ever-increasing demand for electricity are putting pressure on the electric utility industry. North Carolina's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard, passed by legislators last year, requires cooperatives to meet up to 10% of their energy needs through renewable energy resources, alone or in combination with energy efficiency measures, by 2018.

The bottom line, however, is that going "green" costs money.

"There is one other inescapable fact in our energy future—as our country continues to grow and as we demand more energy to power our homes, we have to have safe, reliable electricity to meet that demand,

day and night, all year around," Carteret-Craven's CEO and General Manager Craig Conrad. "It is our responsibility, and our



Craig Conrad  
CEO & General Manager

challenge, to find the right energy and climate change solutions that will continue to provide you the energy you need at the lowest possible cost."

Carteret-Craven is committed to looking out for you—at home, at the state level and on the national front—to minimize the economic impact of renewable energy and energy efficiency mandates, as well as the growing demand for more electricity. As we look at all those things, there are measures you can take to help.

When we all save energy, we all win.

### *How energy conscious are you?*

Yes Not  
Yet

- |                          |                          |                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you turn off lights, computers and electronic equipment when you are not using them?                                                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have compact fluorescent bulbs in the most-used lights in your home?                                                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you wash your laundry in cold water?                                                                                                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you use energy and water-saving shower heads?                                                                                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you take short showers or half-full baths?                                                                                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you run full loads in your dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer?                                                                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you close curtains and/or blinds to keep out summer sun or winter cold?                                                                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do your doors and windows have weather-stripping and caulk to block drafts?                                                                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Have you unplugged appliances you rarely or never use, such as a second refrigerator or freezer?                                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do you have regular maintenance performed on your heating and cooling system—replacing filters monthly and having a yearly inspection and tune-up? |

**Give yourself 5 points for every "YES" and 0 points for every "NOT YET."**

**0-15 Fair:** There are many more things you can do to save energy

**20-25 Good:** You have some good savings, with room for more

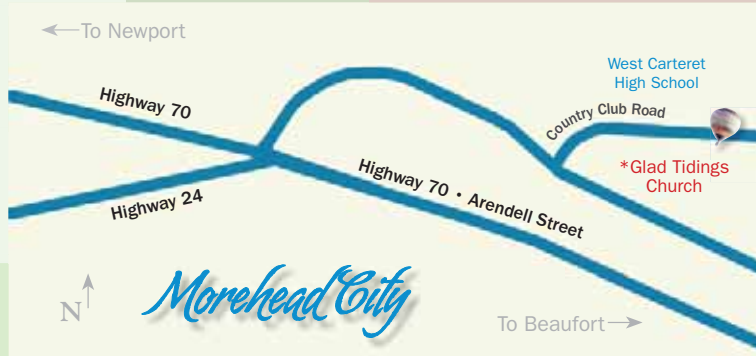
**40-55 Excellent:** Congratulations on your energy-saving efforts!

# Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

2008

Annual

Meeting



Thursday, May 1, 2008

Glad Tidings Church • Country Club Road • Morehead City

Look for details and your ballot for director elections in the April issue of Member News.

## Counterfeit electrical products can spell danger

A “fake” purse or watch may make you angry, but they don’t carry the risk of injury or death. On the other hand, counterfeit electrical products—such as power strips, extension cords, batteries, circuit breakers and holiday lights can cause fires, explosions, shocks, and electrocutions.

In recent years, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has recalled more than 1 million coun-

terfeit electrical products, including circuit breakers that did not trip when overloaded, cell phone batteries without a safety device in the circuitry to prevent overcharging, and extension cords with mislabeled, undersized wiring that overheated.

Counterfeits can be extremely difficult to spot. They could be a knock-off

of a name brand product, or bear an unauthorized certification marking. Scrutinize the product, packaging, and labeling. Look for certification marks from the manufacturer and an independent testing laboratory—such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) trademarked logos that look different than usual may signal a counterfeit.



Safety and aesthetics are important considerations in any outdoor lighting and landscape scheme, but lights can consume a lot of energy.

Just as you would indoors, turn off lights outside when they are not needed. Adding photo-sensors, motion sensors or timers can save energy by adding light only where and when it is needed.

Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) are available in a variety of styles to suit your outdoor lighting needs.

For landscaping features, consider low-voltage or solar outdoor lighting.

# Keep power equipment in mind when landscaping



Ready to do some spring yard work and planting?

Before you get your hands in the dirt, please consider the impact your landscaping efforts can have on your electric service.

First, place all trees, plants, shrubs and fences a minimum of 10 feet away from electrical equipment. This will prevent your landscaping items from being removed or trimmed to provide our crews access to equipment.

Obstructions can cause delays in power restoration, and overgrown or hindering vegetation can create an unsafe working environment.

Here are a few more landscaping tips:

- *The tendency is for homeowners to plant around a pad-mounted transformer to “cover up the green box.” However, CCEC’s workers need room to work safely on this energized device.*
- *Do not use ivy or other climbing plants around equipment. Select plants that are slow growing and easy to maintain. Avoid*

*using plants with thorns, and don’t allow plants to overgrow the transformer.*

- *Use grass, gravel or 2-inch rock around electrical equipment, but do not change the grade. Don’t place dirt or wood chips against any portion of the transformer; this could cause it to overheat.*
- *Don’t plant trees near pad-mounted transformers. A tree’s large root system could lift the concrete pad and potentially create a power outage.*
- *Keep in mind, too, that these transformers indicate buried lines in the area, so be sure to call us at (252) 247-3107 before you dig so we can mark all underground cables at your location. It’s a free service that could save you time, money and could help you avoid a serious injury.*

If you want to find trees and shrubs that suit your planting needs but won’t interfere with the cooperative’s equipment, go to the FAQs on our website at [www.carteretcraven-electric.coop](http://www.carteretcraven-electric.coop) or check out the National Arbor Day Foundation’s Tree Line USA program at <http://www.arborday.org>. You can also consult a local nursery for the correct types of trees for planting in the space you have available.

## Need to update your phone number or e-mail address?



We are continually updating contact information in our member service database. If your phone number has changed, if you have an additional cell phone number or if you have an e-mail address we can use to contact you with important information, please give us a call at 252.247.3107 • 1.800.682.2217 or go to the "phone and address" update link on our website at

[www.carteretcravenelectric.coop](http://www.carteretcravenelectric.coop)



carteret-craven electric cooperative 

### Offices

1300 Highway 24, Newport  
450 McCotter Boulevard, Havelock  
849 Island Road, Harkers Island

### On the Web

[www.carteretcravenelectric.coop](http://www.carteretcravenelectric.coop)

### Contact

Phone: 252.247.3107 /  
1.800.682.2217  
Fax: 252.247.0235  
E-mail: [info@ccemc.com](mailto:info@ccemc.com)