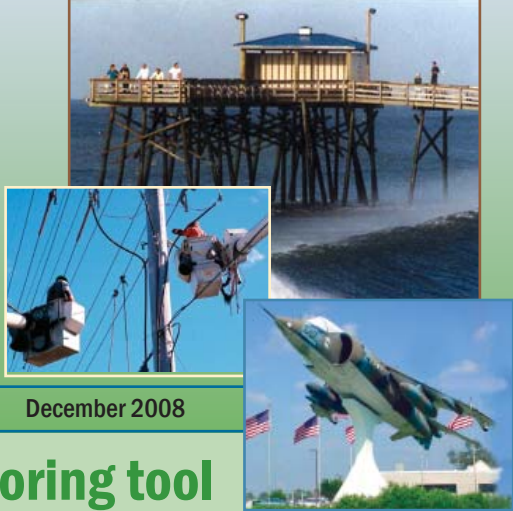


MEMBER News

From Cedar Island to Cedar Point
and many places in between



A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

December 2008

Students test home energy monitoring tool

Fifth-grade students at Morehead City Elementary School at Camp Glenn are participating in a pilot program offered by Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC) to test the effectiveness of the PowerCost Monitor™, an easily installed, programmable device that lets consumers see how much electricity they are using in their homes moment-to-moment.

CCEC loaned the monitors to the students to collect data to determine if these devices help homeowners modify their energy use behaviors to reduce consumption and save money. The monitor shows which appliances are costing

the most, the real-time energy use and cost of turning on and off various electrical appliances in the home, and the amount of money consumers are spending on electricity as they spend it.

At the same time, the school will use this unique opportunity as a teaching tool. Students will learn about energy conservation as they collect and analyze their homes' monthly electricity usage. At the end of the program, they will have developed a database and a class presentation on the effectiveness of the monitors.

"This is learning with a real world application – not only for the students, but also for the cooperative,

which is looking for ways to help its consumers manage their energy usage. Further, the data will be shared with cooperatives across the state as they, too, look for solutions to rising energy use and costs," said CCEC Communications Director Lisa Galizia.

The pilot project is part of the cooperative's plan to meet the state Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard. It and other elements of the state mandate are being coordinated through GreenCo Solutions, a not-for-profit company formed by cooperatives across the state to provide economies of scale and develop energy efficiency programs and renewable energy pilot projects.

carteret-craven electric cooperative

on the web

How much energy can CFLs save in your home? You can find out by going to the Energy Saver Tools page at:

www.touchstoneenergysavers.com



A word about the WPFCA

CCEC has recently fielded questions from members wanting to know why the Wholesale Power & Fuel Cost Adjustment (WPFCA) on their bills hasn't gone down like the price of gasoline.

Here's why. The "fuel" in the WPFCA isn't gasoline. It refers to natural gas and coal used to generate electricity at power plants. The cooperative's budget and rates are based on market studies and predictions on what those fuels will cost on the wholesale market throughout the year. When the prices of natural gas and coal rise beyond those predictions, CCEC has to collect to pay the excess.

When the prices go down, the adjustment goes down, but we haven't seen that scenario in a long time.



ARLAND BELL



J. HENRY DAVIS JR.



DOUG FULCHER



FRED FULCHER



ROGER JONES

Directors keep members in mind during challenging times

It's been a very busy year, but your cooperative has managed to weather some stormy environmental, economic and political storms in 2008.

As we wait to see how a national energy policy will look, we will be entering the first year of compliance efforts for the state's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard. As you look for new ways to save energy to help meet the standard, we are taking part in an energy efficiency pilot program and are gathering local data on the effectiveness and economics of residential wind power, solar power and solar water heating. We will be providing factual information on these systems in the coming year.

The push for a national energy policy was high on the list early in 2008, and will likely remain a priority in 2009 when the new president and Congress get to work. However, the country's economic downturn has moved to the forefront, and the once-urgent push to get Congress to adopt climate change legislation has slowed. In the meantime, more than a million of you – cooperative members from across the nation – have sent letters to members of Congress making sure they understand the need to keep electricity affordable and reliable while they

consider legislation to reduce our nation's carbon emissions. You will need to stay involved in this process to ensure any legislation that may be introduced does not cause electricity prices to soar.

While we don't know for sure what the energy picture will look like in the coming year and beyond, we do know that the cost of power is going to continue to rise – whether from state and federal mandates or global demand for energy. In fact, the world demand for fuels used to generate electricity – coal, natural gas and uranium – has increased sharply, and prices for those products will remain volatile in response. Very recent decreases in demand due to the worldwide economic downturn may help stabilize electricity prices in the near term, but this trend is expected to be short lived.

As we face these challenges, we are going to continue to work diligently to provide you safe, reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost and help you find ways to use energy more efficiently in your home and workplace. At the same time, we want to assure you that the cooperative remains financially sound. We have been able to meet our financial goals and still return margins – Capital Credits – in the amount of \$909,529 to you, the members.



JEROME MEADOWS



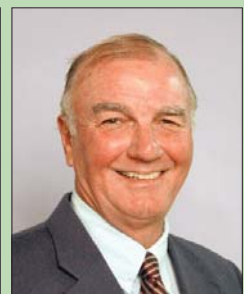
ALICE O'BERRY



CLIFF RICE



THOM STYRON



WAYNE WILLIS

Electronic Payment Types	Average Monthly Transactions
Member Bank Cards via PowerPay24	1,697
Member E-Checks via PowerPay24	1,179
Recurring Bank Cards	2,531
Automatic Bank Drafts	5,679
CheckFree	3,109

Electronic payments increase, saving co-op time and money

Who would have thought that in 1939, when members of the newly-formed cooperative read their own meters and mailed or hand delivered their payments, that nearly 70 years later, CCEC would be processing more than 14,000 payment transactions a month electronically?

Many of our members enjoy the ease and value of online banking,” said Gary Zajac, CCEC Vice-president of Marketing & External Affairs. “It saves them time, money and worry.”

For instance, those who use our PowerPay 24 account payment and information site can view their bill, make a payment and know that it has been applied to their account almost instantly.

Others use an online banking service through their financial institutions to pay their electric and other bills. While convenient for many, it is important to note that those payments can take up to five days to post on your account.

Next, the cooperative offers automatic bank draft and bank card payments. These two options really take the worry out of bill paying. Your account is drafted on an established date each month, and you don't have to remember anything.

We have close to half of our accounts paid through one of these programs each month. These services not only make life simpler for our members, they save the cooperative money, too, in payment processing time.

America has an energy challenge. We must balance climate change reforms with sensible, economically sound energy policy that will take us through the next few decades. Now is the time to have a candid conversation with your elected officials. The effort addresses affordability, future electricity needs and technology development to meet demand.



Start the dialogue today at:
www.ourenergy.coop

Quick Takes

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

CCEC' offices will be closed on:

Christmas

Thursday, December 25

Friday, December 26

New Year's

Thursday, January 1, 2009



CALL OUR OFFICE BEFORE DIGGING

If you are planting trees and shrubs or hiring someone else for a larger yard and landscape work that requires digging, you need to call CCEC directly at (252) 247-3107 to get someone to locate and mark underground utility lines.

If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, or you may disrupt service to an entire neighborhood. But once your underground lines are marked, you will know their approximate location and can dig more safely. If you do contact or dig into lines, be sure to call us immediately so we can inspect the lines and make any necessary repairs.

Last year, the FCC designated 811 as the phone number to call for this type of assistance. CCEC does not subscribe to a “call before you dig” service, which is where the 811 calls are routed.

“We believe we can save money and give better service to our members if we take their calls directly,” said Director of Engineering Services Jake Joplin.

Electric Space Heater Usage & Costs

Heat Setting (watts)	Daily Hours of Operation							
	1	2	4	6	8	10	12	24
600	\$0.06	\$0.12	\$0.23	\$0.35	\$0.46	\$0.58	\$0.69	\$1.39
750	\$0.07	\$0.14	\$0.29	\$0.43	\$0.58	\$0.72	\$0.87	\$1.73
900	\$0.09	\$0.17	\$0.35	\$0.52	\$0.69	\$0.87	\$1.04	\$2.08
1350	\$0.13	\$0.26	\$0.52	\$0.78	\$1.04	\$1.30	\$1.56	\$3.12
1500	\$0.14	\$0.29	\$0.58	\$0.87	\$1.16	\$1.44	\$1.73	\$3.47

Heat Setting	Cost/Week	Cost/Month
600	\$ 9.71	\$ 41.60
750	\$12.13	\$ 52.00
900	\$14.56	\$ 62.40
1350	\$21.84	\$ 93.60
1500	\$24.27	\$104.00

When selecting a space heater, remember that a \$50 "big box store" heater performs as well as a \$400 nationally advertised model of the same wattage. Be wary of ads featuring "special" electric technology; a watt is a watt.

Also be sure to buy a unit with a tip-over switch so it turns off if it falls or is knocked over. Always turn off the heater when you leave the room.

Note: If the heater also has a fan, the actual cost may be more than the amounts shown.

Simple steps to avoid holiday decorating dangers



In the spirit of the season, it can be easy to become engrossed in holiday decorations and lights.

However festive, these embellishments also add extra electrical strain to your home and safety must be considered when plugging in those giant Santa statues and miles of icicle lights.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, Christmas trees account for 200 fires annually, resulting in an average of six deaths, 25 injuries and more than \$6 million in property damage.

Keep your family and home safe with the following tips:

- *Don't plug multiple strands of lights into one outlet.*

- *Look for frayed or broken cords and damaged light bulbs. Replace a broken light bulb with a new one. Leave the old one in until you find a replacement.*

- *Don't run extension cords under rugs or furniture or a Christmas tree skirt.*

- *Keep your tree well watered. Dry branches can ignite when they contact lights.*

- *If your tree is artificial, make sure it is fire retardant and never use electric decorations on an aluminum tree.*

- *Do not place your tree close to a heat source, such as a heater, vent or fireplace.*

- *Never leave candles burning when you are away, and never put lit candles on a Christmas tree.*



carteret-craven electric cooperative



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