

MEMBER

News

From Cedar Island to Cedar Point
and many places in between



A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

October 2008

Energy Star Tax-Free Weekend

Energy Star qualified products that will be tax-free Nov. 7-9

- ★ Clothes washers
- ★ Freezers
- ★ Refrigerators
- ★ Ceiling fans
- ★ Dehumidifiers
- ★ Room air conditioners
- ★ Air-source heat pumps
- ★ Geothermal heat pumps
- ★ Programmable thermostats

State sets tax-free weekend for Energy Star products



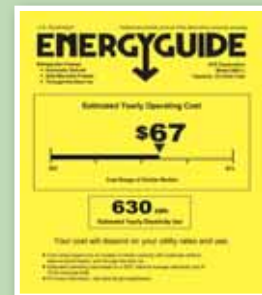
On November 7, 8 & 9, consumers will receive a break from North Carolina's sales tax with a tax holiday on energy-efficient items. Specific Energy Star qualified appliances, such as washing machines, freezers and refrigerators, air conditioners and other items will be exempt from the state's 6.75 percent sales tax.

When buying an appliance, remember that it has two price tags: what you pay to take it home and what you pay for the energy and/or water it uses. Energy Star qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use

10-50% less energy and water than standard models.

Energy Star is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy, helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.

To find out just how much energy a new appliance uses, check out the bright yellow Energy Guide label. This label estimates how much energy the appliance uses, compares energy use of similar products, and lists approximate annual operating costs. Your exact costs will depend on local utility rates and the type and source of your energy.



To save even more, CCEC members can make their purchases at Tideland Appliances at 800 Highway 70 East in New Bern and get a 3 percent discount on energy-saving home appliances. CCEC has partnered with Tideland Electric Membership Corporation, which owns the appliance store, to make this discount available. To qualify, just take your most recent CCEC bill with you when you shop.

on the web

See if someone you know has an outstanding Capital Credit check.

Go to:

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop



Lessons from the past

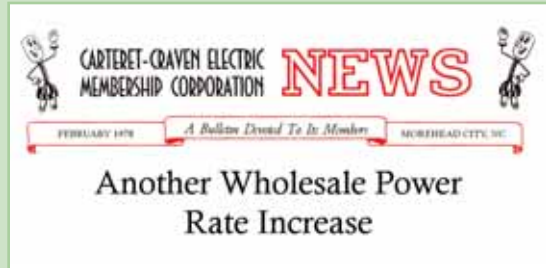
History, does indeed, repeat itself. If you are suffering today's "energy crisis," you may (or may not) find some consolation in knowing that we have been here before. The headlines and stories from newspapers, and our own Member News, of the late 1970s and early 1980s could be reprinted today.

Today, there is some light at the end of the most recent tunnels. Bipartisan groups in both houses of Congress have begun taking a more balanced look at potential energy legislation and the associated costs.

We are connecting with more and more of our members—on the phone, in person, in the newsletter, through the media, in community and civic meetings and elsewhere. We have helped many members find ways—many of them at no cost or low cost—to reduce their energy use. We have helped others explore renewable energy options by providing factual, unbiased information. And we have empowered many members by asking them

“We lived for generations under the assumption that our energy producing resources were without end. Energy conservation has become a watchword as foreign oil imports have been reduced and domestic supplies are not sufficient to meet all our needs.”

*- Albert Chappell
Director of Members Services
CCEMC News, March 1977*



to join the nationwide, grassroots "Our Energy, Our Future" campaign, which asks our representatives in Congress to consider the growing demand for energy, the need for expanded infrastructure as well as the costs associated with any "climate change" legislation.

The point is, we have gone through these cycles before, and we undoubtedly will go through them again. While we weather this most recent economic storm, we will do what we can to help mitigate the impact of rising fuel costs as much as possible and will continue to help you find ways to reduce your energy use. That's what we did three decades ago and that is what we are continuing to do today.

“To say the very least, 1979 has been a year of frustration for this cooperative and all of the electric utility industry. Problems caused by inflation, fuel shortages, severe weather conditions and nuclear generation have compounded many other problems that effect every consumer, mainly when he pays his light bill.”

*- Annual Meeting address by CCEMC Board President W.J. Wynne Jr.,
December 1979*

Be alert when working around overhead lines

Whether you are homeowner making improvements to your own property or a commercial company providing landscaping and other services, you need to be very careful around overhead power lines and equipment.

Take great care to avoid overhead power lines, especially when performing activities such as:

- *Using a ladder*
- *Pruning or cutting trees*
- *Cleaning a pool*
- *Installing or removing an antenna*
- *Working on the roof*
- *Carrying long tools or pipes*
- *Boating and trailering boats*

When making roof repairs, cleaning gutters, or simply moving a ladder, a long board, pipe or pole, you should be alert for lines within reach. Look over the job before you start and stay clear of potential hazards. The best way to avoid a tragedy is to simply avoid working near power lines.

Trees conduct electricity and create potential safety hazards when their limbs grow close to power lines. A child climbing an overgrown tree can easily come in contact with a live power line and risk electrocution. Kite flying, too, should be fun, not fatal. Fly kites in open areas, away from power lines and busy streets. If a kite gets snagged in a power line, don't try to pull it loose or climb up after it. Just leave it alone.

If you're enjoying a day of boating, never assume your boat's mast, antenna, or other equipment will clear an overhead power line

even if you've traveled under it before. The tide and boat drafts change, and a miscalculation can be fatal. Whether you're moving around a harbor or moving a boat on land, know where overhead power lines are.

Outdoor workers & 'boom' trucks

Electrocution from power line contact is among the more common and potentially fatal hazards that outdoor workers face. Because we are accustomed to seeing power overhead, workers can easily become oblivious to their existence and the danger they pose to anyone or anything they touch.

Dump truck drivers, crane operators, and anyone else operating a vehicle with a boom have a responsibility to survey the location and voltage of overhead power lines where they are working before positioning the truck to perform work. Operators and other workers should be cautious not only when lifting dump truck boxes or raising booms, but also when lowering them.

Metal objects on trucks with dump beds or booms that come into contact with uninsulated power lines will become energized to the same voltage as the line. In addition to the safety hazard, vehicle contact with power lines can interrupt power outages in the area and require costly repairs.

Companies that aren't already governed by federal Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) rules should still ensure that all operators receive adequate training to recognize and avoid hazardous conditions and offer training for first aid and basic CPR.

Extra Help drug program can help limited, low-income Medicare recipients

Do you know someone who is on Medicare and needs assistance in paying for prescription drugs?

Medicare beneficiaries may be eligible for the federal Extra Help low income subsidy program if they have limited income and resources. Extra Help can pay for all or part of the monthly premiums, annual deductibles and provide lower prescription co-payments under a Medicare prescription drug plan.

To qualify for Extra Help, the annual income must be limited to \$15,600 for an individual (\$21,000

for a married couple living together). Additionally, the total resources must be limited to \$11,990 for an individual (\$23,970 for a married couple living together). The resources do not include a primary residence or a vehicle.

Anyone on Medicare with limited income and resources, can call Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) for possible assistance with prescription drug coverage. Call (252) 222-6352 in Carteret County, and (252) 633-1477 in Craven County.

Retired CCEC truck returns to work in Costa Rica

Directors and employees at Cooperativa Eléctrica de los Santos (Coopesantos), in Costa Rica are more than proud of their “new” bucket truck; they are thankful.

The truck, a retired vehicle from Carteret-Craven's fleet, not only has a bucket for making repairs and installations atop power poles, but it also has an automatic transmission—a first among vehicles used by cooperatives in Costa Rica.

Coopesantos and CCEC are “sister” cooperatives in the Rural Electric Cooperative Association's International Sister Cooperative Program. Two employees of the Costa Rican co-op—Engineering Director Ismael López and Information Technology Chief Domingo Umaña—visited CCEC last summer in a learning and cultural exchange. Providing the bucket truck wasn't a part of the

plan. But when CCEC learned of the need for such a vehicle, a deal was struck.

Just over a year later, the truck is in the field, helping Coopesantos line workers perform work far more efficiently than in the past.

“Our coworkers named the truck ‘La Carolina,’” Umaña wrote in an e-mail to CCEC Vice-president of Finance & Accounting Jerry Eborn. “So many thanks to you.”

“We coordinated through the NRECA program to get the truck to Costa Rica aboard a container ship,” Eborn said. “It took a while to get it there, but they are proud of that truck.”

The NRECA International Foundation partners with U.S. electric cooperatives and others to strengthen existing local co-ops, electrify rural villages and foster economic development, improving the lives of people in developing countries.



A retired CCEC bucket truck is used in the field by “sister” co-op Cooperativa Eléctrica del los Santos in Costa Rica.

I'm free!

With the cooperative's **Automatic Bank Draft** program, paying your electric bill can be worry-free.

Your account will be drafted the same amount, the same date each month. You can quit worrying about due dates, writing checks or being unable to pay while you're away from home.

To learn more about Automatic Bank Draft and other payment options, call one of our customer service representatives at (252) 247-3107 or go to our Website and click on the “customer service/online service” tab at:

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop

Who doesn't want a simpler life?



carteret-craven electric cooperative 

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