

MEMBER NEWS

A Monthly Magazine For Members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy™ Cooperative 

Craig A. Conrad, Executive Vice President & General Manager; Bill Ward, Editor

Corporate Offices: 1300 Hwy. 24 * P.O. Box 1499 * Morehead City, N.C. 28557

1-800-682-2217 or 252-247-3107

Visit our website at: <http://www.ccemc.com>

Carteret-Craven Provides Community Information

[Online Community Calendar available to clubs and organizations.](#)

Carteret-Craven's web site has undergone a facelift of sorts recently and provides opportunity for community organizations as well as fun for the entire family. The site can be accessed by going to www.ccemc.com.

New features include a community calendar section which is a source of pride for us. Over the years, many people in the community have discussed the need of a location to go to where one can see just what is happening in the area. This helps with planning other events as well as informing you of opportunities for the entire family. Now you can contact us at this site and we'll place your club or organization's event there. Tell your friends

and neighbors to go to www.ccemc.com first to find out what's happening!

Other features include local weather, kids' games, and a business section. To use the weather component, type in the zip code of the city you wish to view and the link will take you to the Weather Channel's site and give you current readings on wind, precipitation and other pertinent information as well as a long range forecast.

Come back to our site and you'll see a section with games the entire family can enjoy. Just click on it and you have a wide choice of good clean fun.

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Paying Bills Doesn't Have To Be Like Walking A Tightrope. Budget Billing Can Make Life Easier & Less Stressful

[Current Users of Equalizer Should Note Changes In Program](#)



Has this happened to you? You've figured your monthly budget. You know what you will have left over. Then – SURPRISE – your electric bill shoots up and wrecks everything, usually at a bad time.

We know you don't need that kind of surprise, so here's another one.

You can pay the same amount each month with Carteret-Craven's **Equalizer Payment Plan**. You'll have no more doubt about what next month's electric bill will do to your budget.

Wouldn't it be reassuring to know well in advance

what your bill will be? Here are some details about the plan you might want to read:

The **Equalizer Plan** is a program in which you are billed the same amount each month. That amount is figured by dividing your total bills for the last 12 months by 12. If you have a safeguard light or other special services, these will be in addition to your equalizer payment.

Anyone could benefit from the **Equalizer Plan**, especially those who are on a fixed income or operate within a tight budget. In addition, anyone who would like to pay by bank draft and know in advance how much would be drafted could appreciate the plan.

By requiring a year of billing history, we can better determine your payments are actually in line with where they should be. However, we periodically check each budget account to make sure that what you are paying does not differ too much from the amount of electricity you are actually using.

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Tips From The Staff.....

*Lonnie Moore
Vice President
Engineering and
Operations*

With spring in the air, many of us will be planting trees and shrubs in an effort to revegetate areas damaged by the hurricanes of years past. Several communities are making a concentrated effort in this regard. Some have even received national recognition for their accomplishments. The Board and employees of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative applaud these efforts.

We would like to encourage homeowners and community committees to think, however, about planting only low growing species of trees under overhead power lines. The safety of our members, our employees, and the reliability of the electric system depend on it.

Many power system blinks and outages are a direct result of tree limbs contacting overhead electric power lines. In fact, history has shown us that approximately 85% of hurricane related outages are caused by trees coming into contact with the power lines. Trees that brush against the lines can cause the lights to blink or can cause an extended power outage.

When a tree contacts a power line it can become energized and represents a very real safety hazard to the public. Also, OSHA and the National Electrical Safety Code require that the power line right-of-way be kept

clear of vegetation that could adversely affect safety and reliability. This is why we have a right-of-way tree-trimming program. A properly maintained right-of-way enhances safety and can save you, the member/owner, the aggravation of lost power, and the cost of rebuilding and repairing facilities damaged by fallen trees.

Tall growing species of trees should be planted so that no portion of the tree comes within 15 feet of an overhead line. This will allow line crews to safely work on and maintain the line. It also keeps the limbs out of the line during windy conditions. This distance is increased to 50 feet for the higher voltage transmission lines.

In areas served by underground electric lines, remember to consider the location of existing pad-mounted transformers when planting shrubs or installing lawn decorations. A minimum of ten feet of clearance is needed from the front of these devices and three feet from the sides and back. This allows our service personnel to perform maintenance and switching procedures on these units as needed. And as always, call us before you dig so that we can locate our buried underground electric cable.

Trees and power lines can coexist with a little planning and forethought. Just keep in mind the long-range growth of the plant and make sure it will not interfere with any utility line or equipment. Contact us and we'll send you a list of low growing trees for planting near utility lines. You can also check our web site at www.ccemc.com for the list and a link to the National Arbor Foundation.

Customer Service Telephone Hours:

24 Hours A Day/7Days A Week

1-800-682-2217 or 252-247-3107 For Account Balances: 1-877-677-4EMC



Extend The Life Of Your Water Heater... And Save Money

To save money and to extend the life of your water heater, drain a bucket of water from the heater tank periodically (once every 2-3 months) to prevent a buildup of sediment.

Sediment creates an unwanted layer of insulation between the heating element and the water, which means less heat gets to the water and more heat is wasted. The "harder" the water in your area, the more quickly sediment builds up and the more frequently draining is advisable. Sediment build up can also shorten the life of your element.

DON'T FORGET!
For your added convenience payments may be made at Harkers Island EMC.

ENERGY AUDITS..... WAY TO SAVE MONEY!

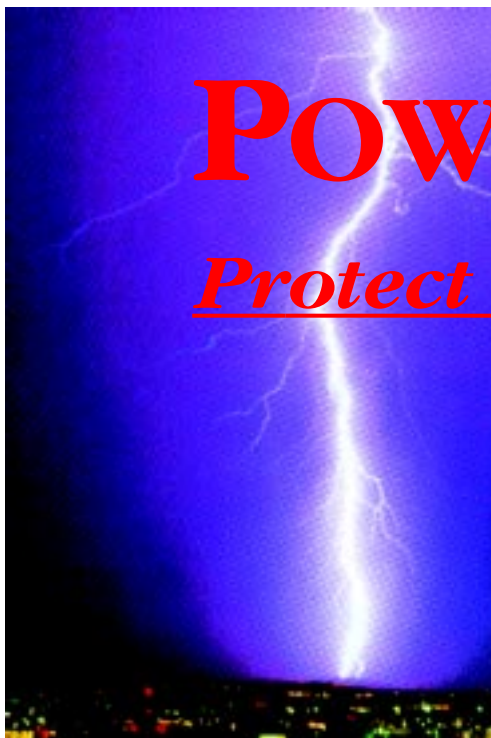
With today's everchanging energy market causing prices to fluctuate, all of us are looking for ways to save on our electric bills. As a member of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, you receive many different benefits, one of which is energy audits.

Our energy specialists can come to your home, do a walk-thru inspection, and provide you with information on how you can improve your energy consumption. Things such as insulation and properly sealed window and door openings are discussed. Using window shades and drapes to control heat are explained as well as thermostat settings and a host of other ideas.

If you are in the market for a new heating or cooling system, we can come and do a more thorough inspection and inform you of the size unit you will need to properly heat and cool your home. This particular service does involve a nominal fee but it is well worth it.

Why not call our energy specialists today and find out ways you can save on your energy bills.

1-800-682-2217 or 252-247-3107



POWERGUARD

Protect Those Valuables!

Its that time of year...spring and summer storms are here. Electrical surge from storms, animals and accidents may damage your household appliances and electronics. With **PowerGurad**, you may protect these devices against external surges. Call our representatives today to find out more about **PowerGuard** and how you can sign up.
1-800-682-2217 or 252-247-3107

(CCEMC Web Page, continued from page 5)

Our business section will feature information helpful to local businesses and provide links to their sites. Businesses located on Carteret-Craven's lines may receive a free link and other businesses may link for a nominal charge. Contact us for more information. **(252-727-2251 or 1-800-682-2217, ext. 251)**

And of course we continue to provide you with timely information about services offered by Carteret-Craven. In our Member Services area you'll find that you are able to apply for services online, disconnect a service, transfer service and receive general information.

How about an energy efficient water heater or an energy conservation loan? Find out on our web site just how to apply and/or receive information. You'll find it at www.ccemc.com.



The Carteret-Craven website is kid friendly. They'll find fun games and interesting information.

In the Community section we offer information about things such as scholarships, youth awards like the Leadership Camp to White Lake and Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., Bright Ideas Grants for teachers (check out the list of the 2000-2001 winners) and information on how you or your group can tour the facilities or arrange for a safety demonstration at your site.

This publication you are currently reading can also be found online. Why not tell your neighbors about our site so they can benefit also? They could read the current edition of the Member

News or find out how they can subscribe to receive their own copy of Carolina Country Magazine. It's all there at www.ccemc.com.

So, if you haven't visited us yet on the world wide web, do so today. Let us know what you think and take advantage of the opportunities located there. Remember, www.ccemc.com.

(Budget, continued from page 5)

If the amount you are paying does not match what you are using then the bill will be adjusted so that future payments reflect the proper amount. *Current users take note, we will NOT have a settle up month and will NOT write refund checks. Your account will be adjusted accordingly for the next year.*

Anyone who tampers with his meter, is disconnected for nonpayment or moves to a new location will be removed from the program and the account will be settled at that time. Also, the usual payment deadlines still apply. No extensions for payment on the equalizer payment plan will be allowed.

If you try the plan and it doesn't fit your needs, you can return to normal billing by requesting by phone, writing or in person that you be removed from the program. You will, however, need to settle the account at that time before returning to normal billing.

The **Equalizer Payment Plan** may be just the thing you are looking for. For more information or to sign up for the plan, call our Customer Service Representatives at 247-3107 or 1-800-682-2217 or contact us at our web site at www.ccemc.com.

Be sure and tune in to
WITN TV-7
 for the
**Children's Miracle
 Network**
Sunday, June 3rd
 The electric cooperatives
 of Eastern Carolina
 (including Carteret-Craven)
 will be participating.
 Call in your pledges and
 help support the
 children of
 eastern North Carolina.