

For Members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Bright Ideas Deadline In September



For more than nine years, Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative has offered Bright Ideas grants to local educators for creative and innovative classroom projects not funded by traditional means and this year is no different. The 2003 Bright Ideas application deadline is Tuesday, September 30, 2003. Applications must be received at one of our local offices that day before 5:00 p.m.

With the applications being judged by an outside group of professionals, winners can receive a grant worth up to \$2,000. Eligible educators for this program include teachers and principals in North Carolina public schools located in Carteret-Craven EC's service area serving grades K-12. If you are not sure, which NC electric cooperative service area your school is located, go to www.ncbright-ideas.com, click on Apply Now, and then click Search My School for local contact information.



While studying the ecosystem as part of a Bright Ideas grant, students listen to historian and storyteller, Sonny Williamson, tell of life on the outer banks.

BER 2003

Grants will not be awarded for educator salaries, released time, or expenses related to professional training. For further information, please contact Bill Ward, Director of



Customer Appreciation Day Tuesday, September 16, 2003

Come by one of our local offices, Highway 24 in Newport or McCotter Avenue in Havelock, for food, fun, and prizes. This is just one way we want to show members how much we appreciate you. Stop by and meet some of the folks that serve you daily.

Want added peace of mind?

For less than 27 cents* a day, you can have added peace of mind with a Carteret-Craven security light. With daylight savings time approaching in October, a security light can provide ample lighting for children to play outside or for those who arrive home later in the day from work.

Less than
27¢
a day

Bulb changes or maintenance is provided by your Cooperative at no additional cost. A low monthly rate includes the light, wiring and usage. Call today for more information and get added pro-

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Exercise These Safety Practices After Severe Weather Conditions

During the last few months we have been publishing a series of safety articles associated with water, preparing for a storm and in this issue; exercising safety practices after severe weather conditions. Being that we live in an area where there is plenty of people moving in and out because of their job or even vacationing, we feel that it is important to provide some type of electrical safety message on a regular basis. Even more so, Eastern North Carolina has seen its share of severe weather conditions over the last few years.

Please keep these 'after severe weather conditions' safety tips in mind:

- If power lines and poles are down in your yard or in the street, always treat them as if they are energized and dangerous. Never touch them! Stay away. Call your electric cooperative to report the location so repairs can be made as soon as possible.
- Post-storm debris can hide power lines that have fallen. Fallen trees that contain energized power lines can energize any item it comes in contact with, such as a metal fence, a pond, or standing water. Even the ground can be energized near fallen power lines. The real danger of fallen power lines is often hidden.
- If your electric service is out, check with your neighbors to see if they have power. If they do, you may have only a blown fuse or a tripped breaker. Never replace a fuse or reset a circuit breaker with



it in a well-ventilated area. Don't connect the generator to your home's electrical panel or fuse boxes. It may cause electricity to feed back into the power lines, which can endanger linemen and damage electric service facilities. To avoid back-feeding of electricity into utility systems, you must have a qualified, licensed electrician install a double-pole, double-throw transfer switch between the generator and utility power to be in compliance with all state and local electrical codes. (A minimum of 10-gauge wiring must be used.)

- If possible, avoid using candles. If you must use candles, remember that open windows and gusty winds can knock them over or blow flammable materials into them, so be careful about where you place them.
- If your power is out following a storm and you must cook food with Sterno or charcoal, remember to do so outside in a well-ventilated area. Cooking indoors with sterno or charcoal will produce deadly carbon-monoxide fumes.
- Replenish your supplies of batteries, bottled water, non-perishable food items, and firewood in preparation for future storms as soon as it is reasonably possible.



Helping line crews is appreciated, but working with power lines and electricity requires a high degree of training. In order to restore power with the highest degree of safety, restoration must be accomplished in a certain order and procedures. Above all, the hard working men and women restoring

We've certainly had our fair share of hot weather this summer and the next time you notice the temperature outside, we'll probably be right in the middle of winter. The best time to prepare for extreme temperature changes is now, before the season is in full swing.



A view of Ocean Drive in Emerald Isle two days after a snow storm that hit our area in January 2003. Temperatures stayed in the mid teens for several days during January.

The best place to start is by taking a good look around your home. Examples of areas you want to look at closely are; ventilation (controlled air movement), the mechanical portion of your heating and cooling system along with duct work used to deliver conditioned air, infiltration (unwanted air movement), insulation (floors, wall, and ceiling), and appliance use. All of these examples and more contribute to the energy efficiency of your home. Over the next few months, we will be highlighting some of these topics in this publication. This current issue contains a closer look at ventilation and a few examples of appliance use.

Did you know that closing off

ally hinders the airflow of your central air and heating system? It does and that hindrance takes away from the energy efficiency of your home by making your cooling and heating system work longer to reach the desired temperature set on your thermostat. Keeping doors open in your home allows air to move freely.

Household items that pull air out of the home thus affecting your comfort level are exhaust fans in bathrooms or kitchen or a running dryer. Outside vent flaps that don't close properly once an exhaust fan is turned off will allow air to flow freely in and out of your home. In turn, a running dryer will draw 12,000 cubic feet of air per hour, which is deposited out-

side through the dryer's ventilation system*. Remember, air that is pulled out of your home has to be replaced with air from outside through the path of least resistance like cracks in outer doors, walls, and ceiling. Ultimately, your heating and cooling system has to run for longer periods to reach the desired temperature. One suggestion during the warm months is to dry your clothes during cooler times of the day and the opposite is true during the winter months. And, don't forget to turn the exhaust fans off after cooking or taking a shower.



Understanding that your home is a series of systems designed to work together and when they do work well, you will notice a secure level of comfort without an uncomfortable monthly electric bill.

*Information provided by Advanced Energy, a non-profit organization in Raleigh, NC. For more information go to www.advancedenergy.org.

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