

MEMBER

*From Cedar Island to Cedar Point
and many places in between*

News



A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

December 2007

Foundation scholarship applications available

Applications are available now for the 2008 Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation Scholarships.

Five high school seniors, at least one each from East Carteret, West Carteret, Croatan and Havelock high schools, will be selected for the 2008 scholarships. Students who attend other schools, such as Jones Senior or Gramercy, are pooled with the remaining applicants for the fifth scholarship.

The scholarships are for students planning to attend both community colleges and four-year institutions. They provide \$1,000 annually (\$500 per semester) and are renewable for a total of four years.

The selection criteria includes 50 percent need; 25 percent academic

achievement, based on transcripts, SAT score, and grade-point average; and 25 percent extracurricular activities, such as clubs, sports, special projects, community and church involvement.

Applications are available on our Website, on FastWeb, at the high school counselors' office, or members may request applications be mailed by calling Communications Director Lisa Galizia at 252-727-2238 or sending an e-mail to lisat@ccemc.com.

Deadline for submission is 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 29, 2008.

Funding for the scholarships is provided by CCEC member donations to Operation RoundUp®, which is administered by the foundation.



Save money by unplugging 'standby' devices

The little "black boxes" charging your cordless drill, your hand-held vacuum and your cordless phone all consume power even when the appliances are fully-charged. In addition, any equipment that responds to a remote control, such as a TV or stereo, also consumes power when turned off, so that it can instantly respond to the remote. A surprisingly large number of electrical devices cannot be switched off completely without being unplugged.

In the average American household these standby power supplies add up to about \$50 a year or more, as much energy as a modern refrigerator. So, if your home is going to be vacant for several days at a time – or anytime you are not going to be using these electronics or appliances for an extended period, unplug them to reduce your energy use.

To learn more about how you can save energy dollars, visit us on the Web at www.carteretcravenelectric.coop. If you have any energy-savings ideas, send us an e-mail at info@ccemc.com.

Source: Lawrence Berkley Lab at <http://standby.lbl.gov/Data/SummaryChart.html>

on the web

Energy Ant teaches kids all about energy and energy savings.

Click the link at:

www.carteretcravenelectric.coop



carteret-craven electric cooperative

A message from your Board of Directors

Our mission this past year and every year is to provide you reliable energy at the lowest cost possible. One way we addressed that mission this past year was through the completion of the long-awaited Maysville transmission project.

The project, which has been in the works for more than a decade, includes a high-voltage substation near Maysville, the construction of 16 miles of transmission line and other substation upgrades and rebuilding, all of which will provide enhanced reliability and increased capacity needed to keep up with growth in the area. In addition to adding transmission capabilities, the project included rebuilding of nearly all distribution lines from the new substation to Cape Carteret.

As 2007 came to a close, Carteret-Craven and cooperatives across the state were gearing up to meet new mandates approved by the N.C. General Assembly this past summer on renewable energy and base-load electricity generation. Senate Bill 3 created a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard, which requires all electric coopera-

tives in the state to generate or purchase 10 percent of their electricity sales by 2017 from renewable energy, such as wind, solar and others, and/or by reducing energy consumption through energy efficiency improvements.

By far, the most cost effective way to reach the goal of that standard is through energy efficiency, and we will continue to help you, our members, become more energy savvy. Whether you are looking to install a new heating and cooling system, are interested in energy efficient appliances or simply want to change out standard light bulbs with energy efficient compact fluorescent lights, the cooperative has resources to help you with these and other energy decisions. Call (252) 247-3107 or go to our website at www.carteretcravenelectric.coop to learn more about how to make your home and business more energy efficient.

We don't know what the future holds for our industry, yet we remain committed to exceeding your expectations every day. As your elected members to the Board of Directors, we are proud to serve you and wish you a...



...MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Holiday closings

The cooperative's offices will be closed for Christmas on Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25.

The offices will be closed again on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2008, in celebration of the New Year.



Easy ways to reduce cold weather energy use

The typical U.S. family spends \$1,300 a year on home energy bills, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, and some of that energy is wasted. Home heating can be a big energy consumer, especially if your heating system is inefficient, you have windows that leak, or you use energy-hogging appliances.

As colder weather approaches, there are some simple steps you and your family can take, without sacrificing comfort.

Simple things you can do

- *Set your thermostat at 68 degrees. For each degree above or below you can change your kWh usage by 3-5 percent.*
- *Make sure your water heater is in good condition and keep the water temperature between 115-120 degrees.*
- *Limit your time spent in the shower to cut down on hot water usage.*
- *Use cold water as often as possible when*

doing the laundry. Most detergents today work as well in cold water as hot.

- *When cooking, use the smallest oven or burner when cooking, and the smallest pan possible. Don't peek into the oven as you're cooking. Also, defrost foods in the refrigerator before cooking.*

- *Replace or clean your heat pump filters monthly.*

- *Make sure to turn off the lights when you are not in a room.*

Here's another way to save energy during the shorter days of winter, and year round, too. With shorter days, most of us use more lights indoors. If you replace 25 percent of your lights in high-use areas with compact fluorescent bulbs, you could save up to 50 percent of the lighting costs on your energy bill, according to U.S. Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

To find ways to save energy all year long, go to www.carteretcravenelectric.coop.



Although some types of floor coverings, like wood, stone, tile, or concrete, will naturally feel cold on bare feet, insufficient insulation or air infiltration could be the reason for cold floors. Insulation performance is measured by R-value — its ability to resist heat flow. Higher R-values mean more insulating power.

In our area, you should have these minimum insulation levels: Ceilings, R-30; walls, R-15; and floors, R-19. It is very important to seal air leaks before installing insulation in a new home or adding insulation to your existing home to ensure that you get the best performance from the insulation.

Co-op takes advantage of 'Check 21' federal legislation

CCEC will soon be taking advantage of "Check 21" to process payments made by checks.

Doing so will allow CCEC to process checks faster and more efficiently and will reduce check-processing fees charged the cooperative by the banks.

Check 21 is a federal law (Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act) that became effective in 2004. Its primary purpose is to eliminate the necessity of physically transporting original paper checks all

over the country for payment – a system that is slow, costly, and inefficient. Check 21 allows the electronic transmission of a check's image to the originating bank for payment.

If you still receive canceled checks with your bank statement, you will receive a substitute check in place of the original check. A substitute check is a paper copy of the front and back of the original check, printed in accordance with federal standards, and is a legal document that may be used as proof of payment if it

is needed.

Because Check 21 is a much faster check processing procedure, money will be deducted from your checking account more rapidly. Before you write a check, make sure your checking account has enough money to cover the check. Otherwise, you could end up paying returned-check and overdraft fees.

If you have questions about the Check 21 process, you may contact CCEC at 252.247.3107 or your bank account representative.

Alternate heat sources can emit dangerous carbon monoxide

If you use an alternate heating source for the coldest of winter days, you need take precautions to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. This poisonous gas can affect you within a matter of minutes and is responsible for more deaths than any other single poison.

Prevention is the key

Have your fuel-burning appliances – including oil and gas furnaces, gas water heaters, gas ranges and ovens, gas dryers, gas or kerosene space heaters, fireplaces, and wood stoves – inspected by a trained professional at the beginning of every heating season.

When using these appliances, be sure to have the proper fuel and keep doors to the rest of the house open. Crack a window to ensure enough air for ventilation and proper fuel-burning. Have a CO detector installed and be sure it is working.



Here are a few more tips to avoid poisoning:

- *Don't idle the car in a garage – even if the garage door to the outside is open. Fumes can build up very quickly in the garage and living area of your home.*
- *Don't use a gas oven to heat your home, even for a short time.*
- *Don't ever use a charcoal grill indoors – even in a fireplace.*
- *Don't sleep in any room with an unvented gas or kerosene space heater.*
- *Don't use any gasoline-powered engines (mowers, weed trimmer, snow blowers, chain saws, small engines or generators) in enclosed spaces.*
- *Don't ignore symptoms (headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea or dizziness) particularly if more than one person has them.*



carteret-craven electric cooperative



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