

MEMBER

From Cedar Island to Cedar Point
and many places in between

News



A newsletter for members of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

June 2009

Stimulus bill increases funds for weatherization



It's all over the news; with the passage of the federal stimulus bill there's money available to help many Americans weatherize homes and make energy efficiency improvements.

Additional funding has been provided to the Weatherization Assistance Program for those with modest incomes to help them find ways to save energy and lower their energy bills.

The stimulus package raises eligibility from 150 percent to 200 percent of the federal poverty level – to \$21,660 for a single-person household and \$44,100 for a family of four.

Through the program you receive a professional energy consultation and upgrades like proper insulation for your walls, floors and attic, and possible replacement or repair of malfunctioning heating or cooling systems.

Once submitted, your application, along with others, will be reviewed and assessed.

This process may take several months. Since funding is limited, the agencies may not be able to fulfill all weatherization requests.

How can you connect with these resources?

If you live in Carteret, Onslow or Duplin county, contact:

Coastal Community Action

303 McQueen Avenue

Newport, NC 28570

Phone: (252) 223-1630

Toll free: 1-866-210-1630

If you live in Craven or Jones county, contact:

Twin Rivers Opportunities Inc.

318 Craven Street

New Bern, NC 28563-8563

Phone: (252) 637-3599

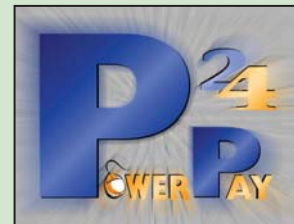
Applications also are available from the cooperative's offices in Havelock, Newport and Harkers Island.

PowerPay 24 adds 'save settings' feature

In response to requests from members, the cooperative has added a "save settings" feature on its secure PowerPay 24 Website.

Rather than having to type in your account number each time you go to the PowerPay site, you can key it in once and click the "save my settings" box. The information will be encrypted and stored safely away for the next time you visit the site to view your account or pay your bill.

With PowerPay 24, you can pay your bill from any computer anytime, even if you are away from home. You get the added peace of mind knowing your account will be credited immediately and your personal information is secure. To access the site, go to www.carteretcravenelectric.coop.



on the web

Watch and listen as consumers like yourself describe their concerns for America's energy future.

www.ourenergy.coop



carteret-craven electric cooperative

New rate structure in effect June 1

Carteret-Craven members will see rate and facility charge changes on their bills beginning in June. The overall increase across all service classes – from residential, to safeguard lighting, to commercial accounts – is roughly 1.85 percent, but the amount will vary depending on rate class and energy use.

The new rate structure is the result of a Cost of Service Study (COSS) that examined not only the cost of purchased power, but also the cost of materials, labor and capital. It does not take into account the cost of yet unknown federal climate change legislation that will likely place a tax on carbon emissions from power plants.

“Energy markets and the economy have seen significant changes over the past couple of years, yet CCEC has done everything possible to minimize the impacts on its members during the ups and downs we all have experienced,” said Carteret-Craven’s CEO and General Manager Craig Conrad.

Cost of Service Study Results

The COSS also evaluated each rate class – residential, small and medium general service, safeguard lighting, and more – and the associated costs for those classes to correct any revenue inequities associated with the present rate structure.

As recommended in the study, the present Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) is factored into the new rates, and members will see no adjustment on bills mailed beginning June 1. That is not to say that changes in the marketplace won’t impact future costs beyond the projections in this study.

The most significant change our members will see is in the basic charge. This is the facilities charge, which covers the costs of construction, operation and maintenance of the meters, lines, substations, poles, etc. that are necessary to deliver electricity to cooperative consumers.

For residential consumers, the basic charge will go from \$12.50 per month to \$20 a month. That may seem high, but if you take a member using an average of 1,000 kWh a month, the overall increase in the bill would

be only a \$1.30 in the summer and \$1.90 in the winter.

“As a member-owned, not-for-profit organization, we work hard to minimize cost increases, but we have little control over energy markets and state and federal mandates,” Conrad said. “We do, however, join with other electric cooperatives through North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) to buy generating resources, including short-term and long-term purchases and a mix of fuels used to generate electricity. We also share ownership in the Catawba nuclear facility, as well as peaking plants, which helps us maintain some stability in generating costs.”

“We do everything we can do to control costs and increase efficiencies,” Conrad continued. “As a member-owned cooperative, we have no reason to generate a large profit to fatten our bottom line.”

In fact, any money earned through the sale of electricity that is above and beyond expenses, is allocated back to all members on the basis of the amount of energy purchased. These margins, called Capital Credits, are returned to members over a period of time.



Summer Rates in Effect

In addition to changes from the Cost of Service Study, members will see the summer energy charge on bills mailed after June 1. The summer rate for residential customers under the newly adopted rate schedule is 9.98¢ per kWh.


The seasonal rate change more accurately reflects the prices the cooperative pays for wholesale power. In this area, electricity costs more in the summer (June through October) when demand is high and less in the winter when the costs decrease.

Get bigger savings with ENERGY STAR televisions

If you are shopping around for a new television set and have your eyes set on plasma, LCD or other new technologies, you need to look at the ENERGY STAR rating to get the most efficient model possible.

A standard (non-ENERGY STAR) 32-inch LCD television set, for instance, uses 100 kWh of electricity more each year than one with the ENERGY STAR rating.

For comparisons of other appliances and electronics, go to: www.carteretcravenelectric.coop

	Standard	
Television set, CRT, 30-inch	318	223
Television set, CRT, 24-inch	256	179
Television set, LCD, 32-inch	334	234
Television set, LCD, 40-inch	528	370
Television set, plasma, 42-inch	736	515
Television set, plasma, 50-inch	982	687
Television set, rear projection, 55-inch	541	379

Source: E Source & ENERGY STAR

Capital Credit earnings are allocated for 2008

When our members sign up for electric service, we agree to provide the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. In turn, each member contributes to the equity of the co-op, which is essential for Carteret-Craven to build, maintain, and upgrade the facilities necessary to providing members with reliable, economical electric service.

On the flip side, each member gets a share of any earnings that are available after the year's expenses are paid out of revenues. These earnings are called Capital Credits. Every electric cooperative in the country is a not-for-profit organization owned by its members, and

every cooperative uses an accounting system that includes Capital Credits.

2008 Allocations

Carteret-Craven has allocated Capital Credits for 2008. Capital credits represent the amount of money the cooperative earned above and beyond operating expenses. That money is allocated to each member's capital credit account based on the amount of electricity used during the year.

To get a close estimate of how much has been assigned to your account for 2008, multiply your total payments for 2008 by .0676%.

Track energy use in real time with a PowerCost Monitor

CCEC has a limited supply of PowerCost Monitors on sale for \$49.95, a \$50 discount from the current retail price. These units provide real-time readings of your energy use, your accumulated energy use since you last reset the device, an estimate of the cost of that electricity consumption and the current outdoor temperature, which is closely related to our electric bills.

The unit consists of a sensor that you install on the outside of your electric meter. Your electrical usage is transmitted to a wireless display you can put in a convenient place inside your home.

Drop by one of our offices in Newport, Havelock or Harkers Island to pick up one today. For more information about the PowerCost Monitor, go to our Website: www.carteretcravenelectric.coop.

On sale now!



Our offices in Newport, Havelock & Harkers Island have Energy Star compact fluorescent lights for **\$2** each.

18-watt CFL = 60-watt equivalent

23-watt CFL = 75-watt equivalent

Save energy & money

An Energy Star CFL will save about \$30 over its lifetime and pay for itself in about 6 months. It uses 75% less energy and lasts about 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb.

Lightning is serious threat during summer storms

More people are killed each year by lightning than by hurricanes, tornadoes or floods, according to The Ready Campaign, an emergency preparedness program developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. By following a few simple tips, you can reduce unnecessary risks during a lightning storm.

⚡ *If a thunder or lightning storm is forecast, monitor conditions by a radio or television.*

⚡ *Stay alert. Typical signs of an oncoming lightning storm are towering clouds with a "cauliflower" shape, dark skies, distant rumbles of thunder and flashes of lightning.*

⚡ *Seek shelter. Get inside a large, enclosed building and stay a few feet away from windows,*

sinks, electric boxes, outlets and appliances. If you are in a vehicle, stay inside with the windows up.

⚡ *Never shower or take a bath during a lightning storm. The energy produced from lightning can be transmitted through the water.*

⚡ *Don't use a corded telephone during a storm. Lightning can flow through the phone line to the phone. Avoid using computers, too.*

⚡ *If you get caught outside, find a spot away from trees, metal and tall or long objects. Crouch down to the ground and try to make yourself shorter than other nearby objects.*

⚡ *If you are in a boat during a lightning storm, get to land immediately. If you cannot get to land, crouch down in the very center of the boat.*



scholarships

The Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation will award **scholarships** to four students who are served by the co-op and are attending or planning to attend Carteret Community College or Craven Community College.

The scholarships are available – pay \$250 per student per semester for up to four semesters of study. For details and a downloadable application, go to: www.carteretcravenelectric.coop. Applications must be received at one of CCEC's offices no later than 5 p.m. on July 15.



carteret-craven electric cooperative 

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On the Web

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