



POWER FACTS

An informational publication for members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative concerning electricity and related subjects.

APRIL 2012

Reader's Choice Award

The *South Hill Enterprise* newspaper recently surveyed its readers on their favorite business establishments in the area. We were pleased to receive the news and this certificate that Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative was ranked highest in the "Electric Company" category.

MEC has received this recognition for the past three years, and we thank everyone who listed Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative as their favorite Electric Company.



Spring Cleaning Tips to Help Save Energy



- Spring-cleaning involves making sure all the fans in your home are working properly and are dust-free.
- Regularly wash or replace all filters and vents in your home.
- When dust and pet hair build up on your refrigerator's condenser coils, the motor works harder and uses more electricity. As part of your spring-cleaning routine, make sure the coils are cleaned and air can circulate freely.
- Don't forget to check the seals on your refrigerator door to make sure they are clean and tight. Your refrigerator accounts for up to 11 percent of your household's total energy use, which can have a major impact on your energy bill.
- Does your home have a sliding glass door? Make sure to keep its track clean. A dirty track can ruin the door's seal and create gaps where heat or cold air can escape.



MEC
is
NOW ON
FACEBOOK



**Mecklenburg Electric
Cooperative Offices
will be closed
Monday, April 9, in
Observance of Easter.**



Stay Cool, Save Money

With These Spring Energy Savings Tips



- Use your windows to keep cool. Spring is the perfect time of year to turn off your air-conditioning unit at night to stay cool. Be sure to close the windows, blinds and window coverings in the early morning to capture the cool air for the day.
- Set your thermostat as high as comfortably possible. The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temperatures, the lower your overall cooling bill will be.
- Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and an unnecessary expense.
- If you use air conditioning, a ceiling fan will allow you to raise the thermostat setting about 4°F with no reduction in comfort.
- Schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment.

Check Out Our Redesigned Bill For Valuable Information

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative recently redesigned the reverse side of the electric bill that you receive each month. It offers a detailed explanation of each charge that appears on your bill, and also reminds members that they have a number of options available for paying their bill.

- **POSTAL SERVICE** - We provide a return envelope for you to mail your payment back.
- **ONLINE WEB PAYMENT** - If you choose to pay online, go to www.meckelec.org and select "Pay Your Bill." This is a secure and easy method of paying your bill.
- **CREDIT CARD** - Call our toll free number at 1-877-541-5737 and follow the prompts to pay by VISA, MasterCard, or DISCOVER. This service is available 24/7.
- **AUTOMATIC BANK WITHDRAWAL** - Your bill can be automatically deducted from your checking/savings account. Each month you will receive your statement indicating the amount and the date the automatic deduction will occur. Call 434-372-6137 to request your automatic withdrawal form.
- **AUTOMATIC CREDIT CARD PAYMENT** - Each month you can have your electric bill charged to your VISA, MasterCard, or DISCOVER. Your statement will still be delivered indicating the amount and day that your credit card will be deducted. Call 434-372-6137 for an enrollment form.
- **EBILL SERVICE** - If you choose to go paperless, simply visit our website, www.meckelec.org, and select "Pay Your Bill." You will receive an email monthly with a link to access your bill online.
- **DISTRICT OFFICES** - We have three district offices open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to take payments and answer questions.

Also, at the bottom of the reverse side of the bill, space is provided for members to update account information. It is very important that we have your accurate information on file, especially if an outage should occur. When you call our outage reporting system and your information is up-to-date, your location is instantly pinpointed. We can deploy line personnel quicker to your location which means faster repair time and shorter outage duration for you. You can be assured that MEC does not sell members' private information.

Visit our website www.meckelec.org