



POWER FACTS

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

APRIL 2013



Did You Know?

FUN FACTS FROM 1938

- Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative was established in March of 1938.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt was president of the United States.
- The Agricultural Adjustment Act was passed helping farmers affected by the Dust Bowl.
- The Fair Labor Standards Act was established with the minimum hourly rate of 25 cents.
- Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae - FNMA) was founded in response to the Great Depression.

Compare These Average Prices Over The Last 75 Years

	<u>1938</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Average Increase Per Year</u>
Average US Rent	\$27.00	\$1,350.00	5.35%
Gas (per gallon)	\$0.10	\$3.58	4.89%
Loaf of Bread	\$0.09	\$2.79	4.68%
Lb of Hamburger	\$0.13	\$2.44	3.99%
Stamp	\$0.03	\$0.46	3.71%
MEC Rate (for 1000 kwh Usage)	\$31.00	\$103.49*	1.62%

* Price does not include fuel adjustment

Sharing Memories



"I grew up in the country on a farm with my parents in the Pittsville Community with no electricity. I helped mama wash clothes on a wash board in a tub of water. I drew water out of a well for house use. My mama kept milk and butter cold in an ice cabinet. Ice was delivered twice a week in the community."
 --Clara George Osborne, Gretna, VA

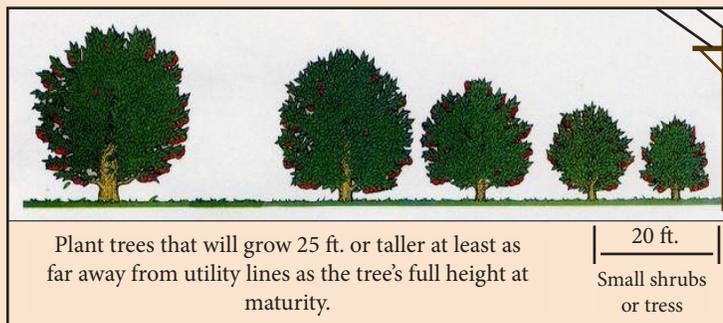


We thank Ms. Osborne for sharing her memories of the days before electricity. If you have some that you would like to share, please send it to:

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative
 C/O : Sharing Memories
 P O Box 2451
 Chase City, VA 23924

Where To Plant a Tree

Spring is here and it is time to start working outdoors. If your yard sprucing will involve planting trees or shrubs, take time to consider where power lines are located first, both overhead and underground. Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC) must maintain its right-of-way in order to deliver reliable electric services to its members. Ideally, we would like to trim or cut down as few residential trees as possible; however, this requires your help. Please see the chart below for ideal locations of planting trees away from power lines.



For more information on MEC's vegetation management program, visit www.meckelec.org and go to Member Services, then Vegetation Management. If you have additional questions or if you are concerned about tree branches that are already growing near power lines, please contact Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's utility arborist, Ray DeJarnette at 434-372-6155.



Aside from overhead power lines, some lines are buried. Always call Miss Utility before you dig because you may not always know where lines are buried. When you contact Miss Utility, local electric, water and sewer, telephone and cable companies are dispatched to mark all underground lines. For your safety, ALWAYS dial 8-1-1 before you plant a tree, add an addition to your home, install an underground pool or anything else that requires digging.

Top 10 Spring Energy Savings Tips

1. **Install ceiling fans ... and use 'em!** Ceiling fans can make your rooms feel a few degrees cooler and circulate air to make you more comfortable.
2. **Schedule annual air conditioner service.** Make sure your A/C is in peak performance in order to extend its life and save you money in the process.
3. **Install weatherstripping to close gaps around windows and doors.** Weatherstripping prevents air leaks, which make your home hotter and cause your A/C to work harder.
4. **Clean your refrigerator coils.** Like clean air conditioner filters, clean refrigerator coils help your fridge operate more efficiently and prolong its life.
5. **Install low-flow shower heads.** Low-flow shower heads reduce the amount of water you use every time you shower, saving you big over the course of a year.
6. **Replace burned out light bulbs with energy-efficient CFLs.** CFLs last seemingly forever and use a fraction of the energy used by conventional bulbs.
7. **Save heat-generating chores for nighttime.** Your house is already hot enough. Don't add to the heat by running dish washers, ovens, clothes dryers, etc. Use those appliances at night or early in the morning to minimize the effects of the heat.
8. **Turn down your water heater.** When it is warm outside...those steamy hot showers are less of a necessity.
9. **Dress appropriately.** Wear cool, breathable clothes to prevent yourself from overheating in the Spring and Summer. Doing so reduces your dependence on your A/C to keep you cool.
10. **Do some Spring cleaning.** Get rid of excess clothing, old furniture, books you've already read, and unused appliances to save some space in your house and keep you cooler.