



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

POWER FACTS

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

AUGUST 2012

SUMMER IS A SCORCHER!!

How does weather affect your bill?

The summer season for 2012 has started and maintained its excruciatingly hot weather since the beginning of July. Unfortunately, this heat is not good for many reasons and one thing that Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative is concerned about, is our members! Extreme temperatures (100°F and above during the summer) cause cooling systems to reach their maximum capacity which causes the efficiency of the unit to drop. In other words, your system will work much harder to cool your home and may not be able to effectively attain the temperature you have selected. This also leads to higher electric bills. Your cooling system can account for as much as 50% of your electricity bill in the summer.

What can you do to save energy?

- Keep your thermostat set to 78° or warmer with the thermostat fan switch “on.” One degree change will affect your electric bill by 3% - 5%.
- Move your thermostat to a minimum of 82° when you are away from home.
- Clean or replace your cooling system’s filter every month to help it run more efficiently.
- Close blinds and drapes during the hottest part of the day to reflect sunlight and heat away from your home’s interior.

Go to www.meckelec.org and browse our “Save Energy” section to see how you can stay cool while cutting back in other ways on electric consumption this summer.

Beware of Recent Scams!!

With electric bills rising, an offer for energy assistance by the Obama Administration sounds blissful, right? Wrong!! In recent months, electric consumers across the nation have been contacted by scammers offering assistance (up to \$1000) due to the rising costs of energy bills because of the heat. DO NOT FALL VICTIM TO THIS SCAM.

Many methods of spreading the scam have been used such as Facebook, phone calls, text messaging, flyers, and even door-to-door visits. The culprits ask the consumer (you) to provide your banking account information or your social security number. In exchange for this information the victims are often provided with a rebate code or a confirmation of payment. In many instances, it will actually appear as if your electric bill has been paid; however, the scammers are using fake banking numbers to pay these victims’ balances. A day or two later, the bank will return the payment to the utility company in the same fashion as a “returned check.” The consumer will then have to pay the electric bill, possible late fees, a return check fee, and what is worse is the consumer has become a possible victim of identity theft.

This scam has been very persuasive to many, especially to the elderly and low-income families who are struggling through the rise of summer electric bills. Record heat waves are enough to lead many to desperation. “There’s no way to accurately measure how many people have been affected, but this feels pretty widespread,” said Katherine Hutt, spokesperson for the Arlington, VA. – based Better Business Bureau.

“No one knows who is behind this, but we’re pretty concerned,” Hutt said. “It seems to have really taken off.”



SUPPORT FROM OUR MEMBERS



Along with the heat being nearly unbearable, storms are brewing almost daily and causing both sporadic and widespread power outages. Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative employees have worked a tremendous amount of hours lately restoring electricity for our members and it has been wonderful to receive such positive feedback.

We have been co-op members since 1973 and were among the many who lost power June 29 in the wind storm. We were without power for about 38 hours, but based on our experience with Mecklenburg Electric, we never questioned whether or not our power would be restored as quickly as possible. Your workers must suffer greatly in pouring rain, high winds, snow, ice, and in this case, extremely high temperatures, but they always come through for us. We just want to say a sincere, heartfelt "Thank You" to all the people who work so hard to provide service to us.

--Richard and Jean Woosley

Thanks, Mecklenburg Electric, for getting the power back on - and for having accurate info on your auto phone line about when it would be back. Feeling even more sorry for the folks who are still waiting after last week's storms. Pure Misery.

--Julie Drohan



FROM OUR FACEBOOK FRIENDS



Deborah Perkins Roark - Thank you, thank you so much for your hard work. You will probably never know how much you are appreciated. I can never thank you enough.

July 2 at 1:14pm

Lisa Carlton Wagstaff - BIG THANKS for all your hard work!!

July 2 at 1:42pm

Christy Gibbs Dodd - We didn't lose power...but I want to thank each and every one of them for their hard work and determination.

July 2 at 1:51pm

Brenda Couch - I appreciate and thank you so much for working so hard in restoring our lost power !!

July 2 at 4:22pm

Alicia Woodard - Wanted to thank you for the hard work you do to keep our electricity flowing. The Asplundh trucks were here early this morning trimming limbs to protect the power lines and we are very thankful to have an electric co-op that tries to prevent damage before it happens. Kudos!

July 19 at 10:37am

Tony Wilkerson - Thanks for all you do and sacrifices you make away from your families to make sure we have electricity that we take for granted everyday. You too are unsung heroes just like fire, police, EMS, and military. Your jobs are very dangerous especially in heat like now and ice storms in the winter. Thanks again for working so hard to provide for us. May God bless you and your families.

July 1 at 5:24pm