



# POWER FACTS

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

MARCH 2012

## 2012 - International Year of the Co-op

This year electric co-ops join a global celebration of member-owned businesses during International Year of Cooperatives. Why? What is so special about cooperatives you may ask? Member-owned electric co-ops have transformed the landscape of rural America by delivering safe, reliable, and affordable electricity for 75 years now and that is something worth celebrating.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Electric co-op lines cover 75 percent of the U.S. landmass.
- Serve 42 million people in 47 states.
- Electric co-ops have retired \$9.5 billion to members (capital credits) since 1990.

### HOW ARE CO-OPS DIFFERENT?

- Co-ops are member-owned and locally operated, so your money stays in the community.
- Members have a voice in how the co-op is run because they elect the co-op's board of directors.
- Member ownership means co-ops are accountable to their members, not distant stockholders.
- Our rates cover the costs of doing business and are not marked up to generate a profit.
- Co-ops give money back to their members when revenues exceed costs.

Don't Forget to Turn Your  
Clocks **UP** on  
March 11<sup>th</sup>.



Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC) began serving its members in March of 1938. Therefore, this month we celebrate our 74th Anniversary. MEC now provides electric service to over 31,000 accounts across portions of nine counties in Virginia and our member-owners total has reached just over 25,000.

Over the last 74 years, more than \$28 million in capital credits have been returned to the member-owners of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative. In 2010 alone, MEC distributed \$1.6 million.

MEC works very hard to help our member-owners by communicating about saving money through energy efficiency, energy conservation

and other cost cutting measures. We also work closely with other cooperatives, many government entities and legislature to control costs, incorporate renewables and plan for the future.

Learn more about cooperatives and the principles that define them at [www.go.coop](http://www.go.coop). To find out more information about your cooperative, please visit our website at [www.meckelec.org](http://www.meckelec.org).



The highlighted area shows Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative's territory in Virginia.



## Online Energy Audits To Save You Money



Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative is making every effort to promote energy efficiency by developing new programs that will help our members save money. In addition to using media such as the *Cooperative Living* magazine, brochures, flyers, radio commercials, newspaper ads, *Power Facts* flyers, and group presentations to educate our members, MEC has a great tool that you can access, right at your fingertips, at any time...our website, [www.meckelec.org](http://www.meckelec.org).

Whether you are a tech savvy individual or a one-finger typist who hates computers, our website will easily walk you through suggestions to save money on your electric bill. Log on and browse these links under "Save energy" for easy money saving tips that you may be missing.

- Together We Save
- Home Energy Suite
- Energize Efficiently



## 100 Point Inspections

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC) offers free energy audits to residential members of the Cooperative. Upon request, an energy advisor will visit the premises and utilize a 100-point checklist to inspect areas throughout the home, including insulation in the attic and underneath the floors. An infrared camera reveals air leaks that should be sealed to immediately save energy.



A follow up packet is mailed to the member with a list of specific recommendations to help improve energy efficiency and reduce electricity costs. The information packet also includes energy saving literature, an appliance cost estimator, and mem-

ber usage patterns broken down by base load, heating load, and cooling load. The energy advisor will keep the member informed throughout the process, addressing concerns, providing education on energy efficiency, and reinforcing the difference between the Cooperative and other utilities.

MEC is committed to helping our members save money. Therefore, if you feel that you have exhausted the simpler energy savings measures, please call your local district office. Our goal is to ensure that we are helping you save as much as possible on your electric bill without jeopardizing your level of comfort.



**Chase City Office**  
434-372-6200

**Gretna Office**  
434-656-1288

**Emporia Office**  
434-634-6168

## BEAT THE PEAK

Help Your Cooperative Reduce Power-Supply Cost

### How?

Delay or avoid the use of electric energy during key peak periods.

### When?

Winter Months (October thru April) from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Summer Months (May thru September) from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

### Ways you can help:

- Delay running the dishwasher, washing machine or clothes dryer
- Delay taking showers or using hot water
- Turn off unnecessary lights or appliances