



POWER FACTS

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

MARCH 2015

**Help Us
"Beat the Peak"**
and save you money!

On February 20, 2015, frigid temperatures drove Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC)'s peak demand to an all-time high at 8:00 a.m. With temperatures falling to near zero, MEC's system peaked at 183 megawatts. This shatters the previous peak of 169 megawatts reached on January 30, 2014, during the polar vortex. The low temperatures also forced peaks across the State of Virginia and the region, including record demands by MEC's wholesale power provider, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC).

To put this milestone in perspective, MEC President and CEO John Lee states that the yearly average peak demand for Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative is 120 megawatts. "The extreme temperatures that we experienced pushed our members' heating systems to the limit, causing those systems to run around the clock," he says. "Collectively, this demand drove our electric system to peak at historic levels, placing tremendous strain on our transformers, electric lines and substations. Our system, however, remained strong and reliable and met the needs of our membership."

During extreme cold temperatures, members of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative are encouraged to reduce their contribution to such extreme peaks by lowering their thermostats 3 degrees and delaying major appliance and hot water usage between 6-9 a.m. on the coldest days.

Lee adds, "A substantial task required in maintaining our distribution system involves analyzing the impact of peaks experienced during previous summers and winters. Every three years we complete a comprehensive work plan where computer modeling is used to identify areas of potential overloading. These lines are then upgraded to meet future electric demand and thus avoid an unfortunate outage on a minus 2-degree day."

In previous years, the heating of homes and businesses has been the driving factor in setting the Cooperative's peak demand; however, the heat of summer also requires electricity conservation. During extreme hot temperatures, members are encouraged to raise their thermostats by 3 degrees and also delay the use of major appliances and hot water between 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Demand and energy costs for electricity are significantly increasing. During high cost "Peak" energy periods high-priced fuels are used to meet our needs. Energy produced from these sources significantly impacts the cost of your electricity. Help us, Help you! Together we can "Beat the Peak" by using energy wisely.



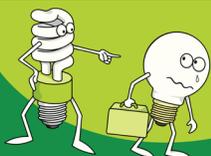
Does St. Patrick's Day Make You Think **GREEN?**

Since the late eighteenth century, St. Patrick's Day celebrations have included gatherings, eating and drinking, religious observances, and numerous parades all adorned in the color GREEN. At Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC), we don't just celebrate **GREEN** on this Irish holiday; we celebrate **GREEN** all year long.

The dedicated employees of MEC are always thinking of ways to make our members more energy efficient by providing the resources needed to become an energy conscious electric consumer. Each of our district offices, Emporia, Chase City and Gretna, are filled with brochures that explain how you can lower electric usage and your bill by making simple low-cost/no-cost changes to your lifestyle and home. We also have information located on our website and on our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages.

In addition to saving you money, our energy portfolio is becoming greener by providing renewable energy, such as power generated by wind, hydro and landfill gas. For a small fee, MEC also offers electric service that is fully backed (100%) by Renewable Energy Certificates. Additionally, MECs wholesale power supplier, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, is in the process of constructing Wildcat Point; a natural gas power plant which is slated to be one of the cleanest natural gas facilities of its size. This facility will generate approximately 1,000 megawatts, enough to power 390,000 homes in the region annually.

Do your part this Saint Patrick's Day by visiting our website at www.meckelec.org to see how you can save energy, become **GREENER**, and keep more '**GREEN**' in your wallet.



**Small changes can
make a huge impact!**



1

Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

2

Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

3

Member Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.

4

Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.

5

Education, Training, and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative.

6

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together.

7

Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.