



POWER FACTS

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

OCTOBER 2011

ACROSS THE COUNTRY THIS OCTOBER, COOPERATIVES CELEBRATE CO-OP MONTH

Cooperatives



Investor-owned Corporations Compared

Ownership

Cooperatives: Owned by members—the people who buy the goods or use the services of the cooperative.

Investor-owned: Owned by outside shareholders who may or may not use the goods and services of the business.

Accountability

Cooperatives: Board members are directly accountable to members through nomination and election procedures.

Investor-owned: Election and nomination procedures afford little meaningful oversight to shareholders.

Dividends

Cooperatives: Any profits earned by the co-op are reinvested in the business and/or returned to members based on how much business they conducted with the co-op that year—their patronage.

Investor-owned: Profits returned to shareholders based on their ownership share.

Motivation

Cooperatives: Maximize member-service.

Investor-owned: Maximize shareholder returns.

Structure

Cooperatives: Co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis. Depending on the type, co-ops can organize under a variety of structures—as co-ops, as non-profits, and as regular corporations. All co-ops operate according to co-op principles.

Investor-owned: Generally organized as C corporations.

This October, Cooperatives across the United States will celebrate cooperative enterprise and the contributions cooperatives make to social and economic development. A cooperative is a member-owned and controlled business that operates for the mutual benefit of its members. Cooperatives operate across all sectors of the US economy and include agriculture, food distribution and retailing, childcare, credit unions, purchasing, worker-owned, housing, healthcare, energy and telecommunications cooperatives. Cooperatives promote the fullest possible participation in the economic and social development of all people. Cooperatives are a major economic force in developed countries and a powerful business model in developing ones. Worldwide, approximately 1 billion people are members of cooperatives. The economic activity of the largest 300 cooperatives in the world equals the 10th largest national economy. To learn more about cooperatives, visit <http://go.coop>.

The Seven Co-op Principles

Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all people able to use its services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are controlled by their members—those who buy the goods or use the services of the cooperative—who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

Members' Economic Participation

Members contribute equally to the capital of the cooperative. This benefits members in proportion to the business they conduct with the cooperative rather than on the capital invested.

Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintains the cooperative's autonomy.

Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

Cooperation among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members.



Happy Halloween

From Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative



Beware of small, strange creatures after dark.

You know what happens around here on October 31. Small, strange creatures dot our roads at night. Creeping up to homes with large bags. And dashing from one place to another, often forgetting about passing cars and trucks. Halloween is one of the most fun nights kids have all year. But in their excitement, they don't always think about safety. Which means those of us driving cars and trucks need to do it for them. So, around the end of the month, your friends here at Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative want to remind you to drive with even more care than usual. Let's keep Halloween a special treat.

Don't forget to grab your Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative Trick-or-Treat bag from your local district office.

Safe Hunting Near Powerlines

It's fall, the season of the year when a great tradition takes to the field. Unfortunately, power lines seem to make a pretty good place to ambush a buck because the ground beneath the lines are typically overgrown with low brush and saplings.

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative wants you to be successful and safe when hunting so please remember the rules when it comes to electric lines.



1. Never take a shot if your bullet might hit a power line, pole, or transmission tower.
2. Be aware that at any time there may be workers performing maintenance in the area.
3. Never use electric lines to hang or suspend decoys or other objects.
4. Never climb electric utility poles while hunting - or any other time.
5. Wear blaze orange!!

Looking for something different to give those little goblins this year when they come knocking on your door? Try these ideas instead of the usual candies.

.....

1. Erasers - kids love different types, colors, designs, animal prints, etc.
2. Mini Glow Sticks - you will be the hit of the block by handing these out.
3. Popcorn Balls - everyone loves popcorn and it's even better when it comes in a ball.
4. Crayons - what kid doesn't love coloring.
5. Juice Boxes - With all of that candy, they will be craving something to drink