



# POWER FACTS

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

OCTOBER 2012

## The Cooperative Difference

Every October since 1930, cooperatives of all industries have celebrated Cooperative Month. During this time, it makes sense to highlight the qualities that make electric cooperatives different from other types of utilities and businesses.

For starters, electric co-ops are owned by those they serve. That's why those of you who receive electric service from Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative are called members, not customers. Without our members, there would be no Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative.

The principle that sets us apart from other businesses is our concern for community. As a cooperative, we have a special responsibility to support the areas in which our members live and work. From sponsoring a local sports team to supporting new jobs and industry through our economic development efforts, we stand as a driving force in our community.

Of course, co-ops span all industries, including credit unions, dairy operations, health care, housing, and much more. There are more than 29,000 co-ops across the nation and not all are small or rural. Just look at nationally known co-ops like Sunkist, Ace Hardware, and Land O'Lakes.

Overall, co-ops are more accessible than other types of businesses. We give our members a voice, and we are local -- living and working alongside those we serve.

**THAT'S THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE.**

**LOCAL.  
TRUSTED.  
SERVING  
YOU.™**

## Free Trick-or-Treat Bags



Don't forget to pick-up a free trick-or-treat bag from Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative for your child/grandchild. Children love our Halloween bags because they are brightly colored, have easy-grip handles, and hold lots of treats.

**Give creative treats to your Trick-or-Treaters this year.**

Try these ideas:

1. **Tattoos** - Cut up sheets of temporary tattoos in groups of two or three tattoos for a fun and cheap giveaway.
2. **Silly Putty or Play Doh** - Buy smaller, less expensive "sample" size containers available in multi-pack cases in assorted colors.
3. **Stickers** - Individual sheets of stickers from multi-packs make fun giveaways. Buy a variety of stickers that would please girls or boys.
4. **Silly bands** - To save money, hand out only one or two silly bands (also known as "Fun Bands" or "Silly Bandz") per child. Let kids pick the colors they would like.



## Beware of Scam Artists in the Area



In recent months it has been reported to the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department that an individual identifying himself as a Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative employee has been going door to door requesting homeowners to let him come inside to perform a room measurement. This person is not an employee of the Cooperative, and residents throughout our service territory should be warned to verify that anyone claiming to represent Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative or any other entity is legitimate. Protect yourself and your family from scam artists by following these tips:

- Do not open your door to someone you do not recognize.
- Do not allow anyone to enter your home if you are not sure of his or her identity. Ask to see photo identification (I.D) through a window. Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative and other utility employees and contractors carry photo I.D. cards. Legitimate employees will be happy to show you their I.D. if you ask. Or call Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative to verify their identification.
- Call to verify work to be done at your home. Call the police if you believe the person is an imposter.
- Do not allow anyone to enter your home claiming to collect a past-due bill, inspect plumbing fixtures, or to sell utility products such as a meter or other equipment.
- Advise your elderly loved ones, friends, and children about what to do if strangers approach their home and ask to come in.

## Fall into Energy Savings

Fall is a season that brings with it so many wonderful things: The harvest, gorgeous arrays of colors brought on by changing leaves, sweatshirts and football season, Halloween and Thanksgiving, and our all-time favorite, cool, crisp air.

The colder mornings and evenings combined with warmer days offer a great opportunity for our members to maximize energy efficiency in your homes. Also, as we approach heating season, it's a good time to boost the efficiency of your home to help continue to save energy through the winter.

Here are some great fall efficiency tips to consider:

- Dress warmly in your home and lower your thermostat. By simply lowering your thermostat a couple of degrees, you can save up to 4% on your monthly heating bill. Turn your heat down even more at night and snuggle up under the covers to save even more.
- Have your furnace inspected and cleaned by a professional. If you have an old furnace that needs to be replaced, go with a high-efficiency Energy Star model.
- Change the air filter in your HVAC system and save up to 5% per month on your heating bill.
- Insulate and seal. Seal all the leaks around your doors, windows and outlets. By sealing these leaks, you can save up to 20% on your heating bill. Add extra insulation to areas such as the attic and crawl spaces to save additional money each year.

\*\* Percentages from [www.blog.ugi.com](http://www.blog.ugi.com) \*\*



## Pecan Cheesecake Pie

### Ingredients

- 1/2 (15-oz.) package refrigerated piecrusts
- 1 (8-oz.) package cream cheese, softened
- 4 large eggs, divided
- 3/4 cup sugar, divided
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/4 cups chopped pecans
- 1 cup light corn syrup

### Preparation

1. Fit piecrust into a 9-inch pie plate according to package directions. Fold edges under, and crimp.
2. Beat cream cheese, 1 egg, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 tsp. vanilla, and salt at medium speed with an electric mixer until smooth. Pour cream cheese mixture into piecrust; sprinkle evenly with chopped pecans.
3. Whisk together corn syrup and remaining 3 eggs, 1/4 cup sugar, and 1 tsp. vanilla; pour mixture over pecans. Place pie on a baking sheet.
4. Bake at 350° on bottom rack 50 to 55 minutes or until pie is set. Cool completely.