



# POWER FACTS

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

OCTOBER 2013

## October is for Celebrating Co-ops

Join Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative in celebrating cooperatives in Virginia and across America during National Cooperative Month. Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique: local democratic control, commitment to supporting the communities they serve and improving quality of life, special benefits and services, and the return of margins (profit) back to members in the form of capital credits.

Cooperatives are different because we have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but we take that a step further. We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and enhance our communities.

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative is proud to be part of America's cooperative network, which employs more than 850,000 people. Across the nation, 29,000 co-ops and credit unions generate \$74 billion in annual wages and nearly \$500 billion in revenue.

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives across 47 states. Together we serve approximately 42 million people and all of this is because communities around the world banded together and lit up the countryside when no one else would.

**That's what we celebrate each October!!**



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK 2013  
October 6-12

Prevent Home Electrical Fires

Electrical Safety Foundation International ESFI  
www.esfi.org

### Safety Tips

Electrical fires in the home claim close to 280 American lives each year and injure 1,000 more. Faulty wiring is the leading cause, followed by appliance defects and the improper use of electrical items.

During National Fire Prevention Week, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative reminds you to check the electrical appliances and wiring in your home. Avoid overloading extension cords, and replace those that are worn or damaged. This winter, keep clothes, curtains and other combustible items at least three feet from all heaters, and don't allow children to play around them.

In addition, keep electrical appliances away from wet floors and counters, and pay special attention to appliances in the bathroom and kitchen. Having a working smoke alarm dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire. And remember to practice a home escape plan frequently with your family.

## Free Trick-or-Treat Bags





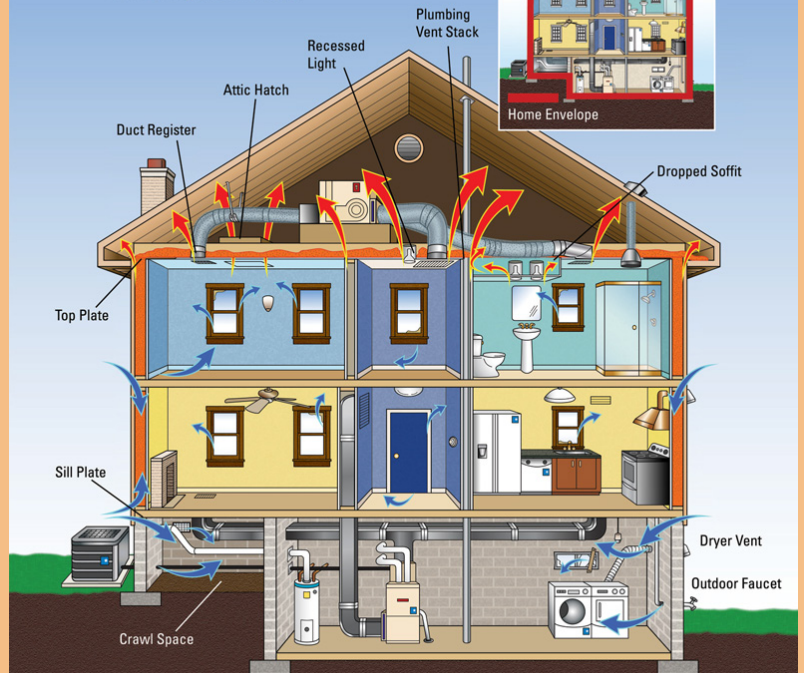
It's that time of year again when the little ghosts, goblins and fairy tale princesses come to life and wander our streets in search of candy and other goodies. Don't forget to come

by your local Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative office and pick up a free trick-or-treat bag for your child/grandchild. These Halloween bags are great for kids because they are brightly colored, have easy-grip handles, and hold lots of treats.

Have a Happy Halloween and remember to talk to your children about safety when they are trick-or-treating. We want all of our little goblins to have a fun and memorable experience.

### COMMON AIR LEAKS

 Air Leaking into the house  
 Air Leaking out of the house



Source: U.S. EPA



### Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Keep wintry drafts out of your home by sealing cracks and gaps. Weather stripping around doors and windows works well when you can see daylight between the frame and the wall or floor. Use caulk to seal around the frames where you see gaps. For more tips and tricks, visit [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

Source: [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com)

## October Sales Tax Holiday: Energy Star and WaterSense Qualified Products

The 2013 Energy Star Sales Tax holiday will take place Friday, Oct. 11, 2013, through Monday, Oct. 14, 2013.

**What's Exempt:** During this period, purchases of certain Energy Star and WaterSense qualified products purchased for non-commercial use and costing \$2,500 or less will be exempt from sales tax. The exempt Energy Star items include dishwashers, clothes washers, refrigerators, air conditioners, ceiling fans, compact fluorescent light bulbs, and programmable thermostats that carry the Energy Star designation. The exempt WaterSense items include bathroom sink faucets, faucet accessories, and toilets. Retailers may also choose to absorb the tax on other items during the holiday period, but they are responsible for paying the tax on those items to the Department of Taxation.

For more information, visit the Virginia Department of Taxation website at [www.tax.virginia.gov/site.cfm?alias=EnergyStarQualifiedProductsHoliday](http://www.tax.virginia.gov/site.cfm?alias=EnergyStarQualifiedProductsHoliday).