

Lumbee River

Electric Membership Corporation



 APRIL 2009 MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

We're Looking Out For You For The Future

Have you ever heard the fable about the ant and the grasshopper? On a sunny summer day, a grasshopper was flitting about, and came across an ant toiling under the weight of a kernel of corn.

"Why all the hard work?" the grasshopper asked.

"I'm collecting this corn for winter, and recommend you do the same," the ant replied.

"Why bother storing corn now? There's plenty to go around!" the grasshopper scoffed, hopping off into the sun.

Well, we all know how that winter went for the grasshopper, who never did get around to storing any corn.

That valuable lesson also applies to the electricity we use every day. Lumbee River EMC and electric cooperatives across the country stand at a crossroads. At the moment, we are able to power our homes with the mere flip of a switch, as safe, reliable, and affordable electricity remains readily available. The grasshoppers of the world are happy.



But in recent years, several factors—increasing demand for electricity, rising fuel and construction costs, and decisions limiting what types of power plants we can build—place our energy future in limbo. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) predicts that our need for electricity will climb by 30 percent between now and 2030. Unfortunately, the power available may not be able to keep up with this growth as construction of new generation capacity is being put on hold while Congress reworks national energy policy.

However, we do have a powerful resource to tap in the meantime: energy efficiency. With widespread energy efficiency measures in place, including those we've implemented on our distribution lines as well as measures you can take at home, annual growth in

electricity demand could drop by almost half of 1 percent, to 2.2 percent, according to the Arlington, Va.-based Cooperative Research Network.

In other words, saving electricity now will both reduce your current utility bills and soften the blow against future power supply shortcomings. And being energy efficient doesn't mean being flat-out stingy with energy use. It means doing things in your home you normally would, but in a smarter way.

Lumbee River EMC is on your side in this effort, and we have a long history of helping members get the most out of the power coming down our lines. The vast majority of electric cooperatives across the nation—92 percent—join us in these efforts. Together we can save those "kernels of power" for an uncertain future, and reduce our electric bills in the meantime.

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The Co-op Commitment to Affordable Power

Each month you budget for your phone, electricity, house, and car payments. Generally you know how much each bill will cost and plan your spending accordingly. But what if you couldn't control your energy costs? What if, each month, they climbed beyond your reach?

At Lumbee River EMC we deliver affordable power to you every day. It's why electric cooperatives were created, and it's a commitment we plan to keep. But national energy legislation could force prices higher than many consumers can afford, effectively taking us back to the dawn of the twentieth century.

In the 1920s and early '30s, central station electric service was a luxury that only 10 percent of rural residents

nationwide enjoyed—and those who had power paid dearly for it. When Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Warm Springs, Ga., in 1924, he was dismayed to find electricity for his small cottage cost four times what it did at his estate in New York. After being elected president, he created the federal Rural Electrification Administration by Executive Order to make power affordable for all Americans. As a result, electric co-ops were born.

Innovations in line building pioneered by co-op engineers and the competitive pressure co-ops placed on investor-owned utilities to serve rural areas slashed the cost of providing electric service in the countryside by 50 percent or more. In the decades since, co-ops have established

a proven track record of offering stable and affordable electric rates. Data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), in fact, shows that since 2000 co-op electric rates have consistently run lower than the industry average. This is further proof that we're committed to keeping electricity bills within your means.

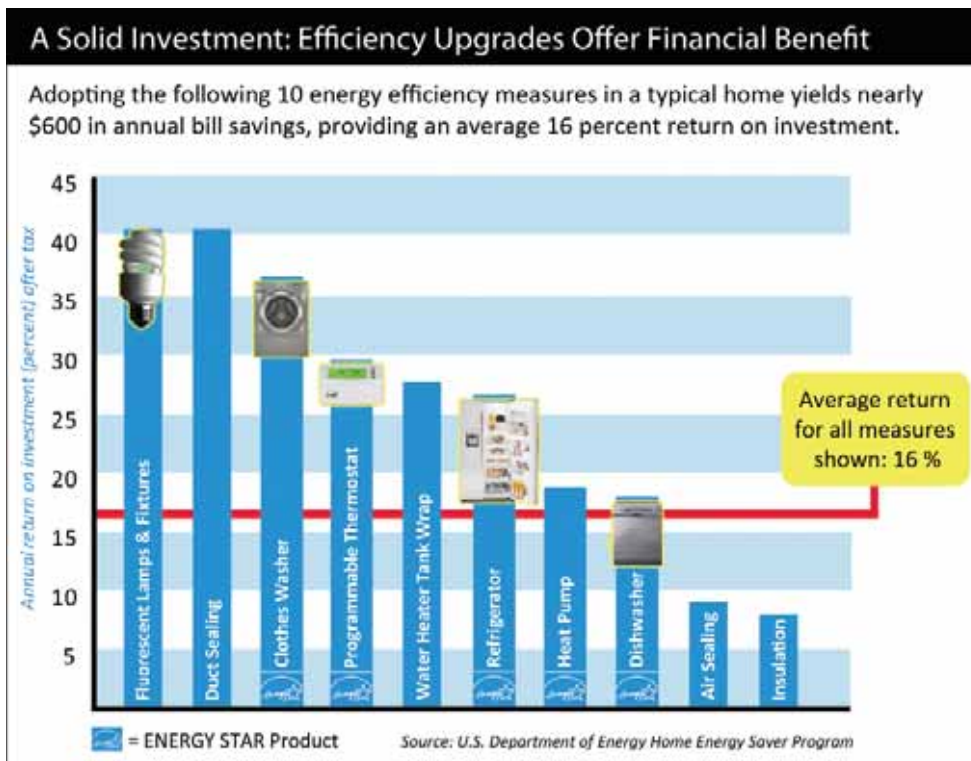
But the struggle for affordable power that farmers and their neighbors fought three-quarters of a century ago has flared up again. When adjusted for inflation, EIA predicts the price of electricity for residential consumers will climb 14.6 percent by 2030—but federal energy and climate change policy will likely impact energy prices further. Electric cooperatives are needed once

again to make sure affordable power will be available in 2030 and beyond. Our job, on your behalf, is to work closely with Congress to find the best solutions for addressing climate change while keeping the price of electricity within your means.

Lumbee River EMC remains committed to providing you with safe, reliable, and affordable power—but we need your help. Through the "Our Energy, Our Future"™ grassroots awareness campaign, co-op members across the nation are speaking out about the importance of keeping electric bills affordable. New energy and climate change policies being debated in Congress could turn your monthly budget upside-down. Now is the time to ask our elected officials: Will you please work with electric cooperatives to be sure public policy meets my need for affordable electricity?

Visit www.ourenergy.coop today and send an e-mail to your elected representatives sharing your concern.

Sources: *The Next Greatest Thing*, U.S. Energy Information Administration



Energy Costs for Consumers

The cost of residential energy use in the... by 10.8 percent from May, the biggest... the report. The price of electricity... June, was the main driver...

Power bills have... cost of fuel... above...

Millions of Rural Americans Feel Pinch Of Skyrocketing Price of Propane

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Big heating bills... already hit... at historical... record...

...demand for the propane industry...

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Gardening Safety

Tips Include Storing Chemicals Out Of Children's Reach

Spring is one of the most popular seasons for gardening in North Carolina. When done with safety in mind, gardening is a fun activity that brings natural beauty to your property, but many people are injured each year as a result of careless gardening accidents.

Following these simple safety tips will help keep your property well groomed and keep you safe this spring.

- Always call before you dig! Call the North Carolina One-Call Center just by dialing 811 before digging on your property. After you call this number, someone will be sent to your house in just a few days to mark all of the utility lines on your property. This will help you avoid striking utility lines while digging, which could cause electric



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

shock or even result in death. For more information, visit the Web site at www.call811.com. Don't take any chances.

- Avoid overexposure to the sun. Do not garden from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., when ultra violet rays are the strongest. Always wear a hat and SPF of at least 15.
- Stay hydrated when you are working in the garden. Have plenty of water or sports drinks available.

- When using power equipment, follow all instructions that came with the equipment, and wear long pants, close fitting clothes and safety glasses while operating the equipment.
- If your power equipment uses gas, only fill up the gas tank while the engine is stopped.
- Never use power equipment in damp or wet conditions.
- Before using a lawn mower, clear the area of rocks, twigs, toys or anything else that could be thrown while mowing and always follow the manufacturer's operating instructions.
- Wear earplugs whenever operating noisy equipment such as a lawn mower or a wood chipper.
- Store your gardening chemicals in a locked, ventilated area that is out of your children's reach.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Use a programmable thermostat to vary your home's temperature based on your schedule. Lower your thermostat when you're not home or at night to save as much as 10 percent on heating and cooling costs!

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



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