

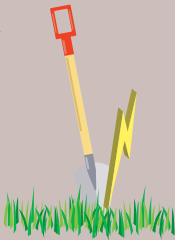


March 2010

Serving 12,000 members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

Dial Before Digging

You never really know what's below the surface when you dig. You may chop right into underground power lines. In addition to causing outages, this is very dangerous. Before digging in your yard, have the underground electric lines located. Please give us three days notice before you dig. Call us at (252) 426-5735.



Albemarle Sounds

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Visit our Web site at:
www.albemarle-emc.com

For outages, call
1-800-274-2072

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Libraries Receive Electricity Monitors

A joint effort among electric power providers in the Albemarle area has resulted in a unique program called “Watch a Watt” that helps individuals save on their electric bills.

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation, Dominion North Carolina Power, and the towns of Hertford, Edenton and Elizabeth City recently purchased a total of 20 Kill A Watt electricity usage monitors that were then donated to local libraries. Visitors to the libraries can check out the electricity usage monitors just like they check out books.

The monitors help people learn how much electricity individual appliances use. The monitor can be plugged into a wall outlet, and then an appliance can be plugged into the monitor. Five buttons on the device enable the user to monitor levels of voltage, amps, watts, hertz and kilowatt hours (kWh).

“If a person wants to know how much it costs to operate a certain appliance, this device along with rate information from their electricity provider will help make that information available,” said Chris Powell, director of public relations for Albemarle EMC.

The person checking out the device will receive a detailed set of instructions explaining the various ways the monitor can be used. The electricity monitors were donated to each of the following libraries: Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library, in Edenton; the Pasquotank-Camden Library, in Elizabeth City; and the Perquimans County Library, in Hertford.



The Watch a Watt program enables individuals to check out an electricity monitor for use in their home. From left are: Chris Powell, director of public relations for Albemarle EMC; Mary Vidaurri, library technician with the Perquimans County Library; John Christensen, Hertford town manager; and Sid Eley, mayor of Hertford.

New Secretary Hired

Sarah Williams was recently hired to fill the position of secretary. She will work under Liz Alons, who is Albemarle EMC's benefits administrator and administrative assistant. Sarah's responsibilities include mail, filing, supply orders and other office duties.

Sarah has worked in the libraries of the University of North Carolina, Gallaudet University, located in Washington, D.C. and Glendale Community College, in California.



CFL Bulbs to Be Given Away

Some time between March and September, each Albemarle EMC member will receive a pack of compact fluorescent light bulbs in the mail.

This is the co-op's second bulb giveaway and part of Albemarle EMC's initiative to comply with North Carolina renewable energy law. Power providers are required to purchase a certain percentage of electricity generated by renewable sources such

as wind and solar. The mandate also gives co-ops the option of complying by enacting energy efficiency measures. The bulb giveaway enables Albemarle EMC to earn Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). A REC is equal to one megawatt generated by a renewable source or one megawatt of generation avoided through energy efficiency.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs use about 75 percent less electricity than the standard incandescent bulbs. The amount of light produced by the CFLs will be equivalent to that of one standard 60-watt bulb and one standard 100-watt bulb.

"By installing these bulbs, members will save electricity and help the co-op meet the state renewable energy

mandate," said Brad Furr, general manager of Albemarle EMC.

If the box you receive contains a broken bulb, simply place the box with the broken bulb inside two sealed plastic freezer bags. The bulbs then can either be discarded in the trash or brought to the Albemarle EMC office, located at 159 Creek Drive, in Hertford, where the CFLs will be replaced.



Receive Bills Through E-mail

Members now have a way to reduce the amount of mail they receive at home.

Albemarle EMC is now offering members the option to have their power bills sent to them through e-mail.

Bills received through e-mail reduce the amount of trash entering the waste stream. The e-mail option also helps to save your cooperative money because a hard copy of the bill doesn't have to be generated, and envelopes and postage don't have to be paid for.

"Members can benefit from receiving their bill a few days sooner because there will be no mail delay," said Jonetta Long, office services manager. "They also help to reduce their cooperative's operating expenses."

Water Heater Blanket Kits Still Available

To assist members with becoming more energy efficient, Albemarle EMC is now selling water heater blanket kits.

Albemarle EMC sells the water heater blankets for \$12. In addition, members will receive a low-flow shower head, pipe insulation and two sink aerators at no extra charge, with each purchase of a water heater blanket. The blanket kits can be paid for and picked up at the Albemarle EMC office, located at 159 Creek Drive, in Hertford. Members can pay for the kits with either cash, check or credit card.

Members will be responsible for installing their own blankets. The blankets will be large enough to fit all sizes of water heaters and may need to be trimmed for smaller water heaters. A blanket will typically save between 4 and 9 percent in water heating costs.

The sale of the water heater kits enables Albemarle EMC to comply with the North Carolina renewable energy law. The state mandate requires power providers to purchase a certain percentage of electricity generated by renewable sources such as wind and solar. The mandate also gives co-ops the option of complying by enacting energy efficiency measures (such as the sale of water heater blankets). By selling water heater blankets, Albemarle EMC can earn Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). A REC is equal to one megawatt hour of electricity generated by a renewable source or one megawatt of generation that is avoided through energy efficiency initiatives.

"In addition to helping the co-op comply with the state mandate, this should really help our members," said Brad Furr, general manager of Albemarle EMC.



Service Recognized

The following employees, directors, and ACT directors recently were recognized for their years of service:



Employees:

John Coston - 25 years
Marvin Owens - 20 years
Brad Furr - 20 years
Gerald Jordan - 15 years
Jason Cartwright - 10 years

Chris White - 10 years
Henning Bartlett - 10 years
Tina Russell - five years
Chris Powell - five years
Tielue Knight - five years
Kenneth L. Winslow - five years
Zach Bray - five years

Directors:

Estelle Felton - 25 years
Thomas A. Bateman - 20 years

ACT Director:

Chad Thomas - five years



At Your Service

How Albemarle EMC works to provide its members with the highest-quality service possible.

AEMC Offers Energy Efficiency Incentives

If you are thinking about building or making an energy efficiency upgrade this spring, Albemarle EMC offers two monetary incentives you should be aware of.

These incentives are available to anyone who participates in an ENERGY STAR® home program or who installs a solar hot water heating system at their house. Both programs are available to any co-op member who has or plans to build an ENERGY STAR house, or install a solar hot water heater in 2010. The incentive for the Energy Star house is \$750, and the incentive for the solar hot water heater is \$1,000.

To qualify for the ENERGY STAR home incentive, the house must be on Albemarle EMC's lines and be certified as an ENERGY STAR home by a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) rater. For more information on the ENERGY STAR program or to locate a rater, please visit www.energystar.gov. To receive the incentive, the homeowner will need to sign an agreement granting all Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) to Albemarle EMC for a 30-year period. A REC is proof that one megawatt of conventional electricity generation has been avoided through energy efficiency, or one megawatt of electricity has been purchased from a renewable source such as a wind turbine.

To receive the incentive for the solar hot water heating program, the member must be on Albemarle EMC's lines and must grant all RECs to Albemarle EMC for a 20-year period. In addition, the solar hot water heating system must have SRCC OG-300 certification and must have been installed by a solar-certified professional. The solar collectors must face within 45 degrees of due south with a tilt angle between 15 and 40 degrees above the southern horizon. Collectors oriented east, west or that are flat-mounted must be properly sized using a corrective-factor formula.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, ENERGY STAR homes use substantially less energy for heating, cooling, and water heating, delivering \$200 to \$400 in annual savings. Throughout the average seven to eight years you may live in your home, this adds up to thousands of dollars saved on utility bills. Additional savings on maintenance can also be substantial. Properly installed energy-efficient improvements deliver better protections against cold, heat, drafts, moisture, pollution and noise. An energy-efficient home helps ensure consistent temperatures between and across rooms, improved indoor air quality and greater durability.

While solar water heating systems usually cost more to purchase and install than conventional water heating systems, a solar water heater can usually save you money in the long run. The amount of money saved depends on: the amount of hot water you use, your system's performance, your geographic location and solar resource and the cost of conventional fuels. On average, if you install a solar water heater, your water heating bills should drop 50 percent to 80 percent. Also, because the sun is free, you're protected from future fuel shortages and price hikes. If you're building a new home or refinancing, the economics are even more attractive. Including the price of a solar water heater in a new 30-year mortgage usually amounts to between \$14 and \$20 per month. The federal income tax deduction for mortgage interest attributable to the solar system reduces that mortgage cost by about \$3 to \$5 per month. So if your fuel savings are more than \$15 per month, the solar investment is profitable immediately. On a monthly basis, you're saving more than you're paying, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

In order to apply, please visit the Albemarle EMC Web site at www.albemarle-emc.com to download an application or call 252 426-5735. Incentive money is contingent upon availability of funds.

The energy efficiency programs are part of an initiative to comply with North Carolina renewable energy law. The state law requires power providers to purchase a certain percentage of electricity generated by renewable sources such as wind and solar. The mandate also gives co-ops the option of complying by enacting energy efficiency measures.



Albemarle EMC offers a \$1,000 incentive if you properly install solar water heaters, such as the ones shown.