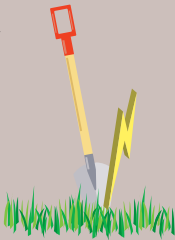




Dial Before Digging

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.



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www.albemarle-emc.com

For outages, call
1-800-274-2072

New Building to Be ENERGY STAR Certified

When it comes to energy efficiency, Albemarle EMC would like to set the example. The new office building, now under construction, is being built to ENERGY STAR® standards. According to Alan Eaton, one of the building's architects, the structure will be heated and cooled with roof-top heat pumps utilizing variable speed drives for supply fans and staged cooling capacity. The office space will be zoned with variable-air-volume (VAV) terminal units to distribute conditioned air, as needed. Outside air will be controlled by a process known as Demand Controlled Ventilation to minimize the amount of ventilation during times of reduced occupancy.

Roofing will be comprised of a thermoplastic olefin (TPO) membrane. The roof will be insulated to R-37 over the office and R-19.78 over the warehouse. The office walls will be insulated to R-22.52, and the warehouse walls will be R-13 at the metal panels and R-15.05 at the masonry. In addition, exterior wall windows will have shading devices to reduce solar gain during the summer. Also, high-efficiency lighting will be installed. Finally, natural vegetation will be incorporated to provide shading of the building and parking lot.



Shown above is a rendering of the new building.

Once complete, the building can become ENERGY STAR certified after electricity use has been documented for one year. If during that monitoring period, the building meets or exceeds ENERGY STAR requirements, a certification will be granted.

Although not required for ENERGY STAR certification, Albemarle EMC plans to install a 1 kilowatt (kW) solar panel and a 1 kW wind turbine. The renewable energy generators will be linked to a display panel inside the building, enabling members to see how much electricity is being generated.

"These generators will provide the co-op with renewable energy," said Brad Furr, general manager of Albemarle EMC. "In addition, these devices will help members who are considering investing in these technologies make more-informed decisions."

Due to the economy, Albemarle EMC received very favorable construction bids for the building. Originally, Albemarle EMC had budgeted \$6.8 million to build the 61,847 square foot office and attached warehouse. However, because of the down-cycle in the construction industry, the building will cost \$4,827,345, which equates to an economical \$78 per square foot.

The office/warehouse will be located on the corner of Creek Drive and Highway 17, near Hertford. The building will replace the current office, which was built in 1968.

Rate Rider Reduced

In May, the charge on members' bills called the "NC Renewable Mandate" was reduced. The new charges are as follows:

Residential .10 cents

Commercial .51 cents

Industrial \$5.15

The charges enable the co-op to recover costs associated with complying with North Carolina renewable energy law.

Save the Date, Give a Child Christmas



Please save the date of Tuesday, Oct. 19th to participate in Albemarle EMC's third annual Light Up Christmas golf tournament.

The tournament will be held in Hertford at the Sound Golf Links at Albemarle Plantation, a Dan Maples signature golf course. The course features plush fairways and immaculate greens that run along age-old marshes.

All tournament proceeds will go toward Albemarle EMC's Light Up Christmas Toy Drive. If you would like to register, contact Chris Powell at 426-5735.

Capital Credits Have Been Allocated

Albemarle EMC recently allocated adjusted margins of \$2,727,438.64 for the year 2009.

Capital credits are the margins credited to patrons based on member purchases from the cooperative. They reflect member ownership in the cooperative. Albemarle EMC implements one of the cooperative principles by allocating capital credits to members as well as by retiring (refunding) them as the co-op's financial condition allows. If you would like to know what your individual portion of this allocation is, please call the office at 426-5735.

Disconnect Means Security Deposit Payment

Being disconnected for non-pay triggers a charge members need to be aware of. If an account has been disconnected because of non-pay, a maximum security deposit will be charged. Albemarle EMC will try to work with members by allowing the deposit to be paid in monthly installments. A member's security deposit may be refunded back, upon request, if a member-in-good-standing status has been maintained for 12 consecutive months. A member in good standing is defined as having no more than one delinquency, no bad checks, no disconnections for non-pay and has not been involved in power theft. Please call our office at 426-5735, if you have questions.

Students Step into Education

Students at J.C. Sawyer Elementary School were able to take part in an innovative educational program, thanks to a grant from Albemarle EMC.

The \$770 Bright Ideas grant was given to educators Julie Gregory and Julie Robinson to fund the project "Students Taking Education Everywhere With Pedometers (STEP).



To implement the program, the teachers purchased pedometers, which measure the distances that students walk. Students calculate the calories burned and convert steps into miles to "travel" around a world map. To keep track of their progress, the students enter their number of steps at www.pcentral.org. As they visit each country, students learn about the country's geography and culture.

Basketball Camp Winner Announced



From left are: Zachery Ward, basketball camp winner; Allen Harrell, athletic director; and Tanya Turner, school principal.

A local student-athlete recently won the opportunity to attend one of the most prestigious basketball camps in the country.

Chowan Middle School student Zachery Ward will attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina.

Zachery was chosen based on the quality of an essay he submitted as well as his academic achievements and extracurricular activities. The essay was judged by a selection

committee at the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives, in Raleigh.

Zachery is the son of Kenny and Tammi Ward, of Gatesville. Zachery, 11, is an honor student, who participates in the school band and has been a member of the student council. He has also received a Citizen of the Month award. His extracurricular activities include participation in his church youth group and church basketball teams. He enjoys reading, playing the saxophone and fishing and hunting.

Zachery will attend the basketball camp June 19 through June 23. The camp will be hosted by Roy Williams, coach of the 2004 and 2009 National Champion Tar Heels, as well as members of his team.

"We are delighted to make this opportunity available for a quality student-athlete," said Brad Furr, general manager of Albemarle EMC. "Participants at this camp will learn skills that will be valuable both on and off the court."



At Your Service

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

Know the Facts About Purchasing a Heat Pump

Selecting a properly sized heating and cooling system is one of the most important energy decisions you'll ever make. Size is determined by the heating and cooling load. Yes, living space plays a role in determining the load, but if a contractor wants to size the unit based on square footage alone, please move on and find another contractor. A reputable dealer with your best interest in mind will perform a load calculation as required by North Carolina law. Most warranties also stipulate that the system be properly sized prior to installation.

A heat loss/heat gain calculation takes into account all the energy characteristics of your home including square footage, ceiling heights, insulation, the number of occupants and total glass area. Do not pressure your dealer to oversize the unit. Oversized cooling systems short-cycle and fail to remove adequate amounts of humidity from your home. Short-cycling can also lead to premature unit failure and will result in higher utility bills.

Follow these guidelines when making sure your HVAC unit is a perfect fit:

1. Get more than one written estimate. Each estimate should include a heat loss/heat gain calculation. North Carolina state law requires all HVAC contractors to use this method to properly size a heating and cooling system for your home. Unit size is expressed in tons. Get a copy of this report before allowing your contractor to proceed further.

2. Select a reputable HVAC contractor that you feel comfortable working with. Make sure they carry the required licenses and insurance before they begin work. Choose a contractor that offers routine maintenance and repair service in your area.

3. If the installation will include new or additional duct work, make sure your contract stipulates that all joints, boots and returns will be sealed with mastic. If you will be using existing duct work it is worth the few extra dollars to have your contractor inspect it thoroughly before installation of the new unit. One in three homes has at least one disconnected duct.

4. Next, you will need to determine the type of unit that will fit your needs. In most cases we recommend installing



an energy efficient heat pump to heat and cool your home. A heat pump does just that. In the winter, it extracts outdoor heat and pumps it into your home. In the summer, it removes indoor heat and pumps it outside. One unit does it all.

There are two basic types of heat pumps, air to air and geothermal. Air to air heat pumps have the lowest installation cost and, when properly designed, produce winter airflows of 90-plus degrees Fahrenheit. Because heat pumps are designed for comfort, air to air heat pumps may be equipped with auxiliary heat in the event that temperatures dip below normal design limits.

On the other hand, geothermal heat pumps use the free solar energy of the earth itself to provide heat in winter. These units do not require auxiliary heating. In the summer, geothermal units can even provide free hot water. Geothermal heat pumps cost two to three

times more to install than air-to-air heat pumps. However, they have the lowest maintenance costs of any unit on the market today and generally last 20 to 30 years. The increased energy savings will pay for the additional costs in the first three to five years of operation.

5. The next step in the process is to select the efficiency rating of your unit. All air conditioning equipment receives a SEER (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating) rating that documents how efficient the unit is during the cooling mode. The higher the SEER, the more efficient the cooling product. The U.S. government's minimum allowable efficiency level is 13 SEER. Heating components are assigned an HSPF (Heating Seasonal Performance Factor) rating. Again, the higher the HSPF, the more efficient the heat pump's heating performance. Federal law prohibits the sale of heat pumps with a HSPF rating less than 6.85.

Although it is important to purchase the most efficient HVAC equipment your budget will allow, it is even more important that all equipment be installed properly using mastic for sealing connections. A properly designed and installed duct system enables the unit to operate at its optimum efficiency.

6. Inspect your installed HVAC equipment to ensure the installation was performed as outlined in your contract. The dealer should show you how to operate the thermostat and how to properly replace system filters. You should have a duct blaster test performed on your home to verify duct leakage is kept at a minimum and to help locate high infiltration areas that need to be addressed.