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Co-op News Editor

Tom Kinard



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Efficiency Helps Us Meet Our Power Needs

REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION AT HOME has a direct, obvious and positive effect on your monthly electric bill, but it also plays an important role in reducing the need to construct costly new generation facilities. And that helps keep everyone's monthly bill affordable.

From the time the utility industry was born, America has experienced rapid development and growth, and much of that progress has been powered by electricity. In the past



there were relatively few barriers to keeping up with consumer demand. Fuel was cheap and infrastructure, such as power generation plants and transmission lines, was not terribly difficult to plan.

While not widely publicized, the utility industry's army of engineers has made dramatic improvements in the efficiency of their generating stations and overall operations. From the plant all the way to the "smart meter," delivering electricity is a better, cleaner system than it used to be. The industry continues to make improvements, and there are promising technologies on the horizon. These changes will have a huge impact on the supply side, but they won't be enough to meet demand growth on their own.

Keeping up with demand is getting very difficult on the supply side for a number of reasons. Traditional fossil fuels are under attack for their carbon

emissions. Nuclear power, while carbon free, has its own set of problems. Renewable generation options are still expensive and have limited availability during peak periods, and planning the location of future transmission facilities to get that power onto the grid can be difficult. Something has to give – and soon – on the supply side.

With such constraints on building additional infrastructure, it makes sense to slow the growth of electricity consumption. The best energy efficiency programs are designed to shape usage patterns in a way that allows utilities to meet consumer demand while deferring the construction of new power plants.

In this edition of South Carolina Living, as in every edition, there are good, power-saving suggestions for lowering your monthly electric bill. (And if you missed last month's issue, which included the booklet *101 Low-Cost, No-Cost Energy Saving Measures for South Carolina*, stop by our office for a copy.)

Look for all the efficiency programs and incentives provided through Pee Dee Electric Cooperative; we have experts available to help you save energy and reduce peak consumption.

James A. Goodson
Chairman, Board of Trustees

PDEC Hosts Young Engineers

Engineering Academy motivates youth

THIRTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM FLORENCE, MARION, DILLON, Darlington and Chesterfield counties attended the Engineering Academy at Pee Dee Electric Cooperative in June. Academy participants, which was co-hosted by the Pee Dee Council/Boy Scouts of America, were chosen by their school district superintendents, high school principals and guidance counselors.

In order to meet the ever increasing demand for electricity, it is vital to bring in new workers so that knowledge and skills can be transferred from the experienced to a new generation. Experts agree approximately half of the engineers, linemen and servicemen employed in the electric utility industry will be eligible to retire by 2012. The Engineering Academy was held to teach young minds about reward-



PDEC's Chief Operating Officer, Rob Ardis, a Professional Engineer, listens to a student's question while speaking at the Engineering Academy.

ing careers available in electricity.

The main goal of the Engineering Academy was for the participants to be familiar with the educational opportunities existing in northeastern South Carolina. The University of South Carolina, Francis Marion University, Coastal Carolina University, Coker College and Florence-Darlington Technical College participated in the academy. The participants toured the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing Technology on the campus of Florence-Darlington Tech and observed a Process Control Class. They were also given an overview of the benefits of apprenticeships.

The second Academy goal was to demonstrate how engineering is utilized at Pee Dee Electric Cooperative. The PDEC Engineering Department took the participants on a tour of the substation located in the Touchstone Energy Commerce City Industrial Park. The Information Technology Department demonstrated the mapping system and communication systems used by cooperative employees to better serve the members. Students learned how utilizing the latest technology has shortened outage response times.

Another three day Engineering Academy is planned for next June. Students interested should contact their guidance counselor for dates and times.

Youth Tour-ists See DC

Teens represent PDEC in Washington



Leslie Stokes (L) of Timmonsville and Megan Morris of Darlington on the steps of the United States Capitol. One of many stops on the 2010 Youth Tour.

TWO LOCAL STUDENTS TOURED Washington, D.C. in June and represented Pee Dee Electric among hundreds of other rising high school seniors from across the nation. The all-expense paid trip to see historic sites, monuments, museums and to learn about co-ops plus meet their congressmen is the thrill of a lifetime.

Pee Dee Electric Co-op has been a sponsor of the Washington Youth Tour for over 40 years usually sending two students each trip. In addition to being

a rising senior in high school, applicants must reside in the home of a member of Pee Dee Electric Cooperative.

Applications for the 2011 Youth Tour will be available in January online at PeeDeeElectric.com and will be due by March 1st.

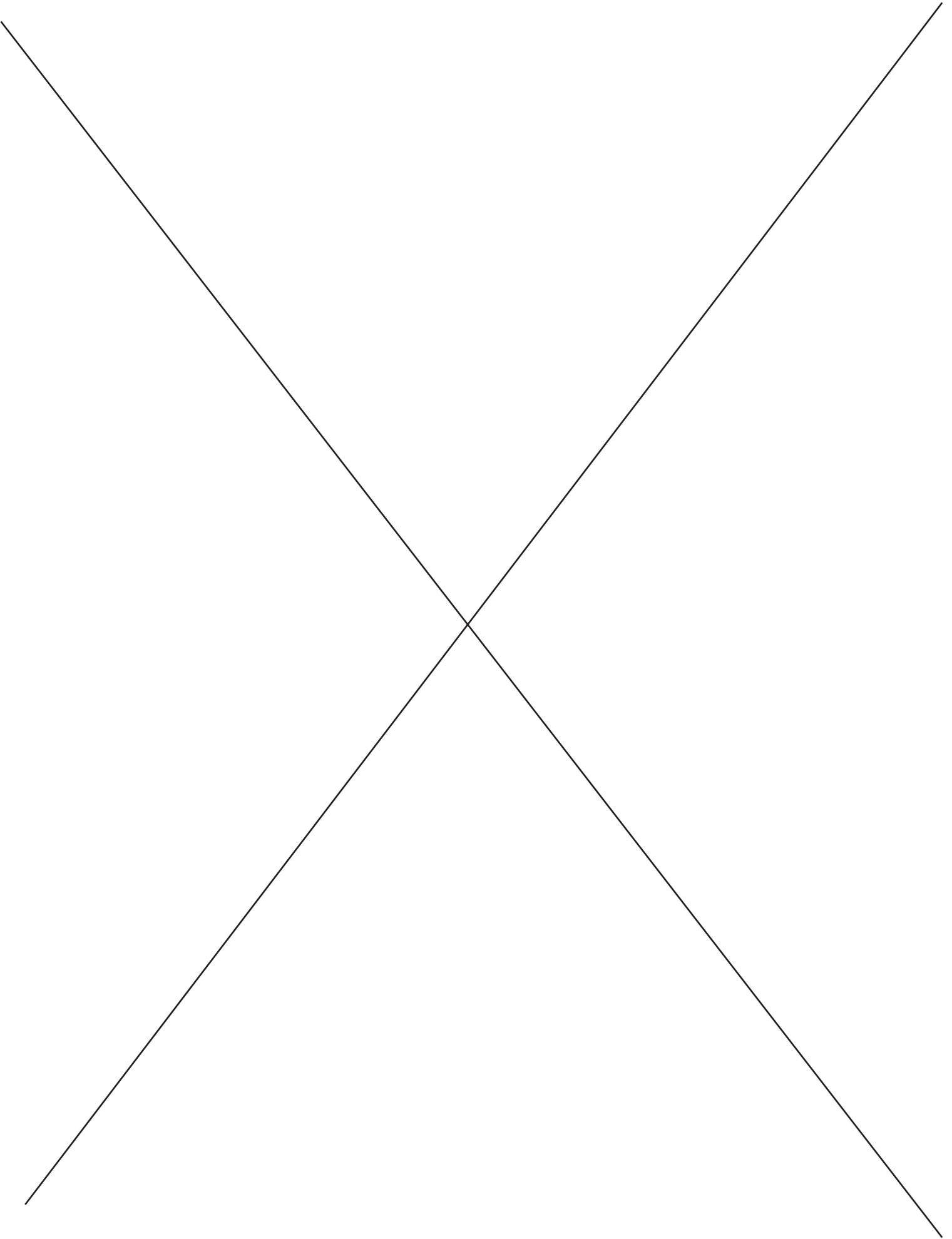
For more information, contact Page Chestnut at PDEC. 843-665-4070 or toll free 866-747-0060.



The White House as seen from the Washington Monument, the city's tallest structure. It was designed by South Carolinian Robert Mills.



Call 843.665.4070 or toll free 866.747.0060
To Report An Outage



Jeff's Tips

by

Jeff Singletary

PDEC Energy Expert



The combination of heat and humidity in the Pee Dee Region can be a serious health threat during the summer months. Since August is typically the hottest of those months, my tips this time are about safety in the workplace. Many of these tips are just as good for anyone who is exposed to summertime in South Carolina.

If you work outside, say on a farm or construction site, or in a kitchen, laundry or a bakery, you may be at increased risk for heat-related illness. Take precautions. Here's how:

- ▶ Frequently drink small amounts of water.
- ▶ Wear light-colored, loose-fitting, breathable clothing. Cotton is recommended.
- ▶ Take frequent breaks in the shade. Work in the shade if at all possible.
- ▶ Eat smaller meals before working, especially strenuous activity.
- ▶ Avoid caffeine, alcohol or large amounts of sugar.
- ▶ Be sure your physician knows you work in summer or extreme heat. Some medications and heat don't mix.
- ▶ Be aware that respirators or work suits can increase heat stress.

There are three kinds of major heat-related disorders: heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. You need to know how to recognize each one and what first aid treatment is necessary. Employees of Pee Dee Electric Cooperative are certified in First Aid and CPR. On the right is information from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Worker or parent, I suggest you cut this out and keep handy.

HEAT STRESS

When the body is unable to cool itself by sweating, several heat-induced illnesses such as heat stress or heat exhaustion and the more severe heat stroke can occur, and can result in death.

Factors

High temperature and humidity; direct sun or heat; limited air movement; physical exertion; poor physical condition; some medications and inadequate tolerance for hot workplaces.

Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion

- ▶ Headaches, dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting.
- ▶ Weakness and moist skin.
- ▶ Mood changes (irritability or confusion).
- ▶ Upset stomach or vomiting.

Symptoms of Heat Stroke

- ▶ Dry, hot skin. No sweating.
- ▶ Mental confusion or losing consciousness.
- ▶ Seizures or convulsions.

Preventing Heat Stress

- ▶ Know the symptoms. Monitor yourself and co-workers.
- ▶ Block direct sun or other heat sources.
- ▶ Use cooling fans/AC; rest regularly.
- ▶ Drink about a cup of water every 15 minutes.
- ▶ Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- ▶ Avoid alcohol, caffeinated drinks and heavy meals.

What to Do

- ▶ Call 911 at once.
- ▶ Move person to cool, shaded area.
- ▶ Loosen or remove heavy clothing.
- ▶ Provide cool drinking water.
- ▶ Fan and mist the person with water.

The Storm Comes Up, The Lights Go Out, Who Can You Depend On?

The linemen of Pee Dee Electric Cooperative are the ones who put the lights on in the rural areas of the Pee Dee Region seventy-one years ago. They are the same ones that keep the lights shining and the cell phones recharging today. Of course, they're not the same individuals as in 1939, but they do have the same stamina and determination to get the job done.

Labor Day is a time we should all say, "thanks guys" to these special people – the first ones out after a storm that restore electricity to your home and your neighbor's home and the plant or business where you work and the school where your children attend and your church where you worship. These are the folks that build the new service for your new house or barn or store. The linemen of Pee Dee Electric – *When the Lights Go Out, So Do They.*

We don't have room to put all their pictures on this page, but here are some representative photos of the guys who provide power to the people of the Pee Dee.





And High AC Bills

Instead of getting burned this summer with high energy bills, check out Touchstone Energy's energy-saving website, TogetherWeSave.com, for money-saving ideas.

Adjust the thermostat. As TogetherWeSave.com demonstrates, raising the thermostat a few degrees can save you money. Set the temperature between 78–80 degrees Fahrenheit, and you could save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills. Programmable thermostats make it easy to save by offering pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year.

Be a "fan-atic". While they don't replace an air conditioner or a heat pump, fans move the air so everyone feels more comfortable. On milder days, fans can save as much as 60 percent in electric bills. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

Regular maintenance is essential. Pee Dee Electric Cooperative recommends that members have their HVAC systems serviced annually by a NATE (North American Technician Excellence)-certified technician. This HVAC professional will check the entire system to make sure it is running efficiently. This will help to extend the life of the system and save money.

Look for Energy Star equipment. When it's time to replace that cooling system, TogetherWeSave.com recommends replacing it with an Energy Star-qualified model. This could reduce energy costs by as much as 30 percent. Tax credits and rebates on qualifying Energy Star models may be available.

Bigger isn't always better. Too often, cooling equipment isn't sized properly and could lead to higher electric bills. A unit that is too large for your home will not cool evenly and might produce higher humidity indoors.

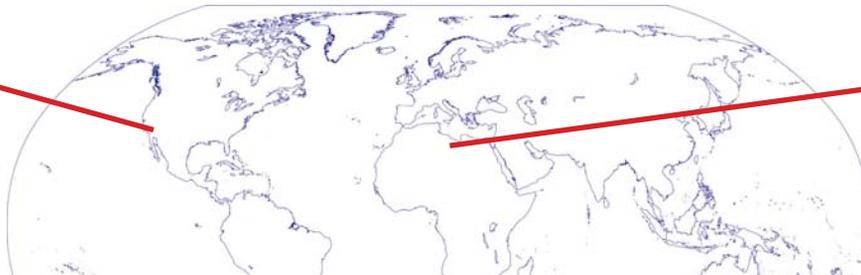
134°

**Death Valley,
CA**

1913

**Hottest Ever in
USA**

You Think It's Hot Here?



136°

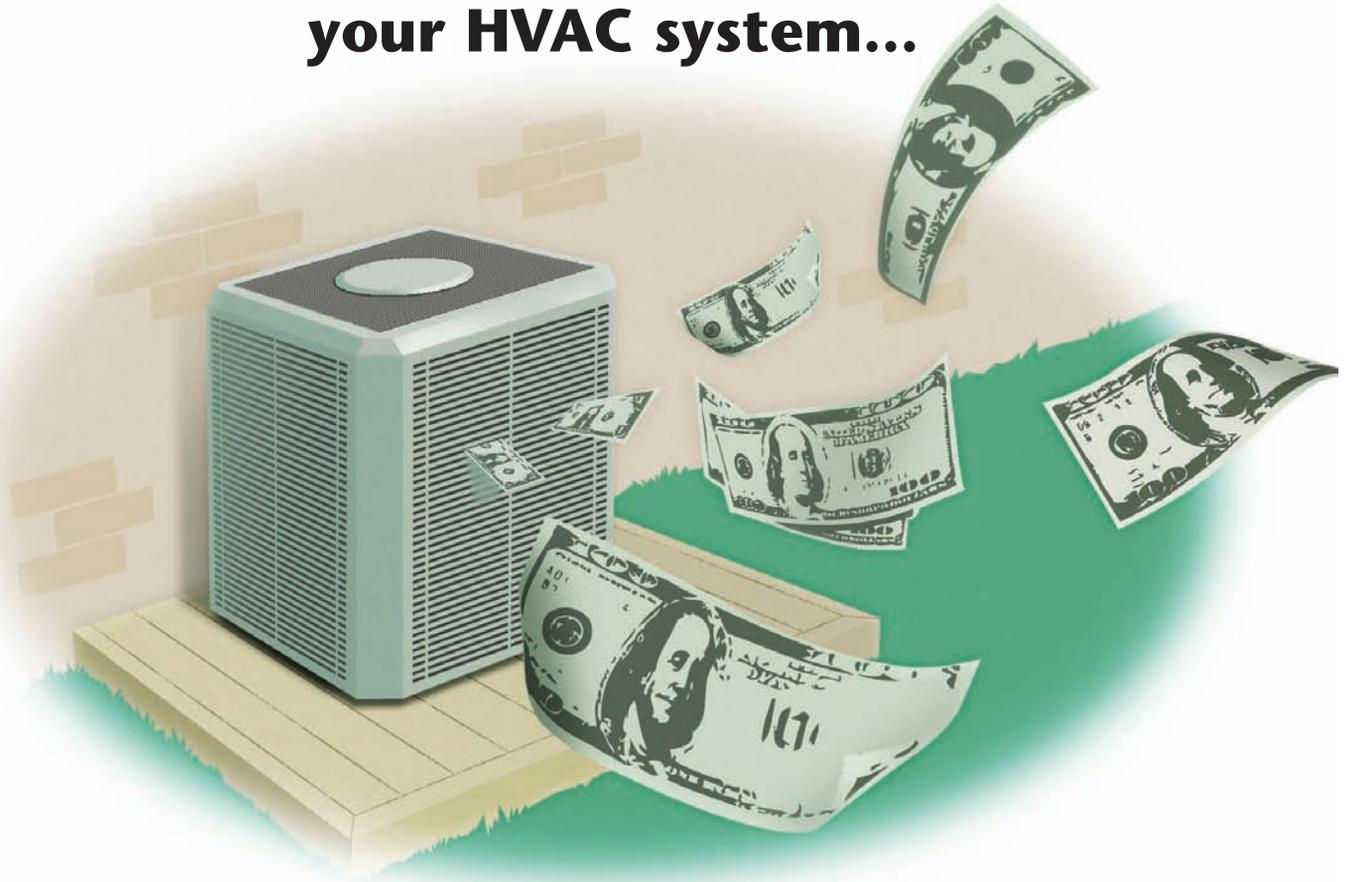
**El Azizia,
Libya**

1922

**Hottest Ever on
Earth**

To run as a petition candidate for trustee at the 71st Annual Meeting, a member must use an Official Petition Form. Forms are available weekdays at the PDEC corporate headquarters. Completed Forms will be accepted at 1355 East McIver Road, Darlington until 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 20, 2010.

If you're not maintaining your HVAC system...



you're blowing your cool!

- ✓ Always run your HVAC system on "AUTO." Running it on "ON" uses more electricity and can decrease your air conditioner's ability to remove moisture.
- ✓ Change HVAC filters monthly and have your system serviced annually by a NATE-certified technician.

Electricity is more valuable than ever.

Don't waste it.

- ✓ Ensure window A/C units are weather-stripped and keep "fresh-air" vents on window A/C units closed.

Pee Dee Electric Cooperative is committed to work with integrity and innovation to provide you with reliable power at the best possible price.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Visit www.PeeDeeElectric.com for more energy saving tips.

843-665-4070
866-747-0060 Toll Free