

Power Lines

DECEMBER 2009



Why Haywood EMC may send you money in December

In a local electrical cooperative – like Haywood EMC – every member owns the business. One of the cooperative advantages is that we provide our members with “at cost” service, which means we don’t exist to earn a profit. As an owner and a member, you share in the profits through what are called capital credits. These capital credits represent each member’s ownership of the cooperative. They are margins credited (or allocated) to the members of the cooperative based on their electricity purchases from the cooperative the previous year.

Your Board of Directors recently approved a capital credit refund of about \$290,000 total for the people who were members during 1983-2003. Those with a return of less than \$10 will see a credit on their December bill. Those with a return of \$10 or more will receive a check mailed in late December.

“Capital credits reflect the nonprofit

nature of the cooperative,” explained Norman Sloan, General Manager and Executive Vice President of Haywood EMC. “We work hard each day to keep your rates as low as possible. But it’s nice to know that when there are profits, they come back to you. They demonstrate the power of being a member of Haywood EMC.”

According to Sloan, investor-owned utilities like Progress Energy and Duke Energy return this margin, or profit, to their stockholders through dividends. In the case of a not-for-profit cooperative like Haywood EMC, the margins are returned to the people who own the business – the members.

In addition to the approximate \$290,000 retirement, Haywood EMC has retired approximately \$237,000 in capital credits to estates of deceased members for a total retirement of about \$527,000. This is equivalent to a reduc-

tion in power costs of about 1.5 percent. When a member dies, the administrator of the estate should contact Haywood EMC to claim that individual’s capital credit account. Once the administrator presents a death certificate and completes the necessary paperwork, the cooperative issues a capital credit check. According to our members, many people find this money helpful in paying funeral expenses during a difficult time.

It pays to be a member of Haywood EMC. Your co-op is always there, looking out for you. That’s because in an electric co-op, the people have the power.

That’s the Cooperative Difference!



Norman Sloan

‘Tis the season... decorate safely

In the spirit of the season, it can be easy to become engrossed in holiday decorations and lights. These embellishments also add extra electrical strain to your home and safety must be considered when plugging in those giant Santa statues and miles of icicle lights. Practice the following tips to ensure a safe, joyful holiday season:

Lights

- Avoid plugging multiple strands of lights into one outlet
- Look for frayed or broken cords and damaged light bulbs

- Immediately replace a broken light bulb with a new one. Leave the old one in until you find a replacement
- Don’t run extension cords under rugs or furniture, especially under a Christmas tree skirt
- Only use lights with the label “Underwriters Laboratories Approved” or “UL Approved”
- Plug outdoor lights and decorations into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help protect against electric shock
- Do not leave lights on unattended

Other decorations

- Never leave candles burning when you are away
- Never put lit candles on a Christmas tree
- Never discard wrapping paper by throwing it in the fireplace

The holiday season is meant to be a festive time spent with family and friends. Practice electrical safety during this special time to protect your loved ones.

Changing your energy usage helps keep money in your pocket

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



Flip the switch. Lower the blinds. Insulate your attic. Lower the temperature on your thermostat.

These sound like simple tasks. Take all of these steps around your home or business, though, and you can rack up substantial savings. And by monitoring your energy usage and taking corrective measures to lower power bills, you help your electric cooperative save you money as well.

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, the nationwide alliance of nearly 700 electric cooperatives, announced the unveiling of a national energy efficiency initiative across 46 states, including

North Carolina, designed to assist consumers in saving energy and money.

“Together We Save” represents the utility industry’s first national energy efficiency campaign. The campaign gives very specific directives, accompanied by real savings calculations, on how members can take control of their energy costs. The online energy savings calculator enables a member to interactively see how making adjustments inside their home or business can save money. Items such as lowering the blinds, flipping a switch, changing your thermostat setting, increasing your insulation, switching to CFLs, reducing phantom loads, sealing penetrations in the envelope of the home, upgrading your HVAC equipment and lowering your water heater temperature are all covered on this informative site. Downloadable energy efficiency videos are also available.

To learn more ways to start saving energy, visit www.haywoodemc.com and click on the “Together We Save” link on our homepage to see how your improvements start adding up.

Don't know what to get that special someone for Christmas?
HEMC has the perfect gift for you!

Buy this for only **\$12.49** plus tax

... and get all this FREE!

- Earth Massage Showerhead**
 - Adjustable 9-jet turbo massage
- Kitchen Faucet Aerator**
 - Easy fingertip on/off feature
- Two Bathroom Faucet Aerators**

Total Kit Value: Over \$50

Electric Water Heater Blanket & Pipe Insulation

- 3-inch thick insulation
- Includes tape & instructions
- Wrap is 48 by 87 in. and fits tanks measuring up to 27 in. across the top

Purchase at your HEMC District Office

Waynesville
376 Grindstone Road
Waynesville, NC

Lake Toxaway
298 Blue Ridge Road
Lake Toxaway, NC

Hurry!

Kits available while supplies last

HAYWOOD EMC
A new generation of service.
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

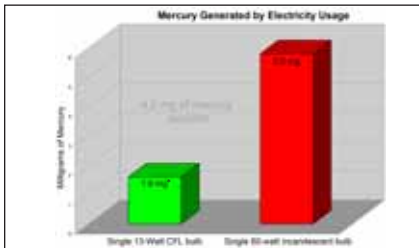
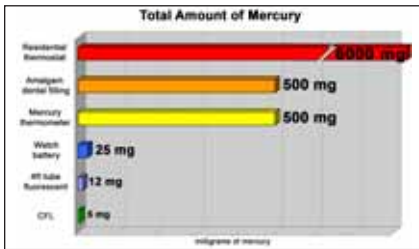
Help your loved ones save energy, water & money!



Looking for a great energy efficient gift?
Buy a water heater kit for friends and family!

Information about mercury in CFLs

Mercury is a naturally occurring element that is used safely in many of the products and items that we come in contact with every day at home and at work.



The following chart compares the amount of mercury contained in a single CFL to the amount found in other commonplace items.

As noted, CFLs do contain mercury. The standard CFL contains approximately 5 mg of mercury—which is about the amount it would take to cover the period at the end of this sentence.

Mercury avoidance

Although CFLs do contain a small amount of mercury, the use of CFLs actually helps to avoid mercury being released into the environment. This is possible because CFLs use up to 75% less energy than standard incandescent light bulbs and last from 8-10 times as long. Since CFLs use less energy this means less electricity has to be generated, which, in turn, leads to less mercury

released (mercury is a by-product of electricity generation).

An additional benefit of CFL use is the reduction of landfill waste. Since CFLs last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs, you could throw away up to 10 incandescent light bulbs over the life of a single CFL.

Recycling CFLs

Although CFLs only contain 5 mg of mercury, they still need to be recycled properly. Visit www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling or www.earth911.org.

If you happen to break a CFL, please follow the recommended guidelines for proper clean up and disposal of the bulb, which can be found at www.energystar.gov.

Bridge completed at Haywood EMC

The N.C. Department of Transportation completed the bridge construction on Grindstone Road and the bridge is now open. Grindstone Road is the main access to the new Haywood EMC Waynesville headquarters. You no longer need to detour onto Hemphill Road to get to the Haywood EMC facility. Pictured: In mid-November, the work crews were putting on the finishing touches to the bridge. Inset: The bridge at the beginning stages of construction a few months ago.



Haywood EMC offices will be closed for Christmas on December 24-25, and New Year's Day on January 1, to celebrate the holiday season. The co-op wishes you and your family a blessed and safe holiday.

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Published by Haywood Electric Membership Corp.
376 Grindstone Road,
Waynesville, NC 28785

Board of Directors

Bob J. Tucker, President: 885-2432
Larry Clark, Vice President: 627-8064
David Noland, Sec.-Treas: 627-1561

Directors

James P. Boyette: 884-6316;
David Edwards: 648-2263;
Steve Foster: 743-3771
Ken Israel: 667-0065;
Roy Stamey: 648-1703;
Emmit Wood: 526-0503

General Manager

Norman Sloan: 648-8496

Call our toll-free customer service line

1-800-951-6088

Waynesville Office

452-2281

Lake Toxaway Office

966-4215

Visit our Web site:

www.haywoodemc.com