

watts working

The Monthly Newsletter for Members of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Efficiency Tax Credits Drop, but Don't Disappear

Benefit reverts to \$500 lifetime cap for upgrades

Energy efficiency improvements are great for lowering electric bills. But sometimes the up-front cost can be a drawback.

Since 2005, Congress has enacted a series of tax breaks for consumers who take steps to make their homes more energy efficient. In December, the outgoing 111th Congress extended some popular efficiency tax credits through Dec. 31, 2011, although at greatly reduced levels.

"While we were hopeful that the tax credits would be higher than what was approved, we are encouraged that this valuable incentive for homeowner investment was retained," says Paul Caviness, Energy Use Advisor for Randolph EMC.

"Basically, energy efficiency tax credits revert to levels approved for 2006 and 2007, before the federal stimulus bill pumped up the program," explains

Caviness. "There's also a lifetime cap of \$500 for any work that's done. But if you haven't applied for an energy efficiency tax credit before, this extension gives you a chance to recoup some of the costs needed to make your home more efficient."

CLAIMING TAX CREDITS

Tax credits are beneficial because they directly reduce, dollar for dollar, any taxes you owe. Some credits have limitations and restrictions, so be sure you know what they are before making any purchases. Also remember to keep your receipts and your Manufacturer's Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Then claim the credit on your taxes using IRS Form 5695.

Randolph EMC offers rebates for agricultural and commercial lighting upgrades. Call 1.800.672.8212 to learn more about this program.

For a list of federal, state, and local energy efficiency rebates and tax credits, visit the Database for State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency at www.dsireusa.org.

in this issue

How to Make After-Hours Payments	B
Conservation Corner	C
Dale Lambert's AWARE Column	D

Right-of-Way

Crews will be working in the following areas during March:

- North Moore High School area
- Westmoore area: Union Grove Church & Upper Roads
- New Hope area
- Parks Cross Roads area
- Grays Chapel area
- Snow Camp area

Get More from Your Membership

After-Hours Payments are No Problem!



Pay online anytime at www.RandolphEMC.com

Pay by phone with a check or credit card by calling 1.877.534.2319.



Automatic Bank Draft deducts your payment from a checking or savings account each month.

Your local Randolph EMC office has a night deposit box for your convenience.



Visit www.RandolphEMC.com for more information!

SWAPSHOP

For Sale

White washed dining room set, 7 ft. lighted china cabinet w/brushed nickel drawer pulls, table w/ leaf & 6 chairs w/ tan suede seats, \$700 OBO. Pictures avail. upon request. 276-340-2123.

Angel's trumpet plants. Avail. in yellow, white, & pink. \$7 ea. 336-963-1162.

1955 Model 60 John Deere w/ Model EO80A John Deere Scrape Blade. Fully restored & parade ready. \$6,500. 336-879-3765.

3,000 Red Sex Link pullets (young chickens). Brown egg layers, \$5.85/pullet & up, vaccinated & debeaked. 336-708-2998.

Allis Chalmers 333 no till 4 row corn planter w/ extra plates & coulter \$4,000. Ford TW10 tractor w/new battery & free plow \$9,000. Taylorway 25 disc offset harrow \$5,000. 336-622-4031 or 336-908-4094.

1961 Ford Workmaster tractor \$3,500. 336-240-7923.

2004 model 17ft Carolina Skiff boat w/center console, 50HP Johnson motor. Fish finder, trolling motor \$6,595. 336-879-8294 or 336-460-1075.

Pictures, B&W/color, 8"x10" \$10 or 10"x13" \$25. All bridges & mills of Uwharrie River including Pisgah Covered Bridge. 336-629-2533.

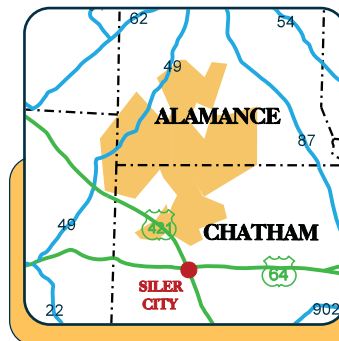
For Rent

Mobile home lot for rent 2 miles from Asheboro on Highway 64 West. 336-629-9234.

Two mobile homes, 3 BR 2 BA. Mobile home lot also for rent in Carthage area. 910-464-3459.

Members email Swap Shop items to General@RandolphEMC.com

MARCH SMART METER INSTALLATIONS



Randolph EMC crews will be installing smart meters in the highlighted (tan) areas of Alamance, Chatham, and Randolph Counties this month.

Did You Know?

Smart meters can provide energy use information for each hour of the day, which can help you manage energy costs.

Rounding Up Pennies Makes a Lot of "Cents!"



Even in difficult economic times, we still want to help others in need. Consider giving to People Helping People by signing up to have your electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar each month. It's only pennies a month, but pennies make dollars, and dollars help neighbors in need.

Call 1-800-672-8212 or visit us online at www.RandolphEMC.com & sign up today!



CONTACT US

Electric Service:

Asheboro(336) 625-5177
.....(800) 672-8212

Robbins Area:(910) 948-3401
.....(800) 868-7014

Power Failures:(877) REMC-OFF
(1-877-736-2633)

Bill Payments:(877) 534-2319

Office Hours:

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Monday–Friday

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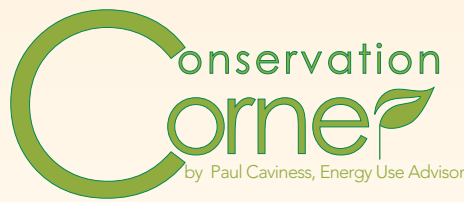
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Sealing Air Leaks



A little caulk can go a long way

Air leaks in your home add up. Finding and sealing those leaks can save you energy and money. Follow the two simple steps to help keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter while lowering your utility bill.

1 FIND THE AIR LEAKS IN YOUR HOME.

One way to do this is to wait for a windy day, and then carefully hold a lit incense stick or a smoke pen next to your windows, doors, electrical outlets and other spots where air could be leaking into your home from outside. If the smoke stream moves horizontally, you've found a leak that needs to be sealed.

2 GRAB SOME CAULK AND A CAULKING GUN.

Experts recommend using silicone caulk, which is waterproof, flexible and long-lasting. Caulk can seal cracks and gaps that are less than ¼-inch wide. Remove any old caulk and clean the surface before applying new caulk. Fresh caulk takes several hours, or longer, to dry, so it's best to do the job on a dry day when the humidity is relatively low and the temperature is above 45°F. In addition to caulk, you can use low-expansion spray foam to seal leaks.

For other tips on how to save energy—and money—call the energy experts at Randolph EMC or visit www.TogetherWeSave.com to find out how little changes can add up to big savings.



I'M TIGHT WITH MY MONEY.

AIRTIGHT.

I'm saving \$212 a year by sealing a few cracks. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at

TOGETHER WESAVE.COM

Filling the Generation Gap

Q What does the need for new electricity generation mean for me as a Randolph EMC member?

A Electric utilities across the nation are approaching crunch time on our ability to keep the lights on—we need to build new power plants.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), the nation's bulk power grid watchdog, estimates we need to build 135,000 MW of new generation by 2017 to meet demand. Generation facilities on the drawing board, though, will only deliver 77,000 MW—leaving a generation gap.

Compounding this issue, some current power plants may soon be shut down by federal regulations. One NERC-commissioned report claims new government rules could force utilities to retire or retrofit 33,000 MW to 70,000 MW of generating capacity by 2015. Meanwhile, every year we delay building new plants drives up construction costs. Traditional power plants (coal, natural gas, nuclear) take

between three years and a decade to build—not leaving much wiggle room before shortages become a reality. Renewable energy resources, notably wind farms, can be constructed more quickly, but they're not perfect options. It may sound cliché to say the wind doesn't always blow, but it's the truth—and you wouldn't be satisfied with only having power 40 percent of the time.

Although as a distribution cooperative we don't build and operate power plants, we do focus on delivering affordable power to you. We're working with our wholesale power suppliers to find the best fuel mix solution for your future. We appreciate your support as we make these critical and time-sensitive choices. Balancing your energy needs with electricity reliability and affordability is one more way we're looking out for you.



a word about Randolph Electric

by Dale Lambert



REMC Already Seeing Benefit of Smart Meters

Dear Members,

This month I would like to share with you how your cooperative is already starting to see the benefits of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) that is being installed across our service territory. AMI technology allows us to communicate with the electric meters at your homes and businesses. It is an important element in advancing the capabilities of the electrical grid into what many refer to as the "Smart Grid."

In the future, Randolph EMC will have the capability to communicate with electric appliances, potentially increasing the efficiency of electric generation assets. The electric utility industry is currently in the planning stages for constructing base load generation for the future. As I have mentioned in previous *AWARE* columns, this will be a very expensive, but necessary investment in order to meet future load requirements. We should make every effort to maximize the output of our current generation and work to reduce the load as much as possible in order to contain the rate impacts from this new generation.

The foundation for the AMI technology requires that Randolph EMC replace our existing mechanical power meters with advanced solid-state meters. These are often referred to as "smart meters."

In addition to decreased costs and increased efficiency for the cooperative, some advantages are:

- Remote meter readings, which eliminate having to visit your property to read the meter each month. We do plan to physically read each meter on an annual basis.
- Access to kilowatt hour and demand usage on an hourly basis to assist with energy usage questions.
- Prepaid metering opportunities that will potentially eliminate late fees and deposit requirements for those accounts that choose to participate.
- More detailed information about the extent of power outages and the status of restoration efforts for the storm center.
- It will enhance the monitoring of numerous aspects of the electrical system and control devices already in place.

In October, we began the process of changing out all of Randolph EMC's 31,000-plus meters to the new smart meters with a goal of completing the meter changes by the fall of 2012.

This month I would like to give you a progress report on this project. As of January 31, 2011, a total of 5,210 meters have been changed. The areas we have installed AMI meters in are:

- Wall Substation: This is in Randolph County west of Asheboro and includes the communities of Tabernacle, Sophia and Caraway.
- Five Points Substation: This is in Randolph County south of Asheboro and includes the communities of Grantville, Erect and Coleridge.
- Love Joy Substation: This is in Montgomery County and includes the communities of Abner, Black Ankle, Ophir and Okeewemee.
- Bear Creek Substation: This is in Chatham County and includes the communities of Harpers Crossroads, Bennett, Bear Creek and Goldston.
- The next area where meters will be changed is in the Snow Camp area in Alamance County.

We are already experiencing the benefits of the limited number of AMI meters that have been installed to date. Meter readings are being sent to the office remotely and our energy use advisors are utilizing the hourly and daily kilowatt hour use to assist members by answering questions about their energy use patterns and helping them spot problems with heating units or other high-use appliances.

Communications with our members is critically important as we continue the implementation of this new program. The cooperative has developed an aggressive plan to keep members informed about this project. In addition to monthly updates in *Watts Working*, just prior to a member's meter being changed, you will receive a letter, postcard and phone call with information about the project and the replacement process.

As we move forward with the installation of this advanced metering project, we will keep you apprised of our progress and the additional opportunities and benefits it will provide the membership in the future.

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert
Executive Vice President and General Manager