



# Pitt and Greene

## Electric Membership Corporation

*“Where Customers Have A Choice”*

*Member Newsletter*

*January 2022*

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### ***EFFECTIVE January 1, 2022***

Using Debit and Credit cards are easy and convenient for all of us. Unfortunately, the banks charge businesses a processing fee for each transaction. This applies to Pitt and Greene EMC as well. We are charged a processing fee of 2.45% on each transaction. Beginning January 1, 2022, a fee of 2.45% of your total bill will be charged to offset what the bank charges us. Example, your bill is \$100.00 for the month. At 2.45% the fee applied will be \$2.45. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

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## **Space Heater Safety**

As temperatures drop this winter, many will look for supplemental heating sources for their homes. Space heaters can be a good alternative for those who want to warm one area of their home without turning up the thermostat on the central heating system. However, space heaters are also responsible for 32 percent of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If you are planning to use a space heater in your home this winter, review these tips to keep you, your family and your property safe.

**Materials** – What are the components of your space heater made of? Parts like metal grating can be hot to the touch and may burn anyone who gets too close. Make sure you purchase a heater that is cool to the touch and has guards over the coils just in case little fingers get too close.

**Placement** - While it can be tempting to place a small heater on a shelf so it is not in the way of pets and children, it is safest to leave the heater on a level floor on a nonflammable surface. Keeping the space heater on the floor can keep it from falling over, preventing fire hazards. Also, remember that space heaters and bathrooms are not a good combination, unless the heater is designed for bathroom use. Moisture can damage the heater.

The most important rule about space heater placement is the three-foot rule. Whether you are using the heater in the bedroom, living room or kitchen, space heaters should always be kept three feet away from flammable materials and out of the way of children and pets.

**Special Features** – Does your space heater have an auto shutoff function if tipped over? Auto shutoff can be a lifesaver. If you currently own a space heater without auto shutoff, consider purchasing a heater with this important safety feature.

**Cords** – You should never use an extension cord when plugging in a space heater as it can cause overheating. The space heater should be plugged directly into a wall outlet, and should be the only thing plugged into the wall outlet. Also make sure cords aren't in a high-traffic area so they are not a tripping hazard.

**Use** – Never leave a heater unattended while in use. If you are leaving your home or going to bed, make sure to unplug the heater.



***Pitt & Greene EMC will be closed  
Monday, February 21st for  
Presidents Day.***



# *Manager's Message*

*By: Mark A. Suggs*

## **Working with Local Legislators**

“All politics is local.” This observation by the late Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr., former speaker of the House of Representatives, means that even national politics have a local impact, and people care most about issues that directly affect them. Indirectly, this famous adage underscores the importance and value of local politics.

At Pitt & Greene EMC, we think it’s critical to develop and cultivate relationships with local legislators because they craft, introduce and vote on legislation that impacts the local business climate, the environment and quality of life for our community. That’s why we work closely with our local elected officials. Afterall, our purpose is to provide safe, reliable, affordable energy, but our mission is to help our community thrive.

Pitt & Greene EMC is a local business that powers economic development and prosperity for our region. As a cooperative, we have deep roots here, and we listen closely to our members to better understand the needs of our community. Our leadership, board members and employees live and work right here in the community we serve.

We strive to be an advocate for our community, ensuring that local legislators know, understand and act on the issues that are important to our area.

### ***Providing industry guidance and expertise***

As a practical matter, we recognize that most legislators are “generalists,” yet they vote on a wide range of issues. Their expertise may not include the changing energy industry, which is why Pitt & Greene EMC provides guidance and expertise from subject matter experts who have been in the energy industry for years.

Today’s energy landscape is an increasingly complex topic covering not only the traditional engineering and vegetation management aspects of the industry, but also encompasses technology, cybersecurity, the electrification of the transportation sector and more.

Our experts provide briefings and backgrounders to legislators, committees, and staff. We offer expert testimony for hearings and other legislative or regulatory meetings or gatherings. We participate in economic development, and we know local community leaders therefore, we can provide insight on how issues and policies under discussion might impact our region.

### ***Co-op as a convener***

In addition, we periodically invite legislators and their staff to the co-op for tours so they can see first-hand how we operate and can view our operations center, substations, and other cooperative facilities

### ***Representing your best interest***

We strive to be a trusted resource on energy issues. Because of our deep roots in the community, we have a firm understanding of local issues and needs. We will continue looking after the long-term interests of our consumer-members. This means we are able to cultivate and foster positive, productive relationships with legislators who know and trust us, because we are advocating on behalf of the community we serve. We’re proud to power your life and bring good things to the community.

*Congratulations to the following employees and directors who were recently recognized for their years of service to the cooperative: Josh Dixon 5 years, Matt Staring 15 years, and directors Richard Harper 15 years, Jeffrey Letchworth 15 years. and Kirby Bell 20 years.*

## Electrical safety tips for kids

At Pitt & Greene EMC, we understand your family's health and well-being are your top priority. With more than 140,000 electrical fires occurring each year, knowledge of electrical safety is necessary to ensuring your loved ones stay safe. Here are a few tips you can share with your little ones:

- \* Electrical fires are caused when a wire or electrical device overheats. It is important to make sure your family understands that water cannot extinguish this type of fire. Only fire extinguishers can be used to remedy this situation.
- \* In addition to the previous tip, it is never a good idea to mix water with electricity. Keep blow dryers, radios and any other electrical devices away from all water, especially those used in a bathroom.
- \* Keep metal objects out of appliances and plugs. If a piece of toast gets stuck in the toaster, never use a metal knife to retrieve it. Unplug the toaster, and use a different tool or utensil to remove the toast. Remember, only plugs should go in outlets. Sticking fingers or other objects in outlets may result in an electrical shock.
- \* It's always a good idea to turn lights off when they are not in use. This will save your family money on your electric bill and prevent electrical fires from overheated bulbs.
- \* Kids will be kids, and they love the great outdoors. Remind them to avoid overhead power lines. Whether they are climbing trees or flying kites or remote-controlled toys, they should always be mindful of what is above.
- \* Talk to your family about the importance of electrical safety, and more importantly, lead by example – because you never know who's watching. For more information about electrical safety, visit [esfi.org](http://esfi.org).



## *Bright Idea Winners for 2021 - 2022*

Congratulations to Holley Radford of Farmville Middle School on “Standing Up for Education” and Matthew Lococo of Greene County Middle School on “Voices of Greene County.” They were the recipients of the Bright Ideas Grant Program for the 2021-2022 school year.

The Bright Ideas Grant Program is a statewide effort by North Carolina's twenty-seven Touchstone Energy electric cooperatives to provide additional classroom resources that cannot be met through existing school budgets. Any K-12 certified North Carolina teacher can apply for a grant up to \$2000.00.

Since 1994, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have awarded more than \$13.6 million to North Carolina teachers for projects that have touched the lives of more than 2.7 million students in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, history, music, and the arts.

The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2022 and applications should be submitted by mid-September. In order to be considered for a Bright Idea Grant, the idea submitted by the teacher should be a unique and innovative way to reach the students and increase their interest in learning.

To find out more information about the Bright Idea Grant Program, visit [www.ncbrightideas.com](http://www.ncbrightideas.com).

Reminder.....

Colder weather has arrived, have you thought about what your heating system is set on? For example, if you have the thermostat set on 73, the system will come on more to keep it that desired temperature than if you have it set on a lower setting. The colder it is outside the more your heating system will run to keep your home warm. Which will make your utility bill higher. So when you receive your utility bill and it is higher than usual, remember the colder weather outside and what your thermostat was set on inside.

# WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD

Did you know there are several ways you can fight the winter chill *and* save energy at home? Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn how to save energy during winter months.



- 1 Down:** Open curtains and blinds during the day to allow \_\_\_\_\_ in to warm your home.
- 2 Across:** If you have a \_\_\_\_\_ at home, ask an adult to close the flue when a fire is not burning.
- 3 Down:** Unplug phone and tablet \_\_\_\_\_ when they're not in use.

- 4 Across:** Instead of turning up the thermostat, wear additional layers of \_\_\_\_\_ to stay warm.
- 5 Down:** Always turn off \_\_\_\_\_ when you leave a room.
- 6 Across:** Ask an adult to check the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ for your home's heating system. This should be replaced regularly.

**Answer Key:** 1 Down) sunlight 2 Across) fireplace 3 Down) chargers 4 Across) clothing 5 Down) lights 6 Across) air filter

De lunes a viernes de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m  
252-753-3128 / 1-800-622-1362 / 252-747-7600

Co-op Office Hours  
Monday - Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
252-753-3128 / 1-800-622-1362 / 252-747-7600

**CORTES DE SUMINISTRO ELÉCTRICO Y EMERGENCIAS:**  
Durante fines de semana, días festivos y después del horario de oficina  
252-753-8778

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