



Where customers have a choice



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Pitt & Greene EMC's Billing Statements Will Soon Have a New Look

We are working to revamp the member billing statements in hopes that you will find them easier to read as well as informative. You will see the change on the statement in the near future.

Keeping You Safe During and After SUMMER STORMS

No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. Pitt & Greene EMC encourages you to practice safety with these reminders—for during and after a summer storm:

- **Avoid wires and water** — When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in, whether it's a landline phone or toaster.
- **Skip the makeshift shelter** — During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height. Keep moving toward suitable shelter.
- **Flooded areas** — Stay away from downed power lines and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to Pitt & Greene EMC by calling 252-753-3128 immediately.



- **Electrical equipment** — Never use electrical equipment that is wet—especially outdoor electrical equipment, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.



A Buyer's Guide To Residential Generators

Let's face it: rough weather happens. At Pitt & Greene EMC, our goal is to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. But when a major storm hits, power may be out for an extended period of time. Anyone who has experienced an extended power outage has likely mulled over the idea of buying a generator, but before you do—make sure you have all the facts.

The purchase and installation of a generator is an important and serious decision. Properly done, you gain peace of mind knowing your family can ride out any outage with some degree of comfort. But an incorrectly implemented generator can become deadly to you, your family, your neighbors and your electric cooperative's employees.

So, let's look at the decisions you'll need to make when it comes to purchasing a residential generator. First, do you want to back up your entire home or just portions? The biggest drawback to a permanently installed, whole-house generator is the cost. While the advantages are significant, it is a large expense for most folks to cover. The next decision is sizing the generator to your particular situation. Typically portable generators don't have the start up capacity to operate your homes air conditioner system. Online tools abound, so if you like to research, just type "generator sizing guide" into your browser and off you go. A nice portable generator size is at least 6,500 watts with a startup capacity of around 8,000 watts. When motor loads start, they draw more power than they use when running. This "in rush" of power gets them spinning. Afterwards, their demand for electricity decreases.

The third consideration is how to integrate the generator with your home. Permanent models have dedicated switching devices that handle this chore, while portable models require you to remove them from storage, set them up, connect them and start them up. Here is where the danger mentioned above comes in to play. Improperly connected generators can easily back feed into Pitt & Greene EMC's lines. As electricity flows back into the lines, the transformers boost the voltage to lethal levels. Be sure to closely follow connection instructions, and contact us if you have any questions regarding connecting your generator safely. The National Electrical Code has specific guidelines for their installation.

Use of the generator can be as simple as plugging appliances directly into it. This is cumbersome and very limiting. Better yet, have a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician. This device connects to the circuits you want to power. Connect your generator to the dedicated plug, follow the disconnect procedure and fire it up. Now you've got power for your home that's safe for all.

Next, a word about quality. With generators, you definitely get what you pay for. Cheap models are just that. They may last a couple of years, but after

that, parts can be impossible to get. Few things are worse than your generator failing to operate when the lights are out. Definitely go for engines with recognizable brand names. They may cost more, but it will certainly be worth it.

It's important to exercise your portable generator regularly. Don't worry, you don't need to walk your generator. Exercising means connecting load to it and turning it on to be sure it will run. While you're at it, why not let us know you have a generator? We can provide safety and connection tips if needed, and it will enhance our line crew's safety. For more information contact Pitt & Greene EMC at 252-753-3128 and speak with a member of our engineering department.



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y después del horario de oficina:
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A Change For The Better

It's the little things

When it comes to energy efficiency in the home, sometimes small changes can make a big impact. A small, unglamorous task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently—keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. It also saves money. And the savings gained from having your system run more efficiently can be applied to more fun or entertaining pursuits that your family can enjoy together.

The lowdown on dirt

As you move around your home, you drive dust into the air from carpets, furniture and drapes. Regardless of where it comes from, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including:

- Reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- Costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowered system efficiency

Making the switch

Now, that you know the facts, it's time to get busy changing or cleaning the air filter in your heating/cooling system. Many HVAC professionals recommend that you clean or change the filter on your air conditioner or furnace monthly. It's simple and easy, and in many cases, it only takes a few minutes.

Filters are available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). MERV, a method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system. While most types of filters must be replaced, some filters are reusable. And don't forget about the winter months. Your heating system needs to work as efficiently as possible to keep you and your family warm and a clean air filter helps it do just that.



Heating and cooling professionals recommend turning your system off before changing the air filter. Make sure that the arrow on the filter—which indicates the direction of the airflow—is pointing toward the blower motor. When you've made the change, turn your system back on.

A teachable moment

Beyond saving money and improving the air quality in your home, changing your air filter is a great opportunity to teach your family more about energy efficiency. Consider getting everyone involved, and the entire family will learn how simple changes can make a big difference.

Breathe Easier.

Regularly changing your cooling system's air filter provides multiple benefits.

- Improved indoor air quality
- Cleaner home
- Fewer indoor allergens
- Improved system efficiency



Stay Safe Exploring the Outdoors This Summer

Summer is in full swing, and that means it is time for fun in the sun! As you find yourself spending more time outdoors, Pitt & Greene EMC reminds you to stay safe.

1 Planning a home improvement project?

When working outdoors, you may be using tools, such as ladders, power tools, shovels or even paintbrushes with extendable arms. These items help you get the job done but have the potential to be dangerous if used improperly.

2 Pay attention to where you place metal ladders...

...or dig for fence posts. Before you start any project, always look up and avoid overhead power lines. Keep a minimum of 10 feet between you and overhead lines.

3 If you are planning a project that requires digging...

...remember to dial “811” first to find out if the area you will be working in is clear of underground power lines. Power tools should be kept away from wet surfaces, and outlets should not be overloaded.



Exploring the great outdoors is a great way to spend time with the family, but keep these safety tips in mind.



Energy Efficiency

TIP OF THE MONTH

The combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, clothes dryers and washing machines account for the largest percentage of electricity use in the average U.S. home. Take small steps to save energy when using these appliances. Only run full loads in the dishwasher and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

Source: EIA and DOE

Be on the lookout.....

Monthly statements will be mailed in a brown envelope.

Due to supply issues, our bill printing vendor is unable to locate a sufficient supply of white envelopes to mail monthly statements to our members. Brown envelopes will be used and will have Pitt and Greene EMC's name and logo in the top left corner. This will not cause any delays in printing or mailing of your monthly statement. If you do not receive your statement, please reach out to our office at 252.753.3128 where our team of customer service representatives stand ready to assist you.

