Pitt and Greene
Electric Membership Corporation
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
Where customers have a choice

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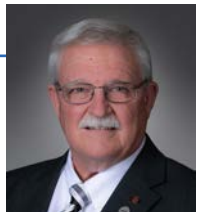
A MESSAGE FOR YOU

Mark A. Suggs
EVP and General Manager



In past managers messages I have shared the many changes that are affecting the utility industry. Our national organization, NRECA, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has released a series of graphs to help understand what is taking place. Below is the second in the series and we will share these with you monthly.

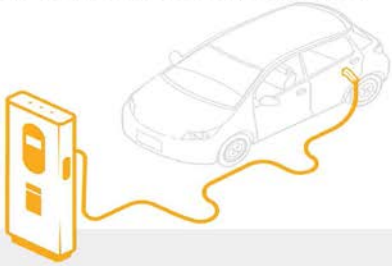
Soaring Demand

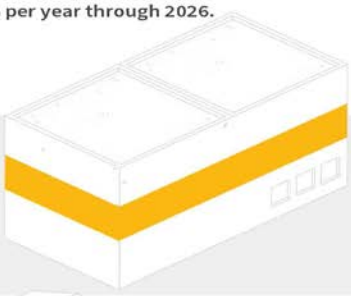
Second in a series

After decades of flat or declining electricity demand, the United States is in the midst of a boom in power use. Recent data shows that power consumption nationwide is set to increase by at least 38 gigawatts between now and 2028. This trend would ordinarily be great news for the power industry. But government policies aimed at shutting down fossil-fuel-based generation and years-long delays in permitting and siting for new transmission lines are turning this power boon into a capacity crisis. Here are the primary demand drivers:

Electrification

Electric vehicle adoption, electrification of home heating and industrial electrification are expected to increase overall U.S. energy consumption by 1% per year through 2026.





65%

Data Centers

Driven by explosions in artificial intelligence, cryptocurrency and cloud computing, total U.S. data center load is projected to increase by 65% by 2050.

Economic Growth

Residential power consumption is expected to increase by 14% to 22% through 2050 due to increases in population and steady economic growth.

Manufacturing Growth/Onshoring

New, expanding and "onshored/reshored" manufacturing capacity driven by federal incentives is expected to increase industrial demand by 13,000 GWh per year.

Key products: EVs, batteries, semiconductors, solar power components

Total Demand

Analysts predicted in 2023 that U.S. peak demand will increase by at least 38 GW over the next five years, nearly double the growth rate predicted in 2022.

Sources: NRECA, EPRI, Grid Strategies, U.S. EIA, International Energy Agency; Design: Jerry Mosemak

Left to right: Jacob Wade, Trey Radford, Daren Barefoot, Walter Stallings, Derek Lancaster, Josh Dixon.

Pitt & Greene Lineworkers Help Western NC Cooperatives Devastated by Hurricane Helene

While Hurricane Helene was making landfall, efforts were already taking place to have crews on standby to respond and help our sister cooperatives who would possibly need assistance with power restoration. At the time no one had any idea the devastation Hurricane Helene would leave behind and just how much assistance the cooperatives in the western part of our state would need. Early Saturday morning on Sept. 28, our lineman headed out, unsure as to which cooperatives they would help and when they might be returning home. They began their journey at Surry Yadkin EMC, based in Dobson, North Carolina. After a few days they were sent to Rutherford EMC in Forest City, North Carolina. Sixteen days later they were released to return home.

Crews from 11 states descended on Western North Carolina to help in the restoration efforts so families and businesses could begin the process of getting back to normal. There are still many who live in the most remote portion of the mountains who remain without power. Roads and bridges must be replaced before utility lines can be rebuilt.

We are thankful for our lineman and their willingness to help other cooperative members in need.

Bright Ideas Winners for 2024–2025

Congratulations to Lisa Carr of Farmville Middle School and Patsy Johnson of The Oakwood School. They are the recipients of the Bright Ideas Grant Program for the 2024–2025 school year. The Bright Ideas Grant Program is a statewide effort by North Carolina's 27 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 $2,000.

Since 1994, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have awarded more than $15.8 million to North Carolina teachers for projects that have touched the lives of more than 3.65 million students in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, history, music, and the arts.

30 YEARS OF Bright Ideas

The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2025. 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 **ncbrightideas.com**.

Winter Safety Tips

It's no surprise that winter months bring increased potential for fire risks and electrical safety hazards. This makes sense because during the coldest months, consumers are using additional electrical devices and appliances, like space heaters, electric blankets and portable generators.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates that 46,700 home fires occur each year in the U.S. due to electrical failure or malfunction and cause $1.4 billion in property damage annually. This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

1 **Don't overload outlets.** Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliance connections—they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets.

2 **Never leave space heaters unattended.** If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving the room. Make sure heaters are placed at least three feet away from flammable items. It should also be noted that space heaters take a toll on your energy bills. If you're using them throughout your home, it may be time to upgrade your home heating system.

3 **Inspect heating pads and electric blankets.** Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads—look for dark, charred or frayed spots, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged. Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.

4 **Use portable generators safely.** Unfortunately, winter storms can cause prolonged power outages, which means many consumers will use portable generators to power their homes. Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. For portable generators, plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator. Start the generator first, before you plug in appliances. Run it in a well-ventilated area outside your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows and vents.

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.

Energy Efficiency

TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Tips for a Safe and Efficient Holiday Season

This holiday season, keep energy savings and electrical safety in mind.

SAVE ENERGY

- Use smaller appliances like slow cookers instead of the oven.
- Lower the thermostat when hosting friends and family.
- Decorate with energy-saving LED lights.

PRIORITIZE SAFETY

- Never leave unattended candles burning.
- Ensure all smoke alarms are working.
- When decorating, inspect all light strands and cords for damage.

Happy Holidays

Pitt & Greene EMC will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 25, and Thursday, Dec. 26, for the Christmas holiday and Wednesday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day.

Important Sales & Use Tax Notice

A purchaser (farmers, manufacturers and commercial laundries) that is eligible for a preferential tax rate on electricity should complete and furnish the seller/electricity supplier Form E-595E, Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement Certificate of Exemption, to take advantage of qualifying reductions.

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