Pitt and Greene
Electric Membership Corporation

Where customers have a choice

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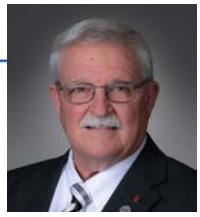
A MESSAGE FOR YOU

Mark A. Suggs
EVP and General Manager

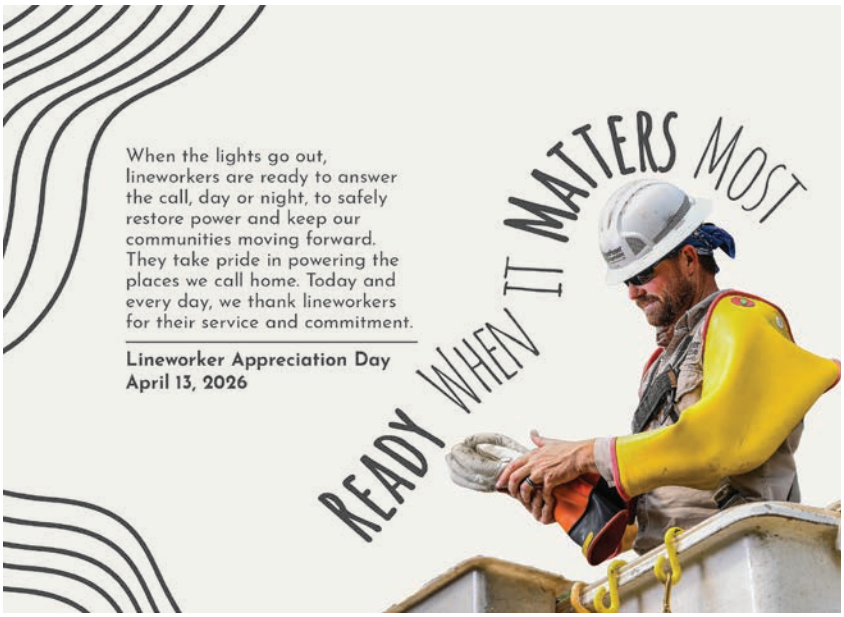


Lineman Appreciation

The Power Behind Your Power

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include threats of power outages. While Pitt & Greene EMC strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst—co-op lineworkers.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.



In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, lineworkers are responsible for keeping 1103 miles of lines across six counties working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamourous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high-voltage lines day and night in the worst of conditions. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to "thank a lineworker."

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 13. So during the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.

Be Ready for Storm Season

Preparedness is the Best Defense

Spring is on our doorstep and many of you are looking forward to more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy warmer weather. Springtime brings activities like cooking out with family and friends, time spent working in the garden and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

Unfortunately, spring and summer can also create the perfect conditions for severe storms.

Our crews here at Pitt & Greene EMC are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. When severe storms cause power disruptions, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines.

We would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storms and outages.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- **Stock your pantry** with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Confirm that you have **adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies** including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your **First Aid kit is stocked** with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials, and make sure your prescriptions are current.
- **Set aside basic household items** you will need, including flashlights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable, battery-powered radio or TV.
- **Organize emergency supplies** to be easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from potential power surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored.

Many families have someone in the home who uses medical equipment that relies on electricity. It could be someone on oxygen or the need for a breathing machine at night. In the event we experience an outage that could last for an extensive period of time we ask that you have a backup plan in place. This plan could include using a portable generator, battery backup or moving to an alternate location until power is restored.

If you plan to use a portable generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information. Severe storms can occasionally bring down power lines. If you see a downed line, always assume it's energized and never approach it. If flooding occurs, never walk through areas where power lines could be submerged.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

We will restore power as soon as possible, but depending on the type of damage caused and where the damage may be, we cannot guarantee how long you may be affected by an outage.

Energy Efficiency

TIP OF THE MONTH

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: energy.gov

The steps to restoring

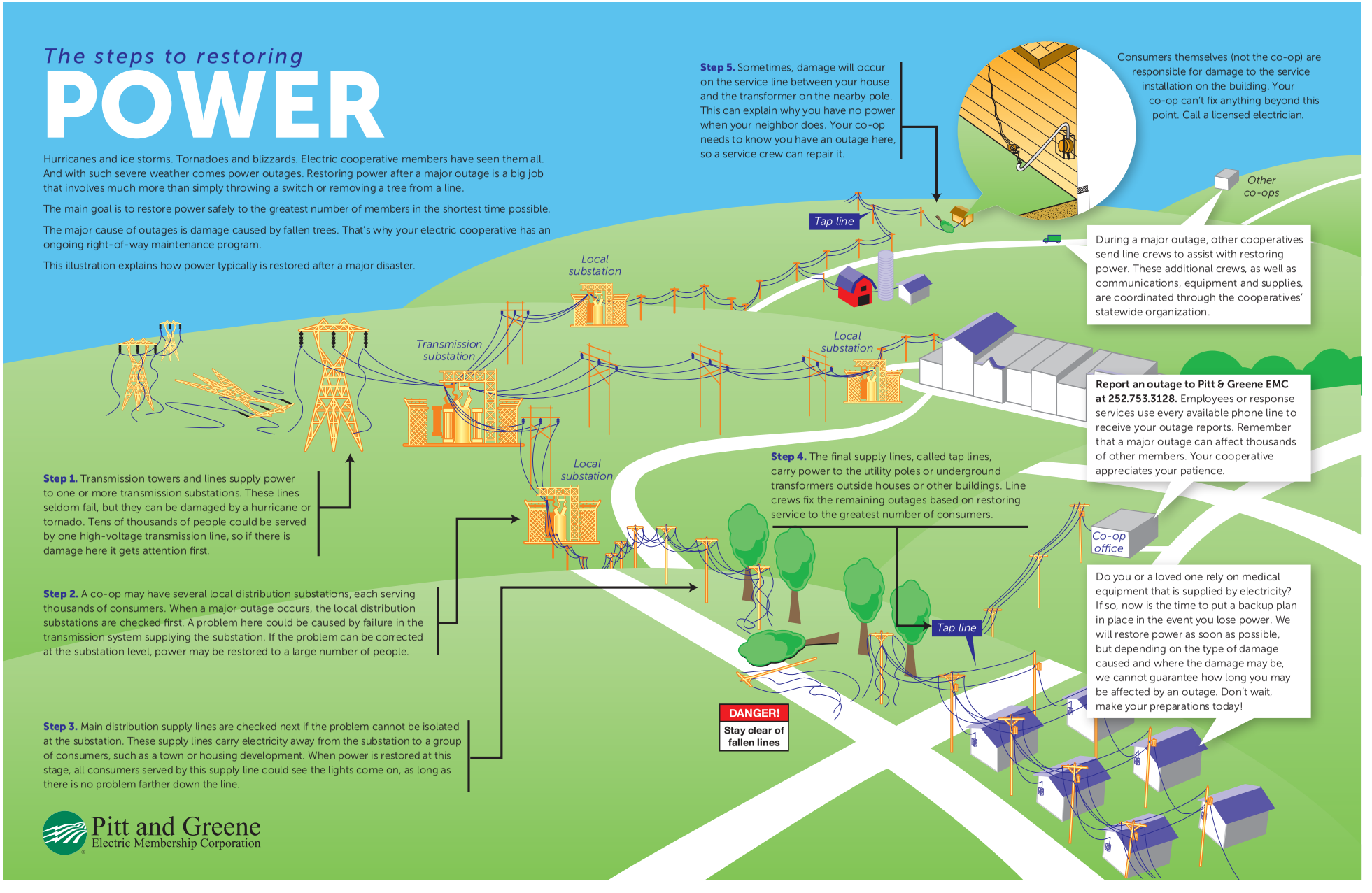
POWER

Hurricanes and ice storms. Tornadoes and blizzards. Electric cooperative members have seen them all. And with such severe weather comes power outages. Restoring power after a major outage is a big job that involves much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line.

The main goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible.

The major cause of outages is damage caused by fallen trees. That's why your electric cooperative has an ongoing right-of-way maintenance program.

This illustration explains how power typically is restored after a major disaster.



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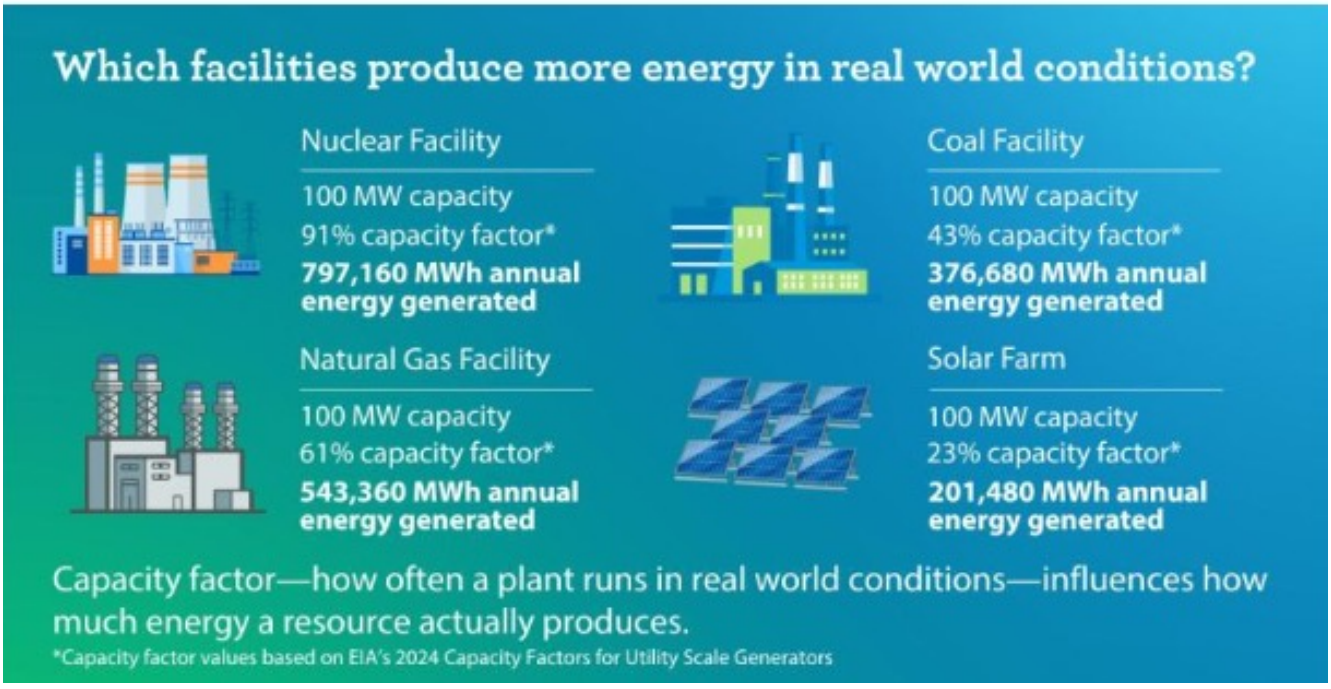
The Reliability of Generation Resources

What do we mean when we say one generation resource is more reliable than another?

Let's break it down.

The capacity factor—how often a plant runs in real world conditions—influences how much energy a resource actually produces.

Dispatchable resources—like nuclear, coal and gas—have a higher capacity factor than reneables like solar. Dispatchable resources are always available, making them always reliable.



Bright Ideas 2026–2027

The Bright Ideas grant program is offered by all 26 of North Carolina's electric cooperatives and supports educators in need of funding to implement creative, hands-on learning projects in their classrooms. Since 1994, North Carolina's electric co-ops have awarded more than $15 million in Bright Ideas grants to teachers statewide. These projects have benefited well over 3.5 million North Carolina students. Pitt & Greene EMC is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2026–2027 school year. Teachers in K–12 classrooms with innovative ideas are encouraged to apply for a grant up to $2,000. Grant applications will be accepted April 1, through Sept. 15. Teachers at qualifying schools can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects.

To apply, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit NCBrightIdeas.com

Pitt and Greene Electric Membership Corporation

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