

Lumbee River

Electric Membership Corporation



JANUARY 2008 MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Lumbee River EMC Allocates Funds for LREMC Cares Energy Assistance Program

Lumbee River EMC understands that many of our members already have to stretch their money each month just to make ends meet.

When a crisis or emergency occurs it can really create a hardship. Oftentimes, choices have to be made between medicine, food and electricity.

As part of our continued commitment to improve the quality of life for our members, LREMC began a program to assist members who are experiencing a crisis in their life. This program, LREMC Cares, is administered by community service agencies in each of our four counties we serve.

County	Agency	Contact Info
Cumberland	Fayetteville Urban Ministry	(910) 483-5944
Hoke	Dept. of Social Services	(910) 875-8725
Robeson	Robeson County Church & Community Services	(910) 738-5204
Scotland	Scotland County Church & Community Services	(910) 276-8330

Community service agencies will begin administering funds to our members January 2, 2008, until allocated funds are depleted. The agencies will use their existing criteria to determine member eligibility for funds. Eligible members can receive up to \$150 in assistance one time a year.

Agencies will begin taking applications for funds on Wednesday, January 2. Please contact the agency for your county for additional information.

Cut Energy Cost Use (And Still Stay Toasty)

There are several ways you can cut costs and consumption and stay warm this winter.

The furnace is one of the largest consumers of energy in your home, and water heating accounts for up to 20 percent of your home's total utility expense. To keep your furnace running efficiently, be sure to properly maintain it.

With routine tune-ups and timely filter changes, you can extend the life of your electric, gas or propane furnace. Educate yourself on where your furnace's filter is located, and inspect it periodically.

A common way energy escapes through your heating system is when air leaks through ducts in the furnace. Hire a heating contractor to seal up large leaks and inspect your furnace for more problem areas. Though it may sound like the perfect option, duct tape is not recommended when sealing ducts, as its adhesive is short-lived and will soon become unstuck. For small leaks, use Duct Mastic, a more effective and permanent material for sealing duct air leaks.

When shopping for a furnace, consider energy efficiency first. All furnaces have an Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency rating (AFUE). If your current furnace is more than 25 years old or has a constantly blinking pilot light, it probably has an AFUE rating of only 60 to 70 percent. This means you're not even using more than a quarter of the fuel you purchase to heat your home.

Your best bet is a high-efficiency furnace, with an AFUE of more than 90 percent.

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College Scholarships Available to High School Seniors

Lumbee River EMC will award six local high school seniors over \$18,000 in educational assistance this spring as part of its scholarship program.

The Lucy Smith, John S. O'Briant, Thomas Wade Bethea and Elias Rogers Scholarships are for students planning to attend a four-year college or university. Each scholarship is valued at \$4,000. The J. McN. Gillis and J. W. Hunt Scholarships are for students planning to attend a two-year college or technical school. Each scholarship is valued at \$1,200.

"Lumbee River EMC established this program over 30 years ago out of a desire to help students who otherwise might not have the opportunity to continue their education," said Ronnie E. Hunt, President and CEO. "We are committed to members and their families and we are honored to be able to invest in the education and development of future leaders."

Applications will be available at any LREMC office, from the guidance counselor at most area high schools or Lumbee River EMC's Web site beginning January 2, 2008. To qualify, you must be a senior whose parents or guardians are members of the cooperative. The application itemizes all necessary qualifications and requirements.

Applications must be received on or before **Monday, March 3, 2008**, by 5 p.m. For additional information or to obtain an application, please call (910) 843-4131, or visit www.lumbeeriver.com.

Applications available for Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

Once a year, a high school junior is selected by Lumbee River EMC to represent their cooperative as a delegate to the Washington Youth Tour. In the summer before their senior year, the delegate, along with other North Carolina students, will join hundreds of other students from across the country – all expenses paid – for one incredible week in the nation's capital. The Tour is a fast-paced, leadership opportunity to see what makes America tick.

Applications will be available at any LREMC office, from the guidance counselor at most area high schools or Lumbee River EMC's Web site beginning January 2, 2008. To qualify, you must be a senior whose parents or guardians are members of the cooperative. The application itemizes all necessary qualifications and requirements.

Applications must be received on or before **Monday, March 3, 2008** by 5 p.m. For additional information or to obtain an application, please call (910) 843-4131, or visit our Web site at www.lumbeeriver.com. Tour dates are June 13–19, 2008.



If selected to attend the Youth Tour, high school juniors will travel to Washington, D.C.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors, and crawl spaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

2007 Bright Ideas Grants



2007–2008 Bright Ideas Grant Winners

More than 3,942 students will benefit from sixteen Bright Ideas Grants awarded by Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperative.

The Bright Ideas grant program, sponsored by North Carolina's electric cooperatives, strives to improve education in North Carolina classrooms by awarding grants to teachers for innovative, classroom-based projects in grades K–12 that would not otherwise be funded. The annual Bright Ideas grants fund creative teaching ideas to meet the needs of area students.

Lumbee River EMC has contributed more than \$220,000 to area schools in the program's thirteen-year history. Lumbee River EMC has reached more than 410,000 students, and has funded 186 projects in various disciplines. The Bright Ideas Grant Program is part of Lumbee River EMC's commitment to improve the quality of instruction by providing support to our schools and teachers in the communities we serve.

The funds go to teachers, principals and other educators serving grades K–12, with awards of up to \$2,000 being offered for projects in any discipline.

Winning teachers, schools and grants

Sheri Baines

South Scotland Elementary
I'll Take Science for \$200

Meghan Kellhofer

Brentwood Elementary
Fast Lifecycles with Fast Plants

Linda Chapman

Rockfish Hoke Elementary
Science Through Nature

Phyllis King

Lumberton Junior High
The Future...the Vision of a Child

Jane Fields

Douglas Byrd High School
Moving from Good to Great

Arnold Lipson

Hoke County High
What is Your Fuel Cell IQ?

Sheila Gasque

Rob. Co. Info. Tech. High
Where in the World is the Travel Bug?

Shawn O'Conner

Hope Mills Middle
It's a Small World After All

LeaAnna Grafer

Upchurch Elementary
World Habitats

Donna Pope

John Griffin Middle
Pirate Literary Magazine

Sharyl Gross

Spring Hill Middle
The "Write" Stuff

LaShawn Robinson

Shaw Elementary
Create an Instrument

Valerie Hammond

Deep Branch Elementary
Write Brain Learning

Deana Tatum

Douglas Byrd Middle
Balloon Bizarre

George Jackson

East Robeson Primary
Manipulating Math at Home

Marie Worytko

Rob. Co. Info. Tech High
Diversification of Agriculture

Cut Energy Cost Use

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However, a mid-efficiency furnace, with an AFUE of more than 80 percent, will still save money and energy.

Another appliance that can use up energy in your home is your water heater.

Studies reveal that a family of up to four can use an annual average of 3,500 kilowatt hours on hot water, totaling \$500 per year. While most water heaters now come insulated, many older models are not. Wrapping a fiberglass blanket or ready-made insulation kit around your heater can save up to 10 percent on your home's water heating cost.

As creatures of comfort, it is natural to long for a warm, cozy home during the chill of winter. Take the necessary precautions to efficiently conserve energy through your home's furnace and water heater. Cut unnecessary use now and save your home's energy for the important things...like that soothing hot shower.

Service Rules and Regulations Updated

On a bi-annual basis Lumbee River EMC reviews all Service Rules and Regulations related to the operation of the cooperative. This review is to insure that our practices position us to provide the best value possible to our members while insuring that our infrastructure is adequate to handle the additional load growth in our area. Highlights of the changes from this review are listed below. These changes are effective January 1, 2008. For additional information, contact your local office. Highlights of the changes include:

Connection Fee New Account	\$20
Same Day Connection Fee New Account	\$60
Field Collection Fee	\$20
Underground Monthly Surcharge: All Accounts	\$2.25
Connection Fee for Non-Payment Account	\$40
Overtime Connection Fee for Non-Payment Account	\$80
Field Collection Fee	\$20
Returned Check/Credit Card Service Charge	\$25
Credit Card Fraud	\$100

Estimating Appliance and Home Electronic Energy Use

If you're trying to decide whether to invest in a more energy-efficient appliance or you'd like to determine your electricity loads, you may want to estimate appliance energy consumption.

You can use this formula to estimate an appliance's energy use:

$$\text{Wattage} \times \text{Hours used per day} \times \text{Days used per year} \div 1000 = \text{Kilowatt-hour (kWh) consumption per year}$$

EXAMPLE

Personal computer (120 Watts) and monitor (150 Watts):

$$(120\text{Watts} + 150\text{Watts}) \times 4\text{ hours per day} \times 365\text{ days per year} \div 1000 = 394\text{ kWh/year}$$

Then, calculate the annual cost to run an appliance by multiplying the kWh per year by your local utility's rate per kWh consumed.

$$394\text{ kWh} \times \$0.104\text{ (current national average)} = \$40.98\text{ per year}$$

You can usually find the wattage of most appliances stamped on the bottom or back of the appliance, or on its nameplate. The wattage listed is the maximum power drawn by the appliance. Since many appliances have a range of settings (hairdryers), the actual amount of power consumed depends on the setting used at any one time.

Wattage Ranges for Household Appliances

Clothes washer = 350–500 Watts	Laptop = 50 Watts
Clothes dryer = 1800–5000 Watts	Refrigerator (frost-free, 16 cubic feet) = 725 Watts
Dishwasher = 1200–2400 Watts (heat drying feature increases energy use)	Televisions
Hair dryer = 1200–1875 Watts	27" = 113 Watts
Microwave oven = 750–1100 Watts	36" = 133 Watts
Personal computer	53"–61" Projection = 170 Watts
CPU–awake/asleep = 120/30 or less	Flat screen = 120 Watts
Monitor–awake/asleep = 150/30 or less	Water heater (40 gallon) = 4500–5500 Watts

Source: U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



Holiday Closing

Lumbee River EMC offices
will be closed Monday, January 21,
in observance of
Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



LUMBEE RIVER EMC

P.O. Box 830, Red Springs, NC 28377
910-843-4131 | 1-800-683-5571
www.lumbeeriver.com

Business Hours: Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

President & CEO: Ronnie E. Hunt
Editor: Ruby Clark

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