

Manager's Message

Start the New Year right and take advantage of the programs and services that BEMC has to offer.

Brunswick Electric is more than a reliable power provider; we are a resource to our membership. Members count on us for information about how to save energy and how to manage energy use, and both of these can help you save money. Here are four of my favorites:

The SmartHub app is a free and convenient way to manage your BEMC account and view how much power you use. Go online or download the app to compare your usage by day, week, and month to find usage patterns. You can also estimate your bill at any time, sign up for high usage alerts, and pay your bill through SmartHub.

The Prepay Power program, also known as PowerStat, is a pay-as-you-go system with no deposit required and no monthly bill. You decide when and how much electricity you want to purchase at one of our Bill Payment Terminals, BEMC offices, online, or by using the auto bill pay 24/7 number for credit/debit card purchases.

BEMC's Equalized Billing option allows you to even out seasonal variations in your electric bill so that your payment is the same each month. This can help with monthly budgeting and can be paid by automatic draft, by phone, in person, or by mail.

Our Weatherization Loan Program allows eligible members to make qualifying energy efficient upgrades to homes and businesses and pay them over time. These low interest payments are simple to pay back because they can be added to your monthly electric bill.

You can count on energy saving articles and energy efficiency information in every issue of Carolina Country magazine, as well as on our website, and on BEMC's social media. We also have free publications available at our offices, and recommend you visit TogetherWeSave.com for more tips and videos about using energy wisely. Just like you, we're looking to save where we can. Call or come by the office to ask about all these options and more, because we're here to help.



Don Hughes

Don Hughes,
CEO/General Manager

Feeling cold?



Before you turn up the heat this winter, try these simple low cost/ no cost tips to warm yourself up.

- Dress in layers. Wear several thin, warm layers instead of one or two bulky items. This will keep you warmer while making it easier to add or remove layers as needed throughout the day.
- Wear thick socks or slippers. When your feet are warm, your whole body will feel warmer.
- Drink warm beverages. Coffee, hot tea and cocoa are easy options many people enjoy on a cold day.
- Open curtains and blinds during the day to let the sun in. Close them at night to keep the cold air out.
- Cover up with a blanket whenever you're sitting down and use extra blankets at bedtime.
- Remove obstructions from heat vents, registers and radiators so warm air can circulate through your home.
- Block drafts at doors and windows with a rolled up blanket or towel.



BEMC powers environmental village

Brunswick Electric continues to earn its reputation as your resource for energy efficiency information, excellent member service, and reliable electricity. We're local, and we were built by the community to serve the community. One of the ways we serve our members' needs is by looking ahead to new technologies and practices that will keep BEMC ahead of the industry curve.

One such unique opportunity is the Heron's Nest, an environmental village located in Shallotte near Village Point. Thirty-three home sites are positioned among the live oaks where about half a dozen cottages have sprung up. The Adams Group, the developer of the Heron's Nest community, says its goal is to build an environment-friendly neighborhood that has the feeling of an historic cottage village. Setting it apart are the renewables built into the floorplans, including programmable water heaters and thermostats, rooftop solar panels and on-site battery storage, all designed to lessen the carbon footprint and promote sustainable living.

BEMC worked with the Adams Group to develop a pilot program assessing the value of a new hot water heater demand control program. This involved partnering with Vaughn

hot water heaters for units that are equipped with Carina Technologies controls, which regulates the functionality of the water heater and has an LED display box.

If viable, the cooperative plans to take what we learn and expand it into a wide-reaching program benefitting members who choose to participate, and the cooperative as a whole. This is a good example of using new technology to find innovative ways to better control cooperative costs. Here's why. Just like roads at rush hour, the electric grid experiences periods of high traffic, or demand. The cooperative's cost for wholesale electricity is most expensive when demand for it is greatest. Everyone

benefits when we work together to reduce or shift electricity use during these high traffic times, because we pay a lower wholesale rate for electricity when there is less demand. Those savings are what we can pass on to our members to help keep rates as low as possible.

Neighborhood-wide applications like this hot water heater program at Heron's Nest, BEMC's solar options, and our electric vehicle charging stations are just a few visible indicators of our efforts to stay on top of industry trends.

BEMC worked with the Adams Group to develop a pilot program assessing the value of a new hot water heater demand control program.



Make 2019 a Year of Energy Efficiency



This year, resolve to be more energy efficient by making simple changes each month. Follow this guide to potentially save energy and money throughout the year.

JANUARY | DIY home energy assessment. Grab a pen and a notepad and thoroughly inspect your home to locate air leaks, check for the proper amount of insulation in your attic, and ensure pipes, ducts and chimneys are properly sealed. Keep a checklist to help you prioritize what to fix first.

FEBRUARY | Free energy services. Download the SmartHub app, a free tool to help you track and manage your energy use so you can make small changes that add up to bigger savings. Sign up to get high usage alerts, pay online, and more.

MARCH | Air conditioning tune up. A professional should service your air conditioning system once a year to maintain peak performance.

APRIL | Outdoor HVAC unit clean up. Trim bushes and shrubs to allow at least two feet of clearance around your HVAC unit and keep leaves and debris from accumulating to maintain proper airflow.

MAY | Air filter stock up. Replace your air filters every 1 to 3 months to make sure your HVAC system performs properly. Keep a few extra filters on hand.

JUNE | Smart thermostats. Get a programmable wi-fi thermostat that automatically adjusts your temperature settings to fit your daily life. This can help you save energy and money when you're away during the day, asleep or on vacation. *Contact BEMC to get your ecobee4 thermostat for only \$50 while supplies last.*

JULY | Power strips. Your appliances and devices may be turned off, but they still use a small amount of power—known as phantom energy—when plugged in. You can save by installing a power strip that allows you to turn off all these items in a single switch.

AUGUST | LED light bulbs. Switching to LED bulbs is one of the easiest ways to increase energy efficiency in your home. ENERGY STAR-qualified LEDs use 75 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Also, LEDs don't emit heat, which is an added plus during the dog days of summer.

SEPTEMBER | Heating system tune up. Just like your air conditioning, your heating system should be serviced once a year as the weather gets cooler to keep it at optimal performance.

OCTOBER | Light timers. As the sun sets earlier, consider installing a timer so lights come on as needed rather than leaving them on all day.

NOVEMBER | Caulking and weather stripping. Seal up any cracks and gaps around windows and doors to help keep cold air out and warm air in. Visit bemc.org to find out more about a BEMC Weatherization Loan to make energy efficiency improvements, big or small.

DECEMBER | Energy efficient holiday lights. LED light strands are 70 percent more efficient and last 10 times longer than traditional incandescent lights. They are also cooler to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.

These are the last Watts-for-Sale ads

Once fondly called The Swap Shop by Brunswick Electric members, this newsletter feature that began in the 1960s has dwindled in popularity in recent years. We're sorry to see these free ads go, but we consistently hear from members that they would like to learn more about how to save on their electric bills in our publications. Look for valuable energy efficiency tips and additional articles from your cooperative in this space next month.

Baby cradle, antique, \$100; child's table with 2 chairs, \$50; ice cream stool, \$75; 457-9990

Gun case, wooden w/ glass front, holds 8 long guns, exc. condition, \$100 OBO; 579-6005

Craftsman band saw, 14", 3/4 hp, open stand, mobile base, used, \$175; 508-353-0011

Craftsman belt sander/grinder, 6x48", 9" disc, 1-1/2 hp, open stand, mobile base, used, \$175; 508-353-0011

2007 Suzuki Burgman 400, 400 cc, CVT drive, new battery, like new, 5K miles, \$3500 OBO; 465-8608

Barbie Dollhouse, original, 54" x 17" x 36", \$50; 253-9621

Dayton PTO Generator, 25KW, on trailer, new PTO shaft, used less than 20 hours, \$1600 OBO; 336-312-2405

Two end tables, solid oak, hand built, golden oat color; 579-2904



OUR CONGRATULATIONS to Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Holden, Shallotte, N. C., our lucky account number winner. Thank you for reading your "TELL-O-WATT." We are proud of you and appreciate your keeping up with the business that belongs to you and some 11,209 other member-owners of your Electric Cooperative. Says Mr. and Mrs. Holden, "Our Rural Electrification Program has been the key note to great progress in our community. It was a dark land before the coming of electricity and when we were unable to get electricity from other sources and organized our own Electric Cooperative, that was a day of history, that rural folks will never forget."

THE SWAP-SHOP

FOR SALE: 7 full breed Cocker Spaniel puppies. Contact Joe C. Wilson, Ash, N. C. Tel.: 287-3384.

FOR SALE: Tomato, Pepper, Cabbage and Collard plants. See Dorsey Smith, Ash, N. C. Tel.: 754-4467.

FOR SALE 15' Chest type freezer in excellent condition — price \$75.00. Contact Stafford Hewett, R-1, Supply, N. C.

WANTED: Peanuts to shell for money or peanuts. See Mrs. Paul L. Lewis, R-1, Box 20, Winnabow, N. C.

FOR SALE: Mule, gear and tools. H. G. Smith, Ash, N. C. Tel.: 287-3350.

FOR SALE: New and used World Book Encyclopedias. Contact Mrs. Lillian Hardie, Clarendon, North Carolina (Bethel Community). Phone Tabor City 6041.

FOR SALE: Five acres of land, suitable for building lots. See J. M. Chadwick, Village Point Road, Phone PL 4-6638.

WANTED: Used baby crib and mattress. See Mrs. Galloway Hewett. Tel.: PL 4-4234.

FOR SALE: Martin goods — mixed chickens, Bantam, Game and Hudson Cross. Ambroee J. James, Shallotte Point Road, Shallotte, N. C.

Offices Closed for New Year's & MLK Day

All BEMC offices will be closed on January 1 for New Year's Day & January 21 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



NC Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour

January 15 is the deadline to apply for the Rural Electric Youth Tour. Applications are open to all high school juniors and seniors in BEMC's service area, and are available at bemc.org. Winners will be notified by February 1, 2019.



CUSTOMER SERVICE (800)842-5871 | OUTAGE REPORTING (800)682-5309

Shallotte (910)754-4391 | Southport / Oak Island (910)457-9808 | Whiteville (910)642-5011

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www.bemc.org | email: newsletter@bemc.org | Auto bill payment 24/7 (866)934-6830



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