

Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation Timeline

1930s



1935
President Roosevelt creates the Rural Electrification Act, promoting the electrification of rural areas.



1939
E.D. Doc Bishop names and incorporates the co-op BEMC, enabling construction of the first 138 miles of power lines. BEMC energizes its first lines in December 1939.

1940s

1940
BEMC Newsletter debuts - named "Tell-o-Watt" by member Mr. M. W. Ray.

1942
BEMC joined the newly formed National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



1948
The co-op purchases a Quonset hut building in Shallotte and a 2-way radio system for vehicles.

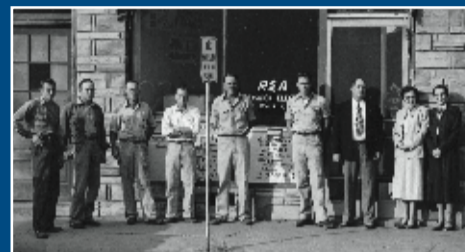
1950s



1951
Willie Wired-Hand is introduced as REA Mascot, representing farmers' desire for a hired hand who never tires.



1952
Headquarters built on Village Pt. Rd. Shallotte.



1953
Whiteville office opened downtown.

1960s



1962
Gold Medallion Homes program begins, promoting all electrical living.

1964
BEMC celebrates its 25th Anniversary serving almost 12,000 members.

25 Years!

1968
Oak Island branch office opens.

1969
BEMC bought the electric facilities at Caswell Beach from the City of Southport.

1970s

1970
BEMC starts installing new services underground.

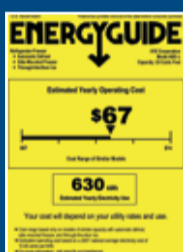
1971
Current BEMC logo is introduced.



1971
BEMC installs its first computer and begins computer-based billing.

1973
Energy Crisis! Supplies of oil & natural gas for electrical power are sharply curtailed. Talks of nuclear energy, conservation and energy efficiency begin in earnest. Long lines at the gas pump.

1980s



1980
Energy Guide labels required by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) begin to appear on appliances.

1981
• Heat pumps are introduced as an energy-efficient, economical alternative to gas and oil heat.
• NC Electric Membership Corp. acquires a portion of the Catawba Nuclear Plant in SC.

1988
5% Loan Program started by BEMC to help members finance energy-saving home improvements.



1989
BEMC celebrates its 50th Anniversary, now serving about 34,000 members.

50 Years!

1990s

1992
Power Stat Pay As You Go is introduced. BEMC is 1st US electric utility to offer this.



1993
BEMC initiates Bright Ideas educational grants.

1996
BEMC's new headquarters opens on Ocean Highway.



1999
BEMC joins the national marketing alliance of Touchstone Energy, which provided a unified voice for more than 500 co-ops.



2000s

2001
First FEMA grant of \$6.25 million to convert overhead to underground lines on barrier islands.

2001
Rural Consumer Services Corp. (a BEMC affiliate) completes the first 3 phases of a fiber optic communications network connecting all BEMC substations.

2003
BEMC newsletter is renamed "Member Matters".



2008
BEMC completes conversion to AMI system (Automated Meter Information).

2012
BEMC prepaid PowerStat program surpasses 8,000 (more than 10% of members).

2013
5% Loan Program Milestone of \$10 million dollars loaned to members for energy efficiency improvements.



2014
BEMC celebrates 75th Anniversary, now serving over 70,000 members.