

Is your Home Ready for Winter?

Put our experience to work for you

One of the most common questions we receive at Brunswick Electric is how to weatherize a home to be more energy efficient in order to save money on your monthly electric bill. So we asked one of our local energy experts, Nicky Nance, who handles renewable energy projects for BEMC, his recommendations. What can you do now to prepare your home for the upcoming winter? Here are some of his suggestions:

First, grab a notepad and a pencil and take a thorough tour of your home, looking for leaks that allow heat to escape and noting the work that needs to be done. Inside, look for gaps in doors and windows, and behind insulation in your attic, paying close attention to cutouts in drywall for electrical fixtures, pipes, fans and outlets. Check around wiring, chimney vents, and air ducts for gaps. Outside, find and fill cracks and gaps in siding, windows and foundation. If you live in a modular home, check the underpinning to ensure it is tightly sealed. Smaller leaks in your home can be filled with caulk, but use pressurized expanding foam to close larger gaps.

Also, replace worn or missing weatherstripping around doors, and install a door sweep to stop drafts from coming into your home through an exterior door. Inside, put plastic film insulation on your windows to keep cold air out. Finally, consider installing a programmable thermostat to manage your home's temperature when you're not there.

Some of these are simple fixes you can do yourself, but others are larger projects that may require outside help, such as inspecting your HVAC unit or insulating your attic. All of these may help you in the colder months.

Visit your local hardware store when considering any home improvement project. Not only can they show you how to complete many of these projects, but they can help you find the best solutions for your particular home that will provide you the most efficiency at the lowest cost.

Do you have a question for one of our energy experts? Send it to newsletter@bemc.org and you may see it answered in an upcoming issue of Member Matters.

In Memory



Monroe Enzor, Jr., former BEMC Director, passed away in September.

Brunswick Electric is deeply grateful for Mr. Enzor's nearly 25 years of dedicated service to the BEMC Board and his contributions to the Member Board & Employee Involvement Committee. A Columbus County farmer and retired educator with 30 years of classroom experience, he was well known for his interest in young people and helping them succeed and meet their potential.

He will be greatly missed by many, particularly the co-op members in District #11 that he represented, which includes the areas of Cerro Gordo and Tabor City. A lifelong member, he was committed to the Board's responsibility to oversee the cooperative's planning and policy, to set long-term objectives and make strategic decisions in the best interest of the membership, helping to make the community a better place for all.



Manager's Message

Our country has been celebrating National Co-op Month each October for more than 50 years, and it's a good time to reflect on the purpose of this unique business model.

Although every cooperative is different, we are all guided by seven core beliefs that we call the Cooperative Principles. To paraphrase, the first principle states that membership is open to anyone. At Brunswick Electric, if you live in our service territory and your home or business is served by BEMC lines, you enjoy the benefits of membership. The second principle says that members participate in the control of the co-op, by electing the directors who hire the management to run the operation. We believe the cooperative way is the most democratic of business models.

The third co-op principle addresses how we get the capital needed to run the business. Members pay for a service or good, in our case, electricity. All income that remains after expenses, called margins, is used to maintain and grow Brunswick Electric's system. Money left after taking care of those expenses is periodically returned to you, the member, in the form of a check we call Capital Credits. Principle number four says that we are an independent organization established for the purpose of self-help. Because we made the decision to join together as a cooperative to provide electricity to our neighbors, we remain autonomous and do not pay dividends to outside investors. This allows us to have a long-term strategy, rather than one driven by quarterly profits.

The fifth of the seven principles states that education and training are part of our mission, and you'll notice that BEMC's website, print publications, newsletter and social media posts are full of energy tips and information. The sixth says that there shall be cooperation among cooperatives, and this one is very powerful. We are proud to quickly lend our manpower, equipment and expertise when other electric cooperatives experience a severe weather event, and in turn we are grateful to receive their help during our time of need.

Finally, the seventh cooperative principle states that we shall have a concern for our community. Together, at Brunswick Electric, we have developed many programs that help make our communities better places to live such as Bright Ideas Education Grants and Community Grants, as well as BEMC's Warm Homes, Warm Hearts utility assistance program.

When we say that everything we do is for you, our members, we mean it. We live by our guiding principles every day, and we believe in them because they set us apart from the rest of the utility industry. That's what we call the Cooperative Difference.

Don Hughes,
CEO/General Manager

New for 2019: You can be a part of Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.

BEMC will send two high school students, one from Brunswick County and one from the Columbus County area, to Washington D.C., in June. This is an exciting opportunity for students to learn more about our nation's history as well as the importance of cooperatives and civic engagement. **Find out more and apply at bemc.org.**



NC Electric Cooperatives
Youth Tour

2018 Youth Tour delegates
from North Carolina



A Full House of Energy Savings



ATTIC

Attic insulation is one of the easiest, least expensive and most effective ways to reduce your energy use.

DEN/OFFICE

Plug all electronic gadgets such as phone and laptop chargers, printers, gaming consoles and BluRay players into a power strip with an on/off switch. Turn the power strip off when not in use.



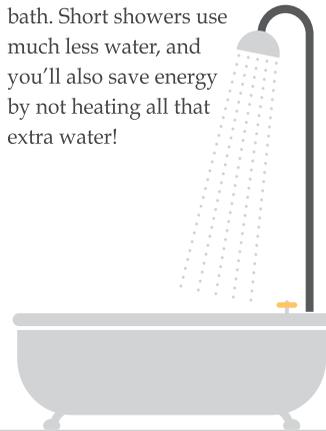
BEDROOM

Ceiling fans can help save energy all year long! In the winter, fans should rotate clockwise to help draw cool air up toward the ceiling and push the warm air that naturally rises down to you and your family.



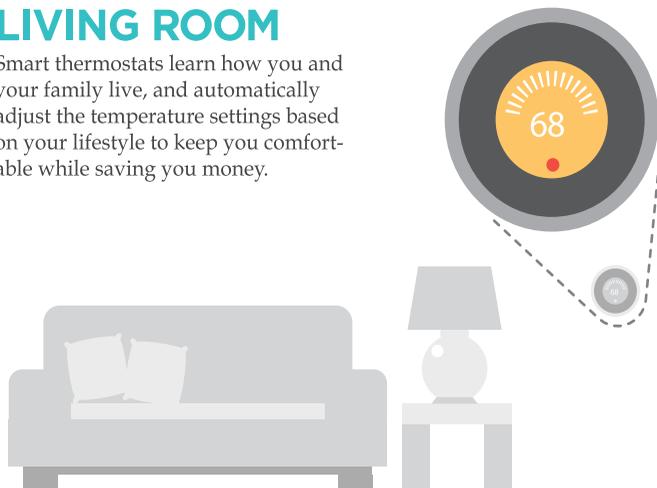
BATHROOM

Take a short shower instead of a bath. Short showers use much less water, and you'll also save energy by not heating all that extra water!



LIVING ROOM

Smart thermostats learn how you and your family live, and automatically adjust the temperature settings based on your lifestyle to keep you comfortable while saving you money.



KITCHEN

Don't preheat the oven until you're ready to use it. Minimize the number of times you open and close the refrigerator or oven door.



Watts-for-Sale

4 cemetery plots, Columbus Cemetery Park, Veteran section, \$1,200 each; 617-7412

2010 E-Z-Go Golf Cart, red and white, street legal, low pro wheels, long top, back seat folds down, AM/FM cassette; \$4,700; 846-5808

2003 Anniversary Harley Davidson Fat Boy, 4,500 miles, garage kept, lady owned; \$10,500; 653-9640

165 acres in Polk County, County Line Rd, road frontage, access to Green River; 828-248-2162

5X8 V-Nose Motorcycle Trailer, tie down, wheel stop, \$1,500; 842-3321

Titebond 821 Premium Wood Flooring Adhesive, 30 buckets; \$75ea., or \$1950 for all; 704-996-9684

Panasonic 32" TV, 32G5b, free; 754-3295

Starcaster by Fender drum set, 5pc, 3 cymbals, hi-hat, bass pedal, stool, \$150 080; 713-3746

Weed Eater Featherlite leaf blower, \$42; 575-2208

Eureka camping cot, sturdy aluminum frame, 82"X32"X19", max capacity 300lbs., total weight 18lbs, \$55; 575-4335

Tampico kayak (135L), 13.5', paddles, life vest, \$750; 253-9595

Wheelchair, w/big wheels, like new, \$40; 579-8218

Antique headboard/footboard, full size, can accommodate queen size rails, good cond., \$200; 706-961-5507

Swarovski baby elephant figurine, \$45; 228-2358

1902 Trophy Walkaround, Mercury 115, great cond., green & white, \$17k; 228-2358

Wicker bedroom set, twin headboards, dresser & nightstand w/glass tops, includes frame and mattresses, \$600; 755-7566

Cheval Mirror, oval, \$75; 231-2768

2005 Tacoma TRD Double Cab, 4x4 V6, silver, new tires, hard tonneau cover, 143,000 miles, \$12,999; 579-1471

2 lots, 80'x100', cleared, perked for 4 br/4 ba duplexes, two blocks from OIB bridge; 279-1187

Commercial lots, 0.68 acre, Holden Beach Causeway, \$310,000; 754-8243

Dining room suite, solid cherry, table w/2 extra leaves, 6 chairs with rush seats plus buffet, \$1075; 252-714-9137

3 Coolaroo Shades, 11'x8', off-white, excellent cond., indoor/outdoor, \$35 ea., or \$100 for all; 754-2514

Snow Village Christmas houses, Dept. 56, many pieces, \$25 ea.; 250-1723

Shopsmith MK7 PowerPro, w/bandsaw, planer & accessories; 253-9229

Men's golf clubs, right-handed, men's or junior's complete set w/putter & wedge, w/bag, \$50; 919-306-7531

25 Wooded Acres, Madison County NC, barn, secluded; 828-656-2235

★ **HALF PRICE NIGHT!** ★

= AT THE =

Columbus County Agricultural Fair

Thursday, October 11

\$4.00 Admission

Fair Dates
Oct 9-14, 2018

NO COUPON REQUIRED

SPONSORED BY

 A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Winter energy tip

Space heaters should not be used as your main heating source. They are very inefficient and can be dangerous. Only use them to warm up small spaces for short periods of time.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN AD: Ads must be received via email or fax no later than the first of each month. Ads will then appear in the following month's publication due to the printing schedule. Example: If ad is received by October 1, it will appear in the November issue of Carolina Country magazine. This is a free service for BEMC members to advertise non-commercial items for sale. Ads run ONE TIME, are limited to three lines, and only one phone number. We reserve the right to edit or refuse ads due to content, length or AVAILABLE SPACE. Please no email addresses, names or repeat ads. All numbers are 910 area code unless otherwise listed. Some mobile providers require 10-digit dialing. BEMC does not endorse items advertised and is not responsible for reliability of items.

E-MAIL: watts4sale@bemc.org **MAIL:** BEMC, Attn: Watts For Sale, PO Box 826, Shallotte, NC 28459. **FAX:** (910) 755-4299



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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