

# Member Matters

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE

### Your best interests in mind, always

A big part of managing your electric cooperative, from both my perspective and that of our management, staff and board of directors, is to keep costs as low as possible. It's fundamental to how we do business as a not-for-profit utility owned by our members. We don't answer to investors, and we're not motivated to sell any more electricity than what you need. Our priority is to serve you to the best of our abilities with safe, reliable, and affordable power. This means that another important part of our job is investing in the systems improvements and new technologies that will enhance our performance on your behalf in the future.

### How we strive to keep costs down

Most of our expenses relate directly to delivering power to your home and businesses. One of the ways we keep the cost of power down is through strategic load management: where and when we shift the load, and how much electricity gets used. In the pursuit of reliability, we're an industry leader in investing in the new technologies that open up options for how we manage the system that delivers power to you. By putting this technology to work for all of us, we create opportunities to operate more securely, more reliably and more efficiently. New software and hardware upgrades strengthen our system against cyber threats. And new system control components allow us to better integrate distributed generation, such as solar panels and generators at homes and businesses in our community. This ensures new resources can be connected to the grid while maintaining high standards of reliability. By integrating these system enhancements, we're paving the way for cost savings down the line – similar to the way energy efficiency improvements you make in your home pay for themselves over time.

### Good stewards of our resources

As I've referenced before in other articles, BEMC works hard every day to keep reliability high and costs as low as possible. You can rest assured that we never take short cuts when it comes to upgrading and maintaining our systems just to make the bottom line look better. And you can also be confident that we don't upgrade to the newest technology just because it is available. Your board of directors carefully evaluates the pros and cons of every investment to make sure it's the right thing to do. Brunswick Electric has one job, the one we were founded upon more than 75 years ago. You can be confident that even as we work diligently to keep rates down, we will continue to pursue the new technologies that will help us build a stronger, more efficient electric distribution system to better serve you now, and into the future. Our ultimate goal is that you are proud to be a member of a cooperative that works in all ways to consistently deliver the energy you need, with your best interests in mind. You deserve the best, and should expect nothing less.

Thank you for being a member, and I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Meeting next month where we'll have the opportunity to share more information with you. We think you'll like what you hear.



*Don Hughes*

Don Hughes,  
CEO/General Manager

### load management:

An energy efficiency initiative whereby an electric utility reduces power consumption—and keeps the lid on wholesale generation costs—by shifting when and how electricity gets used. Typically, load management kicks in for brief periods (just a few hours) during times of peak demand—the electric utility industry's equivalent of rush-hour traffic, when power costs skyrocket.

## Did you know it is possible to...

### Manage and monitor your account with the Free SmartHub App?

Download and set up your user ID and password to monitor your account from any of your devices. Pay or estimate your bill, monitor your usage by month, day and hour.



### Choose the PrePay Billing Option?

No deposit required, and no monthly bill with our pay-as-you-go metering program option. Purchase power to fit your budget. Add money to your account by phone, through the SmartHub app, in person at one of our offices, or at one of our BPT stations.



### Or decide that Equalized Billing is right for you?

Pay a set amount each month to average out seasonal variations with this option. Pay by automatic draft, by phone, in person at one of our offices, or receive a monthly bill.

Visit [bemc.org](http://bemc.org) or call (800) 842-5871 for more information or to get started.

## Weatherization loans are available for homeowners, businesses or churches

BEMC offers low-interest loans, to qualified members, for weatherization projects that may lower your monthly bill and save energy at the same time. Pay off the loan over time with small payments added to your monthly bill. Sometimes the energy savings can even cover the loan payments, and you will have a long term improvement to your property.



**BEMC has been offering these loans since 1989, and we make the process easy:**

**1.** Decide what project would make a difference in your energy use. Get started by visiting [togetherwesave.com](http://togetherwesave.com) to learn about the potential energy savings for a variety of projects. Projects eligible for a low-interest loan from BEMC include:

- new heat pump - minimum 15 SEER rating
- new water heater - solar or electric
- replacement windows
- insulation - ceiling, wall, floor, ducts
- duct repairs or replacement

**2.** Get some estimates for how much it will take to complete the project.

**3.** Contact BEMC and fill out an application. You'll generally get an answer within 24 hours.

**4.** Schedule the work to be done. Once it is completed, come in to sign the promissory note, and we will pay the contractor.

BEMC makes loans for \$200 to \$6,000 for residential projects. Under our Commercial Loan Program, which includes loans for businesses and churches, members can borrow up to \$10,000.

**Call us at (800) 842-5871 or visit [bemc.org](http://bemc.org) to download a brochure today.**

# 7 SIMPLE, NO-COST WAYS TO STAY COOL THIS SUMMER

It's August, and it's hot, hot, hot. Autumn's crispness may be just around the corner, but until then, hang in there – and save energy – with these seven simple tips for managing summer's heat.



## 1. Shift your use

Use major appliances like dishwashers, clothes washers and dryers during early morning or late evening and overnight hours. These big appliances not only generate heat but may also introduce moisture into your home during the hottest part of the day.

## 2. Keep kitchens cool

When your stove or oven is in use it can raise the temperature in the kitchen by as much as 5 to 10 degrees. Take advantage of an outdoor grill or indoor microwave or crockpot instead.

## 3. Turn it off

Lights, particularly incandescent lights, as well as common household appliances generate heat when they are on and in use. Better yet – consider switching to more efficient bulbs like LEDs (light emitting diodes), which generate much less heat. You can also go the extra mile by unplugging appliances when they're not in use – like computers, game consoles and televisions.

## 4. Feel the breeze

Use portable fans and/or ceiling fans to chill out. Make sure ceiling fans are running counter clockwise to push cool air down. Although fans don't technically change the temperature of the room, they can make you feel 3 to 4 degrees cooler – a definite win!

## 5. Keep the sunshine out

Close blinds, shades and curtains, especially on windows that get direct sun, to block light and heat.

## 6. Introduce an open door policy

Keep the doors to rooms inside your home open so air can flow through naturally.

## 7. Replace and remove

Replace dirty air filters to increase the efficiency of your HVAC system and the air flow within your home. Removing furniture, rugs or other obstructions from your return registers also helps.

# The truth about energy-efficient products

If you are interested in buying energy-efficient products, there is a simple way to know if they are truly energy efficient — make sure they have the ENERGY STAR® label. Created by the US Environmental Protection Agency, ENERGY STAR® is a set of internationally followed guidelines for energy efficiency in members' products. All products certified by ENERGY STAR® have met strict performance benchmarks. Using ENERGY STAR® bulbs and appliances can lead to considerable energy savings.



In certain cases, such as light bulbs or microwaves, simply purchasing and using ENERGY STAR® products can yield great increases in energy efficiency. For other appliances, though, this is not always the case. Some studies have suggested that most heating and air conditioning systems in the United States are not installed properly. This leads to considerable waste of heated or cooled air and, consequently, energy. Buying efficient appliances is the first step — ensuring that they're installed and used properly is the second.

# Watts For Sale

**Stove,** Whirlpool, black & stainless, ceramic glass cooktop, regular & convection oven, paid \$800, asking \$450; 704-249-4477

**Sofa bed,** blue; TV cabinet; 1960's stereo console; power washer; leaf blower; 253-6802

**Walker,** Drive Medical Winnie, compact, folds flat for easy transport, retail \$109, \$75 OBO; 368-3001

**Travel trailer,** 2014 Starcraft Launch 17', sleeps 4, fully equipped, like new, \$9,500 OBO; 406-451-2581

**Wall unit,** 3-piece mahogany, custom hand-made, exc. cond., \$400; 465-1494

**Collectibles,** Dept 56, over 200 houses & accessories, \$5,000 OBO; 769-8624

**Patio furniture,** beige aluminum, 2 captain's chairs, 4 arm chairs, oval table, cushions with matching umbrella, kept inside, \$200 OBO; 755-6215

**Running boards** w/brackets from 2012 Ford F-150, regular cab, \$200 OBO; wood ladders, 8' - \$50; 10' - \$75 OBO; 32' alum. ext. ladder \$200 OBO; 368-3001

**5th Wheel trailer,** 2011 Keystone Laredo 31', 2 slides, will deliver in NC, \$16,000; 720-587-9256

**Window shades,** 2 - Hunter Douglas Honey Comb, reversible up-down or down-up, 58 1/4" x 60" barely used, excellent condition \$125; 228-5177

**Work bench,** steel storage rack, 5 adjustable levels, 72"x 48"x24", new in box, \$60; 908-812-6771

**Liquid oxygen system,** Companion, stationary & portable units, \$250 firm; 253-0788

**Flats boat,** 2005 17' Polar Kraft, 88" beam, 8" pole power, Hummingbird fish finder w/side scan, GPS, Minnkota trolling motor, \$11,500; 231-8909

**Camper,** 2013 TOAD Micro XL, \$3,750; 653-4108

**Kayaks,** 16' Wilderness Systems Ocean, \$500; 14' Perception, \$300; 278-3850 after 5 pm

**Subaru,** 2003 Legacy wagon, runs good, \$3,500; GE refrigerator, white, \$200; 842-6168

**Residential lot,** Southport, NC, 1/3 acre, near Bald Head Island Ferry, quiet neighborhood, all homes have a front porch; 908-400-6793

**1967 Atlanta Braves score book,** \$10; Corelle dishes, setting for 12, \$50; 2 - 48" oak counter stools w/ back, \$75 ea.; 575-3574

**Dresser,** triple maple, \$200; dining set, hutch, table, dry sink, \$650; 623-975-4700

**Victrola,** VV 4-3 Hand Crank, rare, plays, very good condition, 6-78 records included, extra needles, \$425; 386-1217

**Samsung Galaxy Express 3-ATT,** like new in original box with case and cover, \$40; 754-3295

**Sofas,** 2 leather, 3 cushion & 2 cushion, dark brown leather, from Rooms to Go, \$495; 443-3397

**Security system,** 4 camera color w/night vision, handles 8 cameras, DVR, must hook up your own monitor, \$200 OBO; 575-5481

**Dining room furniture,** table, 8 chairs & hutch, pictures available on request, table pads included, \$600; 754-8476

**Commercial freezer,** Frigidaire upright, 70"x32"x28.5", \$150 OBO; 880-1175

**Toyota,** 1995 Camry XLE sedan 4 cyl., good condition, \$1,050; 846-2895

**Sunsetter screen room** w/floor, size 909, new in box, \$350 OBO; Thermos 3-burner gas grill, new in box \$150 OBO; 754-5030

**Golf clubs,** men's right-handed, complete set with bag, good condition, \$40; 919-306-7531

## See you at the 78th Annual BEMC Membership Meeting

**Saturday, Sept 23, 2017**

Odell Williamson Auditorium at  
Brunswick Community College,  
50 College Rd, Bolivia

**8 am - 11 am**

Arts & crafts, food, auction, health  
fair, kids' activities, entertainment,  
business meeting and prize drawing

**LOOK FOR YOUR  
REGISTRATION FORM IN THE  
MAIL & WE'LL SEE YOU THERE!**

## Grant deadline Sept. 25

Don't wait, do it now! **Teachers,**  
you may apply online for a **Bright  
Ideas grant** individually or as a  
team for funding up to \$2,000 each  
at [bemc.org](http://bemc.org) or [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com).  
BEMC is proud to fund creative,  
hands-on classroom projects that  
may otherwise not be possible.

**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 August 1, it will appear in the September 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](mailto: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

**P.O. Box 826, Shallotte, NC 28459**

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



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**John Ward**  
President

**Frederick A. Tedder**  
Vice President

**Hubert Brittain**  
**Phillip Cheers**  
**Calvin Duncan**  
**Monroe Enzor, Jr.**  
**Larry Fowler**

**John R. Kopp**  
**Jack Miller**  
**JoAnn Simmons**  
**Bryan Smith**

**Don Hughes**  
CEO/General Manager

**David L. Gore**  
Secretary Treasurer

**M.C. Herring**  
Asst. Secretary Treasurer

**Dennis Worley**  
Attorney

