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Celebrate National Cooperative Month

Join Halifax EMC in celebrating cooperatives in North Carolina and across America during National Cooperative Month.

Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique: local democratic control, commitment to supporting the communities they serve and improving quality of life, special benefits and services, and the return of margins (the co-op term for profits) back to members in the form of capital credits.

Cooperatives are special. We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but we take that a step further. We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and enhance our communities.

Halifax EMC is proud to be part of America's cooperative network, which employs more than 850,000 people. Across the nation, 29,000 co-ops and credit unions generate \$74 billion in annual wages and nearly \$500 billion in revenue.

Halifax EMC is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts and public power districts serving 42 million people in 47 states.

Electric cooperatives were formed because rural communities were struggling for lack of investment. Neighbors banded together and lit up the countryside when no one else would. That's what we celebrate each October.

In addition to cooperative utilities, North Carolina residents are served cooperatively by credit unions, food co-ops, agricultural co-ops, and more! To learn more about co-ops and find one near you, visit go.coop.

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Charles H. Guerry

*Executive Vice President
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Business Hours

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Locations

Enfield/Macon: (252) 445-5111

www.halifaxemc.com

Tell Us...

Halifax EMC is your electric cooperative. Your comments and questions are very important to us. Please tell us how we may improve our service. Return your comments/questions along with your payment, or e-mail them to bamartin@halifaxemc.com. Specific account questions will be answered personally. Remember to include your account number for these types of questions.



Electric Lines

“Seal and insulate:

This is the best way to
keep heat in and air out.”

by Charles H. Guerry

Executive Vice President & General Manager

Between holiday houseguests and shorter, colder days, electric bills tend to climb in the winter. Read on for ways to save energy when the temperature drops.

Lower your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower): If you decrease the temperature by just one degree, you can save up to 5 percent on heating costs. Consider a programmable thermostat that you can set to lower the temperature when away from home and increase before you come back.

Adjust blinds and curtains: Keep them open to let in sunlight during the day, and close at night to keep heat inside and protect from drafts.

Reduce hot water temperatures: Heating water accounts for 12 percent of the average home's energy use. Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees or lower—that's usually sufficient for a household's hot-water needs. Also, if you've had your water heater for more than 12 years, you might want to consider replacing it with a more energy-efficient model.

Seal and insulate: This is the best way to keep heat in and air out. Areas that may need sealing include corners, cracks, door frames, and windows.

Consider replacing old appliances, doors, and windows with ENERGY STAR-rated models: You can save about 15 percent of your normal

energy use with these appliances and get better insulation on doors and windows for the price you pay. ENERGY STAR-rated items meet special efficiency standards set by the federal government.

Free your vents: HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems will have to work twice as hard if vents are blocked by rugs, furniture, or doors. Keep vents clear for proper air flow.

Keep food cool: Don't make your fridge work too hard. A temperature set between 34 and 37 degrees Fahrenheit is usually sufficient.

A special holiday tip: Use LED lights to decorate. They're up to 75 percent more energy efficient than traditional incandescent lights and last much longer—but check for an ENERGY STAR rating before you buy. Cheaper LEDs tend not to last as long or be as durable.

Visit www.halifaxemc.com for more ways to save.

Content source: Amber Bentley, who writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keep wintery drafts out of your home by sealing cracks and gaps. Weather stripping around doors and windows works well when you can see daylight between the frame and the wall or floor. Use caulk to seal around the frames where you see gaps. For more tips and tricks, visit TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com



COOPERATIVE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Your Co-op, Your Credit Union

www.electelccu.org

800.849.5600



3400 Sumner Blvd
Raleigh, NC 27616

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration and is an Equal Housing Lender

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Apple Tart

Tart Dough

2 cups all-purpose flour

½ tsp salt

1 tbsp sugar

1½ sticks of butter

½ cup ice water

Topping

3-4 apples, sliced into wedges

½ cup cinnamon

½ cup pecans

½ cup sugar

pear or apple

jam or preserves

Combine the dry ingredients with your fingers in a large mixing bowl. Slice the cold butter into cubes and mix with hand mixer until the dough begins to clump into a ball and the butter is pea size or smaller. Pour the ice water into the mixture, slowly, continue mixing simultaneously until ball of dough is formed. On a floured surface, roll the dough into a large "pat" and chill for about an hour.

After chilling, roll or spread out the dough into your desired shape (rustic circle or rectangle). Place apple wedges on the dough, arrange to suit your own fashion. Sprinkle with cinnamon, nuts and sugar. Bake at 350° for about 45 minutes or until dough is golden brown. Glaze with pear or apple jam or preserves.

Source: allthingsfarmer.com



Play It Safe: Wall Outlets

Wall outlets are the bridge from electricity to appliances. They make it possible for our lamps, cell phone chargers, coffee makers and televisions to run. Most of the time, we don't even think about how that happens or whether there are any dangers associated with them, but there are a few things you can look out for to keep your home and your family safe.

- Make sure to regularly check your outlets for damages. All wires should be covered and plates should be tightened down. If the plates are cracked, they should be replaced immediately.
- If your outlets are warm to the touch or discolored, contact a qualified electrician to determine the cause.
- If you have an older home, consider upgrading your outlets to the safer, three-prong style that is grounded. If you don't have three-prong outlets, be careful to never force a three-prong plug into a two-slot outlet.
- GFCI outlets should be installed in any area where there is water, such as kitchens, pools, crawl spaces and bathrooms. These outlets monitor electricity flowing in a circuit and trip the circuit if an imbalance is detected, protecting people from electric shock.
- If you have young children or grandchildren in your home, cover your outlets with plastic child safety plugs to keep little fingers and objects out of tempting outlets.
- Don't plug too many electrical devices into an outlet; this increases the risk of fire. If a power strip is filling up, transfer some items to another outlet. Turn the switch to a power strip off when appliances are not in use.
- You can also save energy if electrical devices not in use are unplugged. Pay special attention to phone chargers, television sets and computers. These will use up energy even if they are turned off.
- Always plug larger appliances, like refrigerators and washing machines, directly into outlets, not power strips.

When unplugging an item, make sure to grab the base of the plug. Pulling the cord itself can cause damage to both the cord and the outlet. Pay attention to your outlets. If you notice a potential problem in your home, arrange for it to be fixed immediately to prevent accident or injury.



Calling All Youth Tour Alumni

For the past 50 years, students have attended the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington D.C., visiting monuments, meeting elected officials and learning about rural electrification.

Cooperatives such as Halifax EMC have sponsored youth to attend this amazing opportunity over the years. With the 50th anniversary of Youth Tour upon us, the search for alumni has begun. Are you one of the youth who toured the streets of D.C.? If you are, you can join the database of Youth Tourists at <http://ncelectriccooperatives.com/community/youthtour/alumni.aspx>. Tell us your story, where you are now, or what impact the trip made on you. Help us celebrate 50 years of a trip of a lifetime!