



## this issue

Electric Lines 26

Recipe 27

Energy Tip of the Month 27

More Winter Savings 28

## Unwrap Winter Energy Savings

The holidays are upon us! It's that special time of year when we spend a great deal of time with friends and family, either in the kitchen or out and about shopping for the perfect gift. As you find yourself wrapped up in the holiday excitement, Halifax EMC reminds you of a few ways to be energy efficient during this busy time of year.

### Cooking efficiently

- Be kind to your oven. Every time you open the oven door to check on that dish, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees. This forces the oven to use more energy in order to get back to the proper cooking temperature. Try keeping the door closed as much as possible. Also, remember to take advantage of residual heat for the last five to 10 minutes of baking time – this is another way to save energy use. If you're using a ceramic or glass dish, you can typically set your oven 25 degrees lower than stated, since these items hold more heat than metal pans.
- Give your burners some relief. The metal reflectors under your stovetop burners should always be clean. If not, this will prevent your stove from working as effectively as it should.
- Utilize small appliances. During the holidays, the main appliances used are the oven and stovetop. Try using your slow cooker,

*Continued on pg. 28*

**Charles H. Guerry**

*Executive Vice President  
& General Manager*

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**Locations**

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[www.halifaxemc.com](http://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](mailto:bamartin@halifaxemc.com). Specific account questions will be answered personally. Remember to include your account number for these types of questions.



## Electric Lines

“The regulations proposed by the EPA jeopardize our ability to provide the affordable, reliable energy our members count on.”

by Charles H. Guerry

*Executive Vice President & General Manager*

Electric cooperatives across North Carolina are still encouraging members to visit [www.TellEPAnc.com](http://www.TellEPAnc.com) and add their voices to the thousands who are concerned about new regulations for power plants proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

As written, the proposal would require North Carolinians to reduce carbon emissions by 39 percent. To meet this ambitious target, coal plants may be shut down, your power bill will go up, and the electricity you depend on may be less reliable.

To be “always on” requires the right mix of renewable and traditional generation. Our current power supply portfolio to serve you is made up of electricity generated from a diverse mix of sources, including nuclear, natural gas, renewables, hydro, market purchases and coal. By finding the right balance of energy sources, our power supply professionals can ensure that enough electricity is available to meet demand at all times—even during the hottest summer days or last year’s polar vortex. If coal plants shut down due to the EPA’s proposal, our ability to meet demand at all times will be threatened.

Renewable energy is an important piece of the power generation puzzle, and recent years we have added renewable power sources, such as

solar, to our mix. But the truth is, renewable energy is limited in its use because it does not produce a consistent or predictable flow of energy at all times. Take solar: When a cloud passes overhead or in the dark of night, photovoltaic solar panels don’t produce electricity. Further, we provide energy efficiency programs and conservation information so you can use electricity wisely and save you money.

To ensure an uninterrupted flow of electricity, utilities own an infrastructure, or “grid,” of generating plants, substations and interconnected transmission and distribution lines and equipment that supply the exact amount of power consumers require 24 hours a day, seven days a week, rain or shine, day and night. For now, fossil fuels are an important part of our generation mix.

The regulations proposed by the EPA jeopardize our ability to provide the affordable, reliable energy our members count on. Help us make sure the EPA understands that in North Carolina, we need a balanced approach to power generation. Contact your elected officials by visiting [www.TellEPAnc.com](http://www.TellEPAnc.com) today or fill out and return the enclosed card in this month’s edition of Carolina Country.



# Electrical Safety and Your Pet

Household pets are not immune to electrical injury; they are curious little creatures, and just as you protect your children from electrical hazards, you should protect your pets. Pets don't understand the difference between chewing on something like a shoe and chewing on a cord or even an electrical appliance. Pets may also inadvertently cause electrical hazards in your home, but the following tips will help eliminate the chances of an electrical accident involving your pet:

- Be sure to keep electrical cords away from your pets. If you have difficulty keeping your pets from chewing on cords, you may have to paint the cords with a bitter tasting polish or wrap them in a plastic sleeve.
- Keep lamps away from play areas for pets and children. Some bulbs, especially halogen bulbs, can get extremely hot, and if accidentally knocked over can become a fire hazard.
- If your pet lives outdoors, be sure to bring them inside or provide a safe place for them to stay in during storms. Dogs on chains are more susceptible to a lightning strike.
- Pets have a tendency to like to nap near electronics that produce heat, like warm computer equipment. Break this habit immediately. Pets should be kept away from all electrical connections.
- Keep all electrical devices a safe distance from water sources. Your pet may accidentally knock electrical devices over, creating a dangerous situation.

Be a proactive pet owner. Create a hazard-free home for your furry friend.



## Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

To save energy this month, try lowering your water heating costs. Water heating accounts for 14 to 25 percent of the energy you consume. Turn the water heater's temperature to the warm setting, which is around 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This will save energy *and* help you save on your monthly bill.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Collard Casserole

- 1 small can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- half stick butter
- 2 eggs
- small onion, chopped
- 1 quart collards
- 1 sleeve crumbled Ritz Crackers

Combine all ingredients in casserole dish, except Ritz Crackers. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes. Add crumbled Ritz Crackers on top, bake for another 10 minutes.

*Source: Bon Appetit, Halifax EMC Volunteers In Action*

Continued from pg. 25

microwave, toaster oven or warming plate more often. This will result in substantial energy savings.

### Home efficiency

- Take advantage of heat from the sun. Open your curtains during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill from cold windows.
- Find and seal all air leaks. Check areas near pipes, gaps around chimneys, cracks near doors and windows and any unfinished places.
- Maintain your heating system. Schedule services for your heating system before it gets too cold to find out what maintenance you may need to keep your system operating efficiently.
- Eliminate “vampire energy” waste. When you are not using an appliance or an electronic, unplug it to save energy. Power strips are definitely a good investment for your home.

### Efficient shopping

- Purchase LED holiday lights. A string of traditional lights uses 36 watts of power and a string of LED lights only uses 5 watts. They can even last up to 10 times longer!
- Ask for Energy Star-rated TVs and appliances. This will save you a lot of power use because the stand-by mode is lower and the device will use less energy overall.
- Combine errands to reduce the number of small trips. To-do lists seem to pile up around this time of the year. Believe it or not, several short trips in the winter can use twice as much fuel as one longer trip covering the same distance as all of the shorter ones.

Being energy efficient is usually not top priority when celebrating the holidays, and most of us don't realize the lack of efficiency until the next bill comes in. Prevent your post-holiday shock this year by thinking creatively and remembering all of these tips!

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### Holiday Closing

Halifax EMC

will be closed on

**Thursday, November 27,  
and Friday, November 28,**

in observance of the  
Thanksgiving holiday

