

Along the LINE

JUNE 2024

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Revised Renewable Energy and EE Riders Become Effective July 1

In July 2024, updated renewable energy and energy efficiency rider charges will be applied to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC members' bills to recoup the incremental costs associated with the state mandated REPS (Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard).

These two riders appear on your bill as the NC Renewable Charge and the NC EE Charge. The NC Renewable Charge has been billed monthly as follows since July 2023: Residential, \$0.47; Commercial, \$2.63; Industrial, \$17.52.

Beginning with the July 2024 billing, the rates will be billed as follows: Residential, \$0.70; Commercial, \$3.88; Industrial, \$25.92.

The NC EE Charge will also be updated for all bills rendered after July 1, 2024, and the current charge will decrease from \$0.0009 per kilowatt hour to \$0.000340 per kilowatt hour.

These riders will be reviewed annually and updated if approved by your board of directors each July. Changes in each rate come from participation in additional renewable energy projects and implementation of energy efficiency programs.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's participation as a member of NCEMC has allowed us to make market purchases of various types of renewable energy to help keep us in compliance with the NC REPS. We will keep you informed as we work to meet the required compliance standards set forth in this energy legislation.



38 Years of Dedicated Service Celebrated

After a remarkable 38-year tenure, John Abrams has officially retired from his role at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

As the Manager of Operations, Abrams played an integral role in overseeing various aspects of daily operations, including personnel management, on-the-job training, safety programs, and coordination with contractors for line construction and maintenance, tree trimming, and right-of-way clearing.

Reflecting on his time with the organization, Abrams expressed gratitude for the meaningful connections forged and the impactful work accomplished. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC acknowledges Abrams' significant contributions and bids farewell with heartfelt appreciation. Let us all extend our warmest wishes to John Abrams as he embarks on this new chapter of retirement!



John Abrams

2024 Poletop and Bucket Rescue Training

In April, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Line technicians participated in our annual pole top and bucket rescue training.

As part of an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)-mandated safety training requirement, the course is designed to evaluate each line technician on their ability to properly rescue an injured and/or stranded line technician.

During the training, each line technician must execute a scenario that finds a fellow worker unconscious atop a utility pole. The line technician, dressed in full climbing gear, must radio for help, scale 20 feet up the utility pole, lower a 170-pound mannequin, and begin lifesaving procedures.



Will Scott

All line technicians must complete this same scenario in less than five minutes to maintain their certification.

In addition to the pole top rescue, the bucket truck rescue simulation must also be completed. This simulated rescue mission includes an “unconscious victim” in a bucket that needs to be lowered to the ground and given CPR. These are skills that line technicians hope they never have to use, but if they do, the training provides an opportunity to prepare and hone their skills if the need should ever arise.



Blake Fleming

Two of the fastest runs for the pole-top rescue were Blake Fleming with a time of 2 minutes, 28 seconds; and Will Scott with 2 minutes, 54 seconds. For the bucket rescue, Tyler Perkins completed it in 49 seconds, and Will Scott in 50 seconds.

Congratulations Tyler Perkins and Steve Lewis

We are thrilled to announce the promotions of Tyler Perkins and Steve Lewis, recognizing their well-deserved advancements.

Tyler Perkins has been promoted to 1st Class Line Technician, marking a significant milestone in his career journey with us.

Tyler began as an Intern Apprentice Line Technician in April 2020. Through unwavering dedication and a



Steve Lewis

proactive approach to skill development, he has ascended to his current role.

Congratulations, Tyler, on this remarkable achievement! We eagerly anticipate witnessing your continued success at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC!

We are also pleased to announce Steve Lewis' advancement from Lead Maintenance Technician to Manager of Operations.

Steve has been an integral part of the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC team for 28 years. His hard work, dedication and expertise have played a pivotal role in the success of our team, and we couldn't be prouder to see him take on this new leadership role.

Here's to many more years of success and achievement ahead for both Tyler and Steve. Congratulations to both on their well-deserved promotions!



Tyler Perkins

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Student Career Development

Concern for community is one of the seven cooperative principles. There is an important role for co-ops to play in their communities when it comes to workforce development. In addition to providing power to approximately 11,000 meters, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC also serves our communities by giving educators and schools the resources they need to provide students of all ages the educational tools to help them succeed in our line of work.

The comfort of knowing we have solid jobs, with competitive pay and benefits, is a long-term commitment. Our high school students need to see what our community offers. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC recently completed a series of events for high school students across our service territory. In partnership with area schools, the camps were hosted on April 16–18. Participants from multiple high schools were given the opportunity to learn firsthand about potential careers in the electric utility industry.

It's more than a career day at a local high school, with co-op employees sitting at a table handing out literature. Instead, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC brought groups of students to our office with a training field to engage them in the roles, responsibilities, and, above all, the culture of electric utility line technicians. We must remain connected and work closely with our community partners to develop a local pool of talent that can meet



the current and future needs of our membership. Clearly, the students all enjoy learning about their co-op, the electric utility industry, and the unique aspects of the line technician's daily responsibilities.

There's a dual purpose for the co-op, too. Line crews across the country are aging, and it's essential to prepare their replacements. Labor stats indicate the demand for line technician's is expected to grow by 6% through 2031. Realizing this career choice has not been emphasized to generations of students, we're filling that need. It's evident by the way most students respond to the program that we're showing them something they've never considered before.

We're thankful to the many school systems that worked with us over the last few months to encourage students to attend our camp — these are exactly the kinds of community partnerships that will benefit our young people, and expand their potential career options. If students enjoy being outdoors, a line technician career should be strongly considered. Make no mistake, it is hard work; but it can be a very rewarding and fulfilling livelihood.

Meeting future employment needs related to recruitment, development, and retention of employees will prove beneficial for the communities we serve by providing future jobs for individuals that call our area home. Investing in programs like these is yet another example of how we work to do just that.

Focusing on workforce development in the communities we serve is key to the economic success to all of North Carolina. Therefore, if we can inspire just one child to realize a dream, it's all worth it.

Cooperatively,

Lisa Tolson

Lisa Tolson

Please Inform Your Co-op Before Adding Load to Your Service

Don't forget to let Edgecombe-Martin County EMC know about any changes that have been made to add load to your service.

With ongoing improvements in electric vehicle technology and affordability, an increasing number of Americans are likely to transition to electric vehicles.

If you own or are considering the purchase of a plug-in electric vehicle, please let us know so that we can ensure our equipment is set up to properly handle the increased load and help you save energy and money!

Due to advancements in technology, modern farms and agricultural operations work far differently than those a few decades ago. These changes include the

sensors, devices, machines, and information technology. We need to be informed of any changes or upgrades you have made to your operations since last year's curing season. It is possible that we may need to make changes to our distribution system to allow for any added load, such as additional bulk barns or grain dryers.

Call the Cooperative at 1-800-445-6486 or 252-823-2171 to let us know of any change to your account(s).



Edgecombe-Martin County EMC offers a special EV rate for owners who use most of their energy overnight when charging their vehicle. The co-op also provides a \$200 rebate for members with an electric vehicle to help with electric service improvements to charge their EV.

Along The LINE

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Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive thru canopy, by calling our automated telephone service at 1-855-356-6358, placed in the night deposit box, or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to ememc.com

June Rights-of-Way

In order to provide safe, reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines.

Examples of trimming methods

Flat Top Trimming



Trees are cut 15 feet below the lowest electric line.

Side Trimming



Trees are cut at least 15 feet from the center of the utility pole. As well as danger trees outside the 15 feet.

'L' Trimming



Trees are cut 15 feet from the neutral.

We do this through rights-of-way and vegetation management. This requires pruning, removing, and cutting vegetation to prevent interruption of your electric service. Throughout June, Burford's Tree will utilize the sky trim, buckets and bushhogging equipment, in the Robersonville area, and various hotspots on the system.