

Along the LINE

NOVEMBER 2026

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



Shooting for a Cause

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Annual Sporting Clays 4-H Tournament returned to Rose Hill Shooting Preserve on Sept. 18, bringing together sponsors, teams, and community members for another great day of competition and support for local 4-H youth.

This year's tournament was our biggest yet, with 35 teams and more participants than ever before joining us for a day of friendly competition and fellowship. The record turnout helped make this year's event one to remember and showed just how much support there is for 4-H and the young people in our communities.

More than just a day on the course, the tournament gives everyone involved an opportunity to come together for a good cause. The proceeds from the event support local 4-H youth development programs, helping provide opportunities for young people to learn new skills, build confidence, and prepare for the future.

We are incredibly grateful to all of the sponsors, shooters, volunteers, and everyone who helped make this year's tournament such a success. Your continued support is what allows this event to grow each year and helps us continue giving back to the communities we serve.

Congratulations to all of this year's top teams and individual shooters, and thank you to everyone who came out and helped make our largest tournament yet a success. We're already looking forward to doing it all again next year!



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed Thursday, November 26, and Friday, November 27 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Payment options available during office closure:

- Kiosk under the drive-thru canopy
- Automated phone service: 1-844-967-2463
- Night deposit box at our office
- Online at www.ememc.com

To report an emergency after hours:

- Call 1-800-690-0657

A Little Fall Prep Can Go a Long Way

Cooler temperatures are on the way, which means it won't be long before our heating systems are running more often. November is a good time to take a few minutes around the house to make sure everything is ready before the really cold weather arrives.

A little preparation now can help your home stay comfortable, while also helping you avoid wasting energy during the winter months.

Give Your Heating System Some Attention

Before turning the heat on for the season, check your air filter and replace it if it's dirty. A clean filter helps your system move air more easily. Also take a quick look around your home to make sure furniture, curtains or rugs aren't blocking vents or return-air openings.

If your heating system hasn't been checked in a while, fall is a good time to have it serviced. Finding a small issue now is much better than discovering a problem when temperatures are at their lowest.

If you have a heat pump, pay attention when auxiliary or emergency heat comes on. These settings can use considerably more electricity, so they should only be used when necessary.

Make Your Thermostat Work Smarter

There's no need to keep your house warmer than it needs to be. A setting of about 68 degrees while you're home and awake is a good starting point. When you're sleeping or away from home, lowering the temperature can help reduce energy use.

Keep in mind that turning the thermostat up several degrees won't make your home heat faster. Your system still has to do the same amount of work to reach the desired temperature, and a large temperature change can mean longer run times.

Keep the Warm Air Inside

Take a walk around your home and look for places where heated air could be escaping. Check around doors and windows for noticeable drafts and use caulk or weatherstripping where needed.

Don't forget about the less obvious spots. Attic entrances, openings around pipes and older window air-conditioning units can all create opportunities for air to get in or out.

If you have a fireplace, make sure the damper is closed when the fireplace isn't being used. On sunny days, you can also take advantage of the natural warmth by opening curtains and blinds.

Don't Forget About Hot Water

Your water heater uses energy every day, so a few simple changes can make a difference. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends a water-heater setting of 120 degrees for most households.

Fix leaking hot-water faucets, wash clothes in cold water when possible and consider taking shorter showers. If your water heater or hot-water lines are located in an area that isn't heated, proper insulation can help reduce heat loss.

Keep an Eye on Your Energy Use

Your electric bill can change from month to month, especially as the weather gets colder. More time spent at home, guests visiting, holiday activities and longer heating-system run times can all increase energy use.

Sign up for our SmartHub app. Taking a look at your electric usage regularly can help you understand what is driving those changes. If you notice something unusual, it's easier to investigate when you catch it early rather than waiting for a higher bill to arrive.

A little preparation now can make the transition into colder weather much easier. Take some time this October to check your heating system, look for drafts and make a few simple changes around the house. Your future self — and your winter electric bill — may appreciate it.



lines from Monica Speight
Manager of Communication

Great Ideas Make a Big Difference in Classroom

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is proud to continue supporting local educators through the Bright Ideas education grant program. This year, the cooperative is awarding more than $14,000 to 15 classroom projects across our service territory, helping provide new learning opportunities for more than 2,000 students.

Bright Ideas grants give teachers the opportunity to think beyond the traditional classroom and develop projects that encourage students to participate, explore, create, and learn in new ways. Whether projects involve hands-on activities, technology, science, reading, art or other areas of study, these grants give educators additional tools to make learning more engaging and meaningful for their students.

For many educators, having a creative idea is only the beginning. Finding the funding and resources needed to put that idea into action can be a challenge. That is where Bright Ideas comes in. The grant program helps provide teachers with the resources needed to bring their plans to life and give students opportunities that may not otherwise be available.

This year's grant recipients represent schools throughout the cooperative's service area. Edgecombe Early College recipients are Brittany White, Kimberly Long and James Guy. At Martin County High School, the grant recipient is Susan Davis, while Tracy Williams represents South Creek Elementary. Janet Battle, Paula Deal Greenwaldt and Adriana Bowling received grants for projects at North East Carolina Prep.

At GW Bulluck Elementary, grants were awarded to Rachel Wells and Kayla Norville. Chanda Beach represents Williamston Primary, and Tori Geniac represents Bear Grass Charter. Sherry Harrell Abrams received a grant for South Edgecombe Middle, and Stephanie Taylor represents Northwest Elementary.

Together, these educators are putting more than $14,000 in grant funding directly into local classrooms, with projects expected to reach more than 2,000 students. Each project represents a teacher taking the initiative to find a new way to connect with students and make learning more meaningful.

Supporting education is an important part of being a community-focused electric cooperative. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is proud to invest in the communities we serve not only by providing safe, reliable, and affordable electric service, but also by supporting the students, teachers, and schools that help shape the future of our communities.



2026 Bright Ideas grant winner Adriana Bowling from North East Carolina Prep School.

We congratulate this year's Bright Ideas recipients and look forward to seeing their projects take shape throughout the school year. We are thankful to all of the educators who continue to bring new ideas, creativity, and enthusiasm into their classrooms.

Teachers interested in applying for a Bright Ideas grant during the next application cycle can find more information at www.ncbrightideas.com. Applications open annually in the spring and remain open through mid-September.

Cooperatively,

Monica Speight

Monica Speight

Two Ways to Stay One Step Ahead

Managing your energy use and keeping up with your monthly electric bill doesn't have to be a guessing game. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC offers two helpful tools that can give you more information about your usage and make it easier to plan for your monthly payments: SmartHub and Budget Billing.



Track Your Usage with SmartHub

Want to know how much electricity you're using? The SmartHub app lets you easily monitor your energy use, view your usage history and see how your electricity use changes over time. Keeping an eye on your usage can help you spot changes and make adjustments to better manage your energy and your bill.

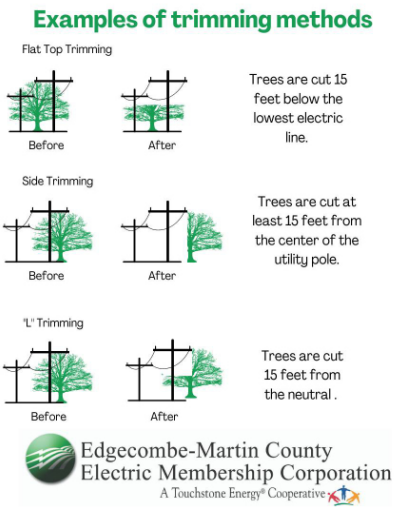
Make Your Payments More Predictable with Budget Billing

Looking for a more consistent monthly payment? Budget Billing uses your previous 12 months of usage and billing history to determine your monthly payment amount. Your account is recalculated quarterly to make sure your payment stays on track with your actual usage. Regular quarterly reviews help keep your budget payment aligned with your actual electric use, making monthly expenses more predictable.

November Rights-of-Way Schedule

In order to provide safe, reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. We do this through rights-of-way and vegetation management.

Throughout November, Lucas Tree Experts will utilize the sky trim, buckets and bushhogging equipment, in the Battleboro/Whitakers area and various hotspots on the system.



Along The LINE

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Monica Speight

Hwy. 33 East, P.O. Box 188
Tarboro, NC 27886
252-823-2171 • 1-800-445-6486
Office Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (M–F)

After Hours Outage Reporting
1-800-690-0657

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

1-844-967-2463, placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to ememc.com