While fireworks and Independence Day parades are synonymous with the Fourth of July, no such fanfare comes to mind when discussing energy efficiency. Perhaps it should. If you think about it, energy efficiency not only benefits individuals and families, but the country as a whole. Energy efficiency, combined with energy conservation and advances in technology in the utility industry, ultimately guide our country on a path toward greater energy independence. And that’s worth celebrating!

Benefits of Efficiency
Greater efficiency means less energy is used for the production of goods and services. For individual consumers, a reduction in energy use usually translates to more money in your wallet at the end of the month. If your co-op neighbors are also using less energy, collectively, it means the overall cost of providing that electricity could be lower and may result in reduced costs for co-op members. For many, this is reason enough to strive for greater energy efficiency. On a national level, energy efficiency, sometimes called the “fifth fuel,” has a more profound impact. It can potentially boost the economy by allowing consumers and businesses to invest in other areas. As important, greater energy efficiency may slow the rate at which domestic energy is depleted, and therefore reduce or diminish the need for foreign energy.

Strike up the Band
There’s no need to wait for the first exploding burst of fireworks in the night sky to start your energy efficiency efforts. Every American can take charge of their energy use, regardless of the date on the calendar. Small steps can lead to a big difference for you and your neighbors, whether across the road or across the country.

Energy efficiency can generally be achieved two ways. The first is with mechanical change, such as replacing an older HVAC unit or less-efficient appliance with a new ENERGY STAR model or upgrading to new, insulated windows. Less expensive actions include improving the seal of your home’s “envelope” by caulking exterior windows and doors and sealing openings where pipes and ductwork meet the outside. Swapping out the last incandescent bulbs (inside and outside) with LEDs can also make a noticeable difference.

Smart Management
Another way to realize energy efficiency is through smarter management of your energy use. Visit the member portal on Rutherford EMC’s website, www.remc.com, and sign up to track your daily use of electricity. This small step allows you valuable insight as to what daily actions or habits cost you the most on your monthly electric bill. The member portal also allows you to set up text alerts or e-mail alerts to notify you if you do not stay within your projected use range. These notifications allow you to see first-hand if you have a spike in daily usage. This can save you lots of money on energy costs by catching a problem before it gets out of hand.

Sometimes energy efficiency is simply a matter of changing old habits such as washing clothes in cold water instead of hot or running the dishwasher during off-peak times.

Regardless of the path you take on the road to energy efficiency and independence, Rutherford EMC can help you on the journey. You can find more information to lead you down the right path by visiting our website at www.remc.com.

Source: Anne Prince of NRECA
FOR SALE

Craftsman planer – 4”x12” ; Century AC/DC welder w/ accessories; misc. contractor tools. 828-287-7574.

Two cemetery plots at Catawba Memorial Park in Hickory, N.C., $800. 828-465-5220.


Old house near West Lincoln H.S. to be demolished - wooden doors w/glass knobs, mantels, bead board, windows & wood flooring to be salvaged at a reasonable price. 704-873-3898.

Metal burning barrels, $10 ea.; 275 gal. water totes w/5” hole on top & 2” cut off, $90 or (2) for $150; 55 gal. solid top plastic barrels, $10 ea; 15 gal. solid top w/5” hole on top & 2” cut off, $90 or (2) for $150; 55 gal. stainless steel vent pipe that cost $1,000 a year ago, stainless steel burn barrel, $10 each; 275 gal. water totes, $700.

2000 Freightliner Columbia, 26’ x 100’ lot, $14,000.

NordicTrack 360 with FreeMotion Technology, great cond., $200 OBO; two cemetery plots - side by side, Lot 74 on Hillside 1 at McDowell Memorial Park in Marion, N.C., $1,500 OBO for both. 704-803-7930.

Adco Designer Series - tyvek all climate 3 layer travel trailer cover, fits trailers 28’ 7” - 31’ 6” in length, great cond., sold for $400, asking $200. 704-683-0534.

Guineas – Pearl, taking orders for the 2017 hatch, $5 ea. 704-836-8809.

13’ cu. ft. freezer w/flash defrost, $60. 704-732-1020.

GNF (3) medium size 36, made in the USA, $65. 828-290-5573.


Small refrigerator – 33 1/4” tall x 19” wide x 20 1/4” deep, will make ice cubes but will not keep ice cream; $35; very nice Weber gas grill, only used once, paid $360 asking $100. 828-894-0643.

Men’s work uniforms – pants, shirts, & jackets in all sizes, cheap; large dark colored corner cabinet, $50; large house-size gas stove, like new; desk in good cond.; convection oven, like new; 8 quart canner, $15; pint & quart jars, $4 doz; cook books, $50 each. 828-333-2475.

Goldstar 2006 banjo w/nice case, made in the USA, $600, 714-718-4079.

Cyclone Rake - Commercial Pro lawn vacuum system, used three seasons, exc. cond., comes with multiple accessories: blue diamond liner, dual pro super wheels, power vacuum pick up, 17 ft. hose, power unloader, mower deck adaptor, 3rd wheel jack stand, tuff pro urethane hose for mower deck. 704-748-2067.

Dodge Ram 2500 crew cab 4x4 with 6.7 diesel turbo, automatic, 37” tires, Asking $20,000.

2008 Harley Davidson – Dyna Low Rider, chrome out & have all original parts, 30,000 miles, exc. cond., $8,000. 828-286-2817.

Wooded 100’ x 300’ lots, side by side, located on Hart Rd. off Mt. Holly/Huntersville Hwy. 704-678-8640.

FOR RENT

Someone to patch roof on a garage. 704-898-5883.

Handicapped accessible vehicle. 828-738-3920.

Craftsman GT 5000 tractor in any cond.; 1964 Comet parts car. 704-739-4909.

1996 Fender Acoustic 12 string right handed guitar w/hard shell case, model #DG10/12NS, serial # 96041152, made in Korea, very nice cond., $325. 828-448-0338.

1999 Ford Escort SW, 96,763 miles, AC, good cond., white, $2,200; 1999 Lincoln Town Car, good cond., white, $2,500; 1999 Ford work van, AC, white, $2,000. 704-739-4909.

Rent: Horse pasture & barn in Nebo, N.C. (I-40, Exit 94) - $150/month per horse, plus you and a guest can ride 450 acres of nicely wooded trails along 2 miles for the South Muddy Creek in Burke Co. 828-413-1969.

Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation provides Swap Shop ads as a free service to its members. Guidelines are as follows: Ads are published first-come, first-served. When the space allotted for ads each month is full, remaining ads will be held over for the next issue. Ads will not be run more than once unless re-submitted. Commercial ads will not be accepted. We reserve the right to edit, condense or deny publication of any advertisement. Rutherford Electric Membership Corp. assumes no responsibility for the content of any advertisement and does not endorse or warrant any of the goods so advertised. Please include your account number with your ad.

Mail your ads to: Newsletter Editor, Rutherford EMC, PO Box 1569, Forest City, NC, 28043-1569 or e-mail at cbailey@remc.com.

No phone calls, please.

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37” round top pedestal table w/drop-leaf & four chairs. 704-735-2675.

Massey Ferguson tractors – 245 & 145, $1,500 ea. or $2,500 for both. 704-913-9396.

Harley Davidson – Dyna Low Rider, chromed out & have all original parts, 30,000 miles, exc. cond., $8,000. 828-286-2817.

Wooded 100’ x 300’ lots, side by side, located on Hart Rd. off Mt. Holly/Huntersville Hwy. 704-678-8640.
Appreciating Electricity a Penny at a Time

Electricity is about the only thing you can buy and still get value for just a penny’s worth

I’m old enough to remember when penny candy actually cost a penny. For a nickel, you could buy enough candy to rot your teeth out, as my mother used to say.

But what does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can’t even make a penny for a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 cents to produce one.

About the only thing of value you can still get for a penny is electricity. You might call it “penny electricity.”

No, I’m not kidding. Think about it.

To make the math easier, let’s say the average rate for a kilowatt-hour of electricity is 10 cents. That is 60 minutes of 1,000 watts of electricity for a dime, so a penny of electricity equates to 100 watts. It’s enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb—the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb—for 11 hours, all for only a penny.

Where else can you get that kind of value?

How many eggs will a penny buy? How much milk, bread, coffee, medicine or gasoline?

Gas has come down from its stratospheric levels of several years ago, but there is still no comparison to the value of electricity. For example, if a gallon of gas costs $2.50 and your car gets 25 miles to the gallon, you can drive 176 yards—about two blocks—on a penny’s worth of gas.

I will take 11 hours of lighting for a penny over a two-block drive any day.

The value is just as evident when powering things other than lighting. Take, for instance, your smartphone. Using the same 10 cents per kWh price, penny electricity allows you to fully charge your iPhone more than 18 times for a penny. You can charge it once every day of the year for about 20 cents total.

Not impressed? Well, how about these other examples of what you can do with just a penny’s worth of electricity: power a 1,000-watt microwave on high for 6 minutes; run a 200-watt desktop computer for 30 minutes; watch 2.5 hours of your favorite shows on a 40-watt, 32-inch, LED television or 1.3 hours on a 75-watt, 75-inch mega TV.

The examples are endless.

We are fortunate electricity is such an excellent value because we have a huge appetite for it. We tend to forget that.

Electricity is not expensive. It’s that we use it for so many different things: lighting, heating, cooking, cooling, refrigeration, cleaning, washing, pumping, entertainment, communications—even transportation these days.

Few corners of our lives are left untouched by electricity.

Unfortunately, we don’t always appreciate it. When our monthly electric bill comes, we open it and may complain about the cost. It’s a knee-jerk reaction ingrained in us as consumers. We don’t stop to think about the value we received for the money.

Early in my career, I had the pleasure to interview an elderly woman who vividly remembered the day electricity came to her farm. Her name escapes me, but I do remember she proudly showed me the worn, dog-eared membership certificate the co-op issued to her husband.

“You young people will never know what it was like to have electricity for the very first time,” she said. “It was glorious. Nowadays, you take it for granted.”

Her farm was energized in 1940. She said the price of electricity at the time was slightly less than a penny a kilowatt-hour—true penny electricity.

A lot has changed since then. Wages and the cost of living today are a far cry from 1940, when the average annual wage was less than $150 a month and the average cost of a house was $3,920.

But one thing that hasn’t changed is the value of electricity. In 77 years, its price has risen much slower than the rate of inflation.

A penny in 1940 had as much buying power as 17 cents today, which means the residential price of electricity—which now averages 12 cents a kWh nationally—is actually a better deal today than it was in 1940.

So to my way of thinking, the value of electricity is like the bygone days of penny candy, and it’s OK to indulge yourself a little. But, unlike penny candy, penny electricity won’t rot your teeth out.

Guest article by Curtis Condon, editor of Ruralite magazine in Hillsboro, Oregon

Nominating Committee to Meet in July

In preparation for REMC’s 2017 annual membership meeting in October, the board of directors has appointed the following members to serve on the Nominating Committee.

Randall Brackett, 3937 Jamestown Road, Morganton, NC 28655
Rena Caffell, 270 Conner Drive, Rutherfordton, NC 28139
Joseph K. Hall, 11 Fish Hatchery Road, Marion, NC 28752
Dean Hood, 7358 Old Shelby Road, Vale, NC 28168
Fred W. Kiser, 2049 County Line Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Brian D. Lawrence, 1282 Carpenter Springs Drive, Dallas, NC 28034
Sam F. Ledbetter, 3670 Highway 27 West, Lincolnton, NC 28092
Albert C. Petty, Jr., 541 Jonestown Road, Bostic, NC 28018
Mario B. Smith, PO Box 96, Marion, NC 28752
Mark C. Stewart, 5029 Pintail Way, Gastonia, NC 28052

In accordance with the REMC Bylaws, the terms of three board members will expire this year:

Two from Directorate District One
One from Directorate District Two

A July 11, 2017, meeting of the Nominating Committee will be held at REMC’s general office in Forest City, N.C. Provisions of REMC’s current Bylaws concerning the annual membership meeting were printed in the June issue of REMC’s newsletter.
When the power goes out, so do Rutherford EMC's line crews. Line workers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

If you’re traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work. We care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that, plus it keeps drivers on the right side of the law.

In January 2002, North Carolina’s Move Over law took effect requiring motorists, if they can safely do so, to move one lane away from any law enforcement or other emergency vehicle that’s on the side of the highway. This law includes utility vehicles working on the side of the road. The utility vehicles are required to have a flashing amber-colored light to warn motorists. The law requires motorists to slow down and approach cautiously when an emergency vehicle is stopped on the shoulder of the road with its lights flashing.

Motorists are required to move over to another lane away from the emergency vehicle on a multi-lane highway or slow down on a two-lane highway. Motorists must slow down while maintaining a safe speed. G.S. 20-157 (f). If convicted of violating this law it carries a hefty fine, court costs and possibly insurance points. Moving over is a simple task that can help keep our line workers safe while they work to keep your lights on.

Utility crews aren’t the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask that you follow the same procedures mentioned above to help keep these crews safe as well.

There’s plenty of room for all. Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways.

Source: Abby Berry of NRECA

Left to right – Matt Harshman, Chris Kaylor, J.R. Crain & Robert Cole. Front center - Phillip Rhodes.

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**PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY AND UTILITY CREWS**

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.