



The Electrifier

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MARCH 2016

"Owned by those we serve"

MARSHALL, NC

FALL AND WINTER ENERGY-SAVING TIPS

This article will help you find strategies to help you save energy during cool fall and cold winter months. Some of the tips below are free and can be used on a daily basis to increase your savings; others are simple and inexpensive actions you can take to ensure maximum savings through the winter. If you haven't already, conduct an energy audit to find out where you can save the most, and consider making a larger investment for long-term energy savings.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HEAT FROM THE SUN

- Open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

COVER DRAFTY WINDOWS

- Use a heavy-duty, clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to the frame to help reduce infiltration.
- Install tight-fitting, insulating drapes or shades on windows that feel drafty after weatherizing.

ADJUST THE TEMPERATURE

- When you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as is comfortable.
- When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10° to 15° for eight hours and save around 10% a year on your heating and cooling bills. A programmable thermostat can make it easy to set back your temperature.

FIND AND SEAL LEAKS

- Seal the air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes ("plumbing penetrations"), gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.
- Add caulk or weatherstripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

MAINTAIN YOUR HEATING SYSTEMS

- Schedule service for your heating system. Find out what maintenance is required to keep your heating system operating efficiently.
- Furnaces: Replace your furnace filter once a month or as needed.
- Wood- and Pellet-Burning Heaters: Clean the flue vent regularly and clean the inside of the appliance with a wire brush periodically to ensure that your home is heated efficiently.

REDUCE HEAT LOSS FROM THE FIREPLACE

- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. Keeping the damper open is like keeping a window wide open during the winter; it allows warm air to go right up the chimney.
- When you use the fireplace, reduce heat loss by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly—approximately 1 inch—and close doors leading into the room. Lower the thermostat setting to between 50° and 55°F.
- If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue.
- If you do use the fireplace, install tempered glass doors and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.
- Check the seal on the fireplace flue damper and make it as snug as possible.
- Purchase grates made of C-shaped metal tubes to draw cool room air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the room.
- Add caulking around the fireplace hearth.

LOWER YOUR WATER HEATING COSTS

Water heating accounts for about 18% of the energy consumed in your home.

- Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120°F). You'll not only save energy, you'll avoid scalding your hands.

Manager's Report



Jeff Loven

Winter Blast Brings Snow and Low Temps

As the snow continues to fall all across our service area, and the temperatures are forecasted to drop into the low teens for the rest of the week, it is comforting to know our electric grid is up to the challenge. It was only in late January that record amounts of snow fell in the northeast due to winter storm Jonas. We also received more than our share of snowfall, low temperatures and high winds. In fact, some of our crews reported over two feet of snow in some parts of our service territory.

Winter storm Jonas was well advertised. We had almost three days' advance notice to get ready. The various emergency management services, along with local law enforcement, in the counties we serve all contacted us to make sure we were aware of the possible outcome of this storm. Once we realized this storm had the potential to cause significant damage to our system, our team laid out our emergency electrical restoration plan, made sure our trucks were well stocked, and all our equipment was operational. Our crews were prepared for the worst.

Over a three day period the snow fell and the winds blew. Accumulations in some areas were measured in feet, not

inches, but the good Lord above once again spared us. There was little ice accumulation and the temperature was low enough that the snow did not stick to the trees and power lines. The wind also kept the lines and tree limbs clean. However, it was not just good fortune that kept everyone's electricity on during the storm. It is years of planning and hard work that shines in these moments. Our right-of-way crews go out every day and make sure that our power lines are clear and that our members enjoy the most reliable electric service possible.

We implement a detailed vegetation management program within our rights-of-way, which is a corridor of land in which the power line resides. It helps protect the lines and allows the linemen to work safely to build and maintain the power system to ensure everyone receives reliable electricity. Our vegetation management program combines several growth control methods, all with the goal of balancing beauty of our area while ensuring safe, reliable electricity. Every inch of our 4,500 miles of lines is reviewed



and trimmed every 6 years to help avoid large growth which is more likely to cause power outages.

Many do not realize that, when any part of a tree or other vegetation comes in contact with a power line, a short circuit condition is created. This is a very dangerous situation. To reduce the risk of electrocution, property damage, and even death, breakers (electrical switches) open up to prevent injury and damage to the system. When this happens, our crews have to locate the problem and make the necessary repairs before electricity can be restored. It is much better for all our members if we can avoid these situations. It keeps our costs down and our members happy if we keep the lights on.

It is also during times like this that your cooperative gains an appreciation for its membership. The vast majority of our customers support our efforts in maintaining our power line right-of-ways. Our employees and the Board of Directors work hard to make sure everyone has reliable electric service and wants to say "Thank You" for allowing us to be on your property and do our job. Without your cooperation, keeping the lights on would not be possible.

Mark Your Calendar
Saturday, May 7th

It is that time again. French Broad EMC will hold the 2016 75th Annual Meeting, which is scheduled to be held Saturday May 7th at Madison High School in Marshall.

As a part of the Health Fair, various healthcare representatives will be available to offer basic preventive screenings, as well as helpful information.

Featured entertainment will be The McKamey's. We invite you to come and be a part of this annual event.



The Electrifier

Published monthly by French Broad EMC
PO Box 9, Marshall, NC 28753.

Jeff Loven General Manager
Greg Fowler District Manager
Tracy Evans District Manager
Paula Seay Editor

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Burnsville (828) 682-6121
Bakersville (828) 688-4815

To Report A Power Outage After Hours
Marshall District

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Deadlines for submitting ads or notices to: **The Electrifier.**

April issue March 15th
May issue April 15th
June issue May 10th
July issue June 10th

2016-2017



French Broad EMC is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2016-17 school year. Teachers in K-12 classrooms with innovative ideas for hands-on learning projects are encouraged to apply.

Grant applications will be accepted April 1 - September 23rd. All teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of August 15th will be entered into a drawing for a Visa gift card.

Teachers at qualifying schools can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects. To apply, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit www.NCBrightIdeas.com.

Mini-Split Heat Pump Program

Winter is in full swing and your home's #1 source of energy use is related to heating/cooling.

French Broad EMC continues to offer mini-split heat pumps at an affordable rate, which can be financed on your electric bill upon credit approval.

Visit our website for more information: www.frenchbroademc.com



ROW Clearing Schedule
March/April

Marshall District

- *Lonesome Mountain
- *Little Pine
- *from Mars Hill Substation up Highway 23 to Big Laurel
- *Laurel Valley
- *Highway 19 to Crooked Creek Road

Burnsville District

- *Fork Mountain
- *Little Rock Creek
- *NC 261
- *Glen Ayre
- *Valley of the Roan
- *Town of Bakersville

FBEMC offices
will be closed
Friday March 25th
in observance of
Good Friday
and Easter





The Outlet

All numbers are in
828 area code
unless otherwise listed.

This is a **FREE** service to members for advertising non-commercial items. **Ads are limited to two items per member per month and will appear only one time unless resubmitted.** Ads are limited to two lines per ad. We reserve the right to edit, condense, or refuse ads due to content, unreasonable length, or available space.

French Broad EMC does not endorse services advertised and is not responsible for reliability of services listed.

When submitting ads for The Outlet, please be sure to include your name, address, phone number and account number. Ads without this reference information are subject to not being published.

Ads may be submitted online or mailed to French Broad EMC, Attn: Paula Seay, PO Box 9, Marshall, NC 28753.

FOR SALE

Lumber (15) 10x12 boards, make offer. 707-7926.

Brother HL-2270DW laserjet b/w printer, \$100. 785-3395.

Lexmark Pro715 inkjet copier/printer/scanner, \$50. 785-3395.

1-acre lot w/ RV, Bear Den, BRP, \$55,000. 773-0605.

Siberian Husky puppies, purebred, reg, shots, dewormed, \$650. 284-3963.

Basset Hound puppies, purebred, reg, shots, dewormed, \$500-\$700. 284-3963.

Battery-operated scooter, \$400. 682-3622.

Radio Shack HTX-242 2-meter VHF transceiver, \$79.99. 682-3622.

Portable garage 10'x17' canvas cover w/ sides, roll-down zip front, \$200. 206-9535.

Bunk beds w/ladder, box springs/mattresses, wooden, blue, \$250. 645-8860.

0.73-acre lot, city water/well, Greeneville, TN, \$18,000. 656-2351 or 423/638-3224.

Leather jackets, 1-XL mens; 1-Lg ladies, \$75/both. 772-5222.

Better Built tool chest, fits Toyota Tacoma pickup, \$75. 675-9083.

Whirlpool side-by-side refrigerator, white, \$400. 681-0826.

GE propane gas range, white, 30", \$150. 777-4012.

2004 Dodge Ram 4WD, 4dr, 26,390mi, loaded, \$8,800. 688-4486 or 467-1346.

Singer pedal sewing machine. 765-1925.

Teacher's desk, bottle collection & more. 765-1925.

1996 Terry fifth wheel, 36' w/ 12' slide, loaded, \$6,500 OBO. 810/247-1013.

Kenmore side-by-side refrigerator, white, in-door water/ice, \$400. 450-2502.

Land, Big Laurel. 656-2105 or 989-5891.

Quilting machine, Gammill longarm, extras, \$6,000. 678-9030.

House. 284-6398.

Propane grill, 2 burner & side burner, \$100. 622-7225.

Acetylene torch w/ metal carriage accessories, \$400. 622-7225.

Reese 5th wheel hitch w/ rails, 14k lbs, \$75. 678-0835.

Vent-free propane/LP 28" gas log heater, \$50. 682-9872.

2004 Toyota Sienna LE, 7-passenger, AWD, 144k mi, \$5,000 OBO. 675-2570.

Wedding gown, white A-line strapless w/ chapel train, size 18, \$225. 545-3622.

Tobacco sticks, \$5/bundle of 10. 545-3622.

1993 Nissan Sentra, red, auto, \$850. 712-4062.

Charolais bulls, registered. 385-0244.

Tascam 424 Mark II, 4channels w/ micro & 1/4" inputs, \$125. 720/883-7679.

Spider IV 15watt guitar amp, \$100. 720/883-7679.

Bee traps for carpenter bees, \$15. 206-2938.

Dining room table w/6 chairs, oak, \$300 OBO. 689-4861.

Oak bar stools (2), \$50. 689-4861.

2010 Harley Davidson CVD Electraglide, 7,434mi. 284-0103.

Hard top enclosed motorcycle trailer, quick load, pop top, fold-down back. 284-0103.

1991 Toyota station wagon. 423/612-0378.

Medical uniforms, pants/tops/jackets, women's M-XL. 423/612-0378.

Hay, square bales. 778-5990.

Tailgate for 5th wheel camper, fits Ford truck, \$90. 712-1283.

Vintage & costume jewelry. 675-4271.

Quilts, homemade, hand quilted. 675-4271.

3BR/1BA farmhouse on 80 acres, Erwin, TN, \$649,000. 423/735-3070.

WANTED

Old barn to tear down. 380-1232.

Seeds: mtn greasy beans, gourds, old TN red peanuts. 707-0921.

GRIT newspapers/collections. 707-0921.

Junk Cars. 689-5125.

Home fuel oil, will pump out of your tank. 779-7272.

Handyman, carpentry, masonry, fencing, 1x/mo-8hrs, \$15/hr. 656-2107 after 6pm.

Horses and goats. 645-7544.

MISCELLANEOUS

Will Do: remove building materials for recycling. 682-6139.

Will Do: cabinet Services. 675-8001.

For Rent: vacation creek-side cabin, fenced, pvt, \$75/nt. 656-2281.

FREE: elliptical exerciser. 707-7926.

Will Do: cabin maintenance, cleaning, plumbing, carpentry. 747-1268.

Will Do: handyman work, pressure wash, paint. 747-1268.

Will Do: handyman svcs, junk removal, tree trimming. 284-2137.

Will Do: lawncare, mow, weedeat, landscape, mulch, free est. 208-5777.

Will Do: move furniture, hauling, tree removal. 208-4599.

Will Do: tree trimming, lot & view clearing. 208-4599.

Will Do: clean houses. 688-3693.

Will Do: Chair caning. 689-5125.

Will Do: mowing, tree work. 689-9906.

Will Do: general property mgmt, pressure wash, stain/paint. 689-9906.

Will Do: cut trees & clear land. 675-4003.

Will Do: pressure washing, staining & painting. 675-4003.

Will Do: petsitting, your home/ours, ref. 380-9652.