

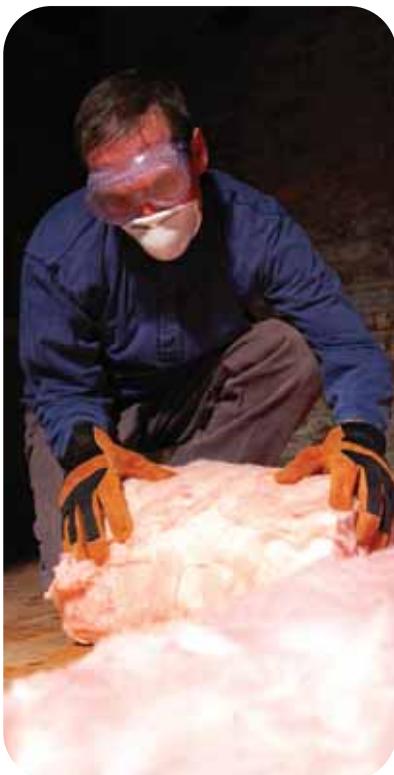
Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

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Roanoke Electric launches programs to improve energy efficiency for area residents

Roanoke Electric Cooperative members and other community residents will benefit from two campaigns launched recently to help individuals reduce energy usage and provide comfort for their homes.

The Community Energy Campaign and the Energy Efficiency, Renovations, and Repair programs are being administered by the cooperative's non-profit affiliate, Roanoke Construction Group.



These two programs will help Roanoke Electric Cooperative meet newer Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency portfolio standards that were set forth in the North Carolina General Assembly 2007 session to promote a greener economy.

In REC's Community Energy Campaign pilot, eligible members of the cooperative will receive energy saving measures such as duct sealing, insulation upgrades, insulated water heater wraps, and converting incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). Participants will also receive a summary of additional measures for renovations and or repairs that will further enhance the efficiency of their homes.

The Roanoke Construction Group's Renovations and Repairs Program pilot will provide the same energy-efficiency saving measures to non-cooperative members through a grant received from the North Carolina Rural Center to assist very low- to moderate-income households. Anyone over the income guidelines will be able to receive the same services at a nominal charge.

The projected cost estimates for these programs are on a graduate scale that ranges from \$1,200-



\$2,400. These programs are available to non-cooperative members as well for a nominal charge.

The Roanoke Construction Group has provided several licensed general contractors with energy-efficiency training through Advanced Energy of Raleigh and several site visits have already been conducted.

Anyone interested in participating in the program should contact the Roanoke Construction Group Renovation and Repairs Program at (252) 539-2236, ext. 282, to request an application and additional information. To find out more about Roanoke Construction Group, visit www.roanokeconstructiongroup.com.

Budget Billing helps you manage your money

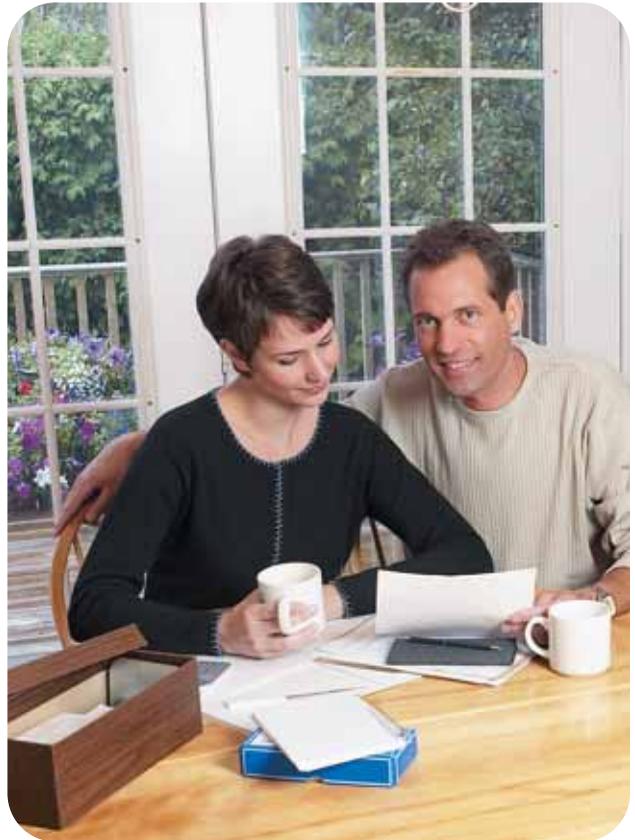
What is Budget Billing? Budget billing is a program that lets you level your payments throughout the year, paying the same amount each month and sparing you from unpredictable bills that result from changes in cost of energy, weather variations and lifestyle changes. Although budget billing does not reduce your overall energy expenses it will allow you to spread out your annual energy expenses over a 12-month period. Budget billing gives you an added value of telling you ahead of time what your monthly payments will be, therefore, making managing household budgets a lot easier. Timely payments are required to qualify for this service.

How do you calculate my monthly amount? Based on a 12-month usage history plus anticipated energy costs along with other factors, your energy usage is estimated as accurately as possible for the year ahead. The total is then divided by 12 to arrive at your monthly budget billing amount.

What if I am not satisfied after trying Budget Billing?

You may terminate Budget billing any time if you are not completely satisfied. Upon termination the complete bill will be due in full.

How do I sign up for Budget Billing? If you are interested in this service call the office at (252) 539-2236 and speak to a Member Services Representative or come by the office located on Main Street in Rich Square.



STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Roanoke Electric Cooperative, Rich Square, North Carolina is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S.

Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, this organization is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. The person responsible for



Roanoke Electric Cooperative

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coordinating this compliance effort is Curtis Wynn, Executive Vice President and CEO of Roanoke Electric Cooperative. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). Both USDA and Roanoke Electric Cooperative are equal opportunity providers and employers.

Farmers urged to watch for electrical hazards

Farmers deal with many day-to-day hazards. As a result of these routine hazards, farmers perceive many risks as less than they really are. The rush to harvest can reap grim results—electrocution.

Training employees is very important as they need to know what to do if the farm equipment or vehicle they are operating comes into contact with a power line. It is best to stay in the cab and call for help unless there is fire or imminent risk of fire. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure the power is cut off. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. Not following important safety work practices result in many farm workers being killed or injured when farm equipment makes contact with overhead power lines.

Farmers are urged to take precautions with machinery, making sure electric lines are high enough to allow machinery to pass safely underneath. This is especially true with grain bins where grain augers are being used. The top electric hazard on a farm is the potential contact from a grain auger. Farm workers should know the location of power lines and keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them. A few suggestions on practicing proper equipment safety on the farm include:



- lowering portable equipment to its lowest possible level before moving or transporting will help prevent tragic accidents
- look out for guy wires that provide support an anchor and support for utility poles
- when moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always have someone to help make sure that contact is not made with a line
- Be careful of increased heights when loading and transporting larger modern tractors with higher antennas
- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path

For specific questions related to your operation, please contact your electric provider.

Roanoke EC installing efficient HPS lamps in security lights

You may be able to lower your energy bill by simply having your outdoor lamps replaced with a more economical lighting solution.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is leading the charge for members to become more energy conscious, replacing antiquated High Intensity Discharge (HID) lamps in security lights.

While all HID lamps are energy efficient, some have proven to lower energy costs more than others. The bluish-colored 175-watt Mercury Vapor (MV) lamps were commonly installed in exterior lights to illuminate dimly lit areas around buildings, roads and parking lots, but a more favorable 100-watt High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lamp uses less energy, and produces comparable amounts of light illumination.

Roanoke EC began installing HPS lamps in security lights in March 2008 in its effort to extend reliable and affordable energy services to members.

The 2005 Energy Policy Act and the 2007 Energy

Independence and Security Act discontinued use, manufacturing, and importation of the MV lamp in place of HID lamps like the HPS lamp, which gives off a golden-colored light illumination, and has an equivalent lifetime as the MV lamp—about 24,000 hours, which means minimal costs for repairs.

The benefits of using 100-watt HPS lamps are that they distribute light evenly, have short warm-up time, offer high lumen output and reduce labor costs. The federal law requiring the discontinuance of MV lamps took effect on January 31, 2008.

There is no additional charge to have your lamps in your security lights replaced. The rate for replacing MV lamps in your outdoor lighting units with the more energy-efficient HPS lamps is the same.

To learn more about security light installations and HID lamp replacements, contact Roanoke EC Member Services at (252) 539-2236.

Roanoke EC policy for deer stands, pole attachments is for safety's sake

Hello to all you avid deer hunters. Hope you had a safe and successful season last year. Unfortunately too many of us are injured each year during the pursuit of what we enjoy so much. Statistics show that the leading cause of death and injury to hunters occurs from falls from elevated deer stands.

Power poles and electrical lines are everywhere in our daily lives and we sometimes forget the dangers that can be associated with them. We hope that by educating you now we can prevent an unnecessary accident before it happens. A trend we are seeing on our electrical system is more and more deer stands attached to or located close to our power poles and electrical facilities. This concerns us very much as we hope to never add an electrical contact to those hunting statistics. Therefore, in 2009, Roanoke Electric will continue the enforcement of our policy to remove or have deer stands removed that are attached to, or located within, an unsafe distance from our equipment.

Many dangerous situations can occur around power lines and poles with electrocution being the worse. Poles and cross arms can be damaged from storms or age deterioration causing them to fall bringing down high voltage lines with them. Our power lines are energized at up to 15,000 thousand volts of electricity. Poles have ground wires designed to help protect the lines and provide a ground source for electricity in a fault. These ground wires can become energized from many sources such as



lightning, broken lines trees making contact, auto accidents, ice, cold temperatures, large numbers of birds, or wind. These type dangers can happen out of sight or even miles away, making hunters unaware of preminent dangers.

Roanoke EC's policy requires that no attachments of any kind be made to a power pole. It also requires a minimum of 6-foot clearance around a pole so that it may be safely accessed for maintenance or replacement. That same 6-foot of clearance is required from any type of wire conductor regardless of voltage. This policy is designed to protect the public as well as our line personnel performing their work. Linemen have enough hazards to worry about without adding other obstructions to his risk. We ask that you follow these guidelines when using our rights-of-way and to be extra careful when building and erecting stands within them.

Roanoke EC will immediately remove any objects that we consider a hazard and do not meet the standards of our policy. When feasible we will try to contact hunt clubs and landowners to remove all attached deer stands and ask to refrain from placing new ones. We hope that each of you will observe these guidelines and continue to hunt safely as you enjoy the sport.

Take a kid hunting or fishing. It could be the best trip of your life when it is done properly and safely.

Clifton Ricks
Supervisor of Dispatch Services
Roanoke EC

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Published monthly for the member-consumers of Roanoke Electric Cooperative

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