

For immediate release  
July 14, 2010

Contact: Jimmy Baker, (843) 208-5550  
cell: (843) 384-7158  
email: jbakker@palmetto.coop

## PALMETTO ELECTRIC REMINDS CONSUMERS THAT HIGH TEMPERATURES RESULT IN HIGHER ELECTRIC BILLS

As a result of the recent heat wave, Palmetto Electric Cooperative is facing another summer of high demand for electricity. “Palmetto Electric wants our consumers to be informed that they will likely see an increase in their electric bills as a result of the extreme heat,” said G. Thomas Upshaw, president and CEO of Palmetto Electric. Temperatures in excess of 100 degrees were recorded in Palmetto Electric’s service area over the past few weeks.

Increased kilowatt sales are a direct result of the extreme temperatures and high humidity levels, which force air conditioners to work harder in residences and businesses throughout the area. Air conditioning represents the majority of usage on most consumers’ summer electric bills.

Palmetto Electric reminds vacationing members and absentee owners that their bills are not excluded from hot weather increases since air conditioning units and water heaters will continue to operate during their absence.

The Cooperative recommends a thermostat setting of 85 degrees in a home which is vacant for several days or longer. Palmetto Electric recommends the following tips to consumers to help them beat the heat:

- set thermostats at 78 degrees – for every degree below this setting the consumer will add approximately 8 percent to their cooling cost
- use ceiling fans or portable fans to increase your comfort level with the higher thermostat setting
- make sure your air return filters are clean

-more-

- check your duct system for any gaps or leaks (these should be repaired by a qualified heating and air conditioning contractor)
- check around doors and windows and caulk and weather-strip wherever possible
- keep sunlight from heating the inside of your home by closing drapes or blinds
- avoid indoor activities that add heat to your home – cook outdoors or use the microwave and do laundry early morning or late at night

Consumers can contact the Marketing Department at their local Palmetto Electric office or visit [www.palmetto.coop](http://www.palmetto.coop) for more information on measures to help keep electric bills down during this period of extreme heat. Palmetto Electric also offers an on-line energy audit service, located on our website, to assist consumers in making their homes more energy efficient. Simply click on the “Save Energy and Money” link to access this free service.

Palmetto Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, serves approximately 66,000 consumers in Beaufort, Jasper, and Hampton counties.

###