

CHEC well-represented at Raleigh and D.C. legislative rallies

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative representatives recently travelled to Raleigh and Washington, D.C., to discuss energy issues with federal and state representatives. North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide energy to more than 2.5 million people across 93 of the state's 100 counties and have long supported responsible stewardship of the environment balanced with providing safe, affordable, and reliable electricity. Cooperative management and directors lobby state and national elected officials to make them aware of electric cooperative member interests and concerns.

In February, vice president and general manager Susan Flythe, director of marketing and communications Rich Kenner, marketing and communications specialist Laura Heitsenrether, and director Richard Midgett travelled to Raleigh for a Legislative Rally with state officials. North Carolina electric cooperative representatives held meetings with their state representatives and senators at this event. The CHEC representatives met with Representative Tim Spear and Senator Stan White and urged them to continue to work closely with N.C. electric cooperatives when considering legislation that could have an impact on electric cooperative members.

In May, Susan Flythe, Laura Heitsenrether, Richard Midgett and director Clifton Duke met with more



TOP: U.S. Senator Richard Burr addresses the N.C. electric cooperatives during the D.C. Rally. LEFT: CHEC executive vice president Susan Flythe makes a point during a visit with N.C. Senator Stan White in Raleigh.



than 120 North Carolina electric cooperative peers on Capitol Hill. With Congress poised to debate energy legislation, North Carolina's electric cooperative representatives discussed critical energy issues, including funding and regulation, with U.S. Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagan, and U.S. Representative Walter Jones.

Electric cooperative representatives urged Senators Burr and Hagan and Representative Jones to help keep electric bills affordable for all consumers. The key legislative goals that the co-ops discussed with Burr, Hagan and Jones included maintaining the

successful partnership between the Rural Utilities Service and electric cooperatives. The need to provide renewable energy development incentives to co-ops was also made known. Other issues such as ensuring the continued beneficial reuse of coal combustion residuals and ending the anti-trust exemptions for the nation's rail industry were discussed.

To find out how you can become involved in the issues facing America's electric cooperatives, please visit www.ourenergy.coop.

CHEC employees earn residential energy auditor certifications

CHEC recently sent lineman Richard Augustson and marketing and communications specialist Laura Heitsenrether to become Building Performance Institute (BPI) certified residential energy auditors.

Many of the homes on Hatteras Island were constructed before modern energy and building codes were established. These homes often suffer from performance problems ranging from inflated energy consumption to poor thermal comfort to indoor air quality issues. CHEC wants members to be able to improve the comfort, health, safety, durability and energy efficiency of their home.

The BPI focuses on evaluating the energy use of America's existing homes. Training emphasizes identifying certain issues that cause homes to be less energy efficient, such as air infiltration, poor insulation, or air gaps in the building's shell. BPI's philosophy believes that a home must be viewed as an inter-related system.

Changing one element, such as adding or removing insulation, or puncturing the building shell, all affect one another. Therefore, as our members work on their homes attempting to fix problems they themselves have identified, they may not only be missing part of the problem. They may be compromising their home's entire energy performance without realizing it.

Augustson and Heitsenrether were both trained in health and safety procedures set by OSHA guidelines, as well as proper testing methods for carbon monoxide levels and combustible gas build up. During the certification they learned guidelines for airflow equations and heating and cooling load equations that determine how much air is needed to condition a home. They also learned how to conduct a blower door test and learned standards for investigating attic ventilation, proper insulation in walls, attics and ducts, and other topics.



CHEC lineman Richard Augustson and BPI classmate set up the blower door test during residential energy auditor training.

CHEC is committed to providing members with programs and services that help them conserve and efficiently use energy, saving members money and making the world a better place. CHEC plans to begin offering audits to members this fall.

CHEC accepting Bright Ideas applications



**BRIGHT
IDEAS**

Attention CHEC Bright Ideas teacher applicants: Submit your application by the early-bird deadline on August 15 to be automatically entered in a drawing for a \$500 Visa gift card!

Go to www.ncbrightideas.com to complete your application. Questions? Contact Laura Heitsenrether at laurah@chec.coop or 252-995-7083.

Become a fan of "Bright Ideas Education" on Facebook for regularly updated information about the program.



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