

Your PWC Connections is a bi-monthly newsletter for PWC customers and the community. If you have comments, concerns or suggestions for upcoming issues, please contact PWC's Communications/Community Relations Office.

Upcoming Events

Christmas PWC Offices Closed
Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25

New Year's Day PWC Offices Closed
Wednesday, January 1

Martin Luther King's Birthday PWC Offices Closed
Monday, January 20

North Carolina Home Expo Crown Expo Center
Friday, February 21 -
Sunday, February 23

Clip the included coupon to save on the price of admission

PWC On the Air

You can watch *Your PWC Connections* anytime on PWC's website and YouTube Channel, or watch nightly on Fay TV (Spectrum Cable channel 7). And now listen to *PWC Connections: The Podcast* on most standard podcast apps.



Naughty or Nice Holiday Safety List

As you make your lists and check them twice, here is one to keep your holiday celebrations safe and wonderful.

Naughty

- Never attempt to extend the length of an extension cord by connecting it with another extension cord. Use an extension long enough to meet your needs.
- Never use frayed or damaged cords or light strands.
- Never run an extension cord under a rug or positioned it so it's pinched by furniture.
- Don't put decorations on outdoor trees that are in contact with power lines; keep ladders away from power lines.
- Never place electrical decorations near water.



Info courtesy of esfi.org

Nice

- Water your Christmas tree daily to keep it hydrated and reduce your risk of fire.
- Make sure all lights and decorations have the UL seal – and be sure anything electrical put outdoors is labeled for outdoor use.
- Keep all decorations, including Christmas trees, at least three feet away from heating equipment or an open flame.
- Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed. Consider using an automatic timer to ensure that lights are not left on by mistake.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Always follow manufactures' instructions and use products as they were intended regarding indoor or outdoor use.
- Remember to plug outdoor decorations into outlets protected by Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent shock.

Don't Toss Your Christmas Tree ~ Recycle It!

Give your holiday tree a proper send-off. Rather than tossing it in the trash, recycle it*. You'll be doing our local parks a big favor! For nearly a quarter century, Fayetteville PWC, the City of Fayetteville, and Duke Energy Progress have partnered to recycle trees as mulch. Fayetteville-Cumberland County Parks and Rec will use the mulch for garden beds and paths. If you live within City limits, please put your tree out for pick-up by the morning of January 6, 2020. Or drop off your tree at the Community Garden (intersection of Vanstory and Mann Streets) any time before 8:30am on Saturday, January 11th.

*Remove all tinsel, lights, tree stands and ornaments.



Time-of-Use Winter Peak Hours 6am - 10am

Time-of-Use Winter Peak hours will run through March. Rates for electricity used during Off-Peak hours will cost 30% less than Peak and will occur 20 hours of each weekday and all day on weekends and PWC observed holidays.

Winter Peak Hours (November - March)



6-10 AM Weekdays



Buy One Ticket, Get One Free Ticket North Carolina Home Expo

Show Hours:
Friday, Feb. 21: Noon – 8pm • Saturday, Feb 22: 10am – 8pm
Sunday, Feb 23: 11am – 5pm
www.NorthCarolinaHomeExpo.com
Adults \$5 • Children with paying adult are free

Friday, February 21 - Sunday, February 23 • Crown Complex

Soak Up the Sun

Sign up for our new Community Solar Program! Community Solar is a low cost, low risk way for customers to invest in solar technology because it eliminates the expense of purchasing, installing and maintaining panels on your home or business. PWC electric customers, both renters and homeowners, are eligible. Visit www.faypwc.com for details about our Community Solar Program, including information about our solar farm and subscriptions.

2020 Wall Calendars Now Available

Get energy and water saving tips year-round with PWC's annual Connected to Conservation wall calendar! The FREE calendar includes information about Time-of-Use rates, local community events and incentive programs. Pick up your copy (while supplies last) at PWC's Customer Service Center, City Hall in Downtown Fayetteville, or your nearest library. To receive a copy by mail, please call 910-223-4009.

New Payment Option Available

Need to make a payment at night or on weekends, or just want to avoid the lines? Fayetteville PWC customers have another convenient option to pay their monthly utility bill – a 24/7 payment kiosk! The kiosk is located in the far-right drive-thru lane of PWC's Customer Service Center (955 Old Wilmington Road), and will accept payments by cash, check, credit, or debit card. Payments made at the kiosk are immediately applied to the account. The payment kiosk will not return change, so any overpayment to an account will be applied as a credit.

Download the PWC App

PWC's mobile app is available for iPhone and Android. Download the FREE app and track your energy and water use in the palm of your hand! Other features include "My Wallet," usage graphs and utility statements.



Listen to PWC's Podcast

Tune in to *PWC Connections: The Podcast* to learn more about the services PWC provides, our staff and our community involvement as a public power provider. Get conservation tips that will save resources in our community and save money in and around the home, and hear how PWC is using the latest in technologies to assist in providing the best customer service experience possible.

How to Listen

To listen to the current episode click on www.faypwc.com/pwc-connections-the-podcast. You can also subscribe and listen to *PWC Connections: The Podcast* using standard podcast apps such as:

- Apple Podcasts
- Spotify
- Google Podcasts
- Overcast
- RadioPublic



New Year's Resolution: Trim the Fat Stick to This Energy Diet and Cut the Kilowatts Instead of Calories

Kilowatts are like calories. They creep up on us. In fact, the average American uses about 30% more energy than they did 25 years ago. Check out these 5 simple ways to shed that excess energy...just in time for New Year's Resolution season.

Portion Control

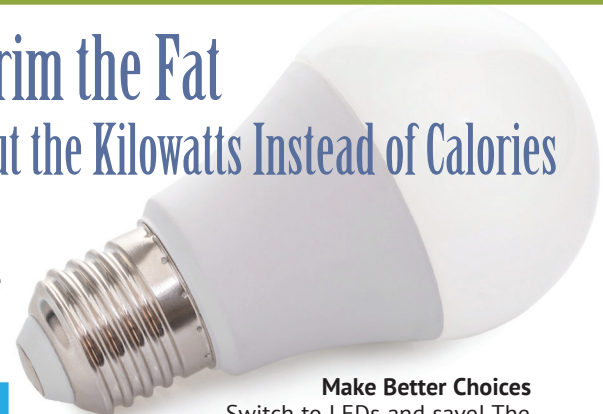
Get rid of your energy-guzzling appliances. Check out the ENERGY STAR® models



to find the biggest savers. For example, you could save about \$40 a year in operating costs by replacing your 10-year-old refrigerator with a new ENERGY STAR-certified unit. Plus, eligible PWC customers can earn a bill credit if they make the switch. Visit our website for details about our many appliance incentive programs.

Mindful Consumption

Did you know 75% of your appliance energy use takes place when you're not even using it? It's called passive or "vampire" energy use, and it occurs on every appliance that's plugged in. For example, your television could be costing you about \$150 even when you aren't using it. Your computer can gobble up another \$60 and that coffee pot can cost you \$20. To avoid "vampire" energy use, plug your appliances into a power strip and turn off the power strip when not in use. This could save you up to \$230 annually.



Make Better Choices

Switch to LEDs and save! The five lights used most frequently are your kitchen ceiling light, living room table and floor lamps, bathroom vanity lamp and outdoor porch lamp. Replace them with ENERGY STAR-rated LEDs to potentially lower your bill by \$75 per year. Take advantage of PWC's LED Bulb Incentive Program and earn up to \$100 in the form of bill credits!

Cool Down

Quit paying to overheat your water. Set your hot water heater temperature at 120° and add an insulation blanket to reduce heat loss. This can save you up to \$45 per year.

Tighten Up

Heating and cooling make up about 46% of your monthly energy bill. That's why sealing and insulating your air ducts can improve system efficiency by as much as 20%. For example, if your monthly bill is about \$110, you could save about \$120 a year.

information courtesy of KCP&L