

## Better Weather Could Help Electric Conservation Campaign

By Bill White

January was not as bad as November, and not much worse than December. It was the third month in a row in which persistent cold weather put a damper on the efforts of Pine Knoll Shores residents to reduce the use of electricity in the continuing campaign to conserve electric power as one means of helping the nation achieve energy independence.

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC), which provides electricity to PKS, reports that January this year was seven percent colder than January, 2008. That meant that heat pumps had to run longer and harder to keep the temperature inside homes at a comfortable level. As a result, the average kilowatt hour per day usage this year was 145,394 as opposed to 141,120 in 2008. That's a jump of more than four percent.

Last November, a particularly cold month, the consumption of electricity was more than eleven percent higher than in the similar period the year before. And in December, electric usage was more than two percent higher than the year before as cold weather continued to hold sway.

While these three months of tough sledding on the electric energy conservation front were disheartening, they failed to completely erase the positive gains made in the first three

months of the save electricity campaign launched last August. In August, September and October electrical usage in PKS dropped by some thirty percent as opposed to the same period the year before.

Right now, electrical usage in PKS has dropped a little over thirteen percent since the conservation campaign was launched by town officials last August. The goal is a ten percent reduction by next July. Barring some abnormally cold or hot stretches in the next six months, success is in sight.

### Tip of the Month

**Maintain your cool.** To keep your refrigerator running efficiently vacuum coils every 3 months, more if you have pets. Make sure the door seals are airtight by placing a dollar bill between the gasket and the door jamb and closing the door. Pull the bill out. If it offers some resistance, the gasket fits properly. If the bill comes right out, or falls out, the gasket is faulty and should be replaced. Test the gasket at several locations around the door.

No one has control of temperature conditions but Mother Nature. It's the little things where we humans can make a difference. The electric energy conservation campaign is based on a list of monthly tips we should pay heed to all year 'round to make the most efficient use of electrical power. This month's tip, embodied within this story, suggests that we apply ourselves to the question of whether our appliances are performing as they should. It's one of the little things that mean a lot.

A complete list of the monthly tips was published in the February issue of *The Shoreline*. We hope you saved it to serve as a reminder. The Tips of the Month will continue through next July. Watch for them.

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## North Carolina Aquariums Announce Fish Face Winners

They puckered, pursed and puffed their way into the winners' circle of the North Carolina Aquariums Fish Face contest.

The first four monthly winners of the creative mugshot competition are featured on [www.ShowUsYourFishFace.com](http://www.ShowUsYourFishFace.com)

Those that took top honors were:

- Isabella Avery Shope of Franklin, NC  
– October winner
- Taylor Hvizdak of Ruther Glen, VA  
– November winner
- Eddie Sumlin of Charlotte, NC  
– December winner
- Meredith Bass of Nashville, NC  
– January winner

Each has received a gift bag of Aquarium goodies, worth \$25. More than 140 participants submitted their best fish faces to the competition. All entrants won fish face fame and a Fish Face ID card, redeemable for a prize at any of the three state-operated Aquariums – on Roanoke Island, at Pine Knoll Shores and at Fort Fisher.

Each monthly winner also has a chance to win a beach vacation, a

behind-the-scenes Aquarium tour and a North Carolina Aquarium Society membership in an annual grand prize drawing.

Launched in October 2008, [www.ShowUsYourFishFace.com](http://www.ShowUsYourFishFace.com) has generated plenty of attention and laughs.

"Show Us Your Fish Face' is fun and it's interactive," said Aquariums Division Director David Griffin. "That's what the Aquariums are all about."

Founded in 1976, the three state Aquariums share the mission, "inspiring appreciation and conservation of North Carolina's aquatic environments." The Aquariums advance this mission largely through engaging family experiences, Griffin said.

The Aquariums are under the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Regular operating hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Call 1-800-832-FISH or see [www.ncaquariums.com](http://www.ncaquariums.com) for more information on the Aquariums.



Two tots took top honors in the North Carolina Aquariums Fish Face contest: Taylor Hvizdak and Isabella Avery Shope.