

COOPERATIVE

REVIEW

For members of Union Power Cooperative

Keep Air Flowing by Changing Your Filters

Did you know that a dirty air filter is the #1 reason for HVAC system failure?

Dirty and clogged air filters can not only waste money on energy costs, but they can damage your heating and cooling system as well. Replacing filters every 2-3 months can help extend the life expectancy of your system. When changing your filters, be sure to write the date on the new filter before installing it. This is a small task to help ensure that you are indeed changing your filters on a routine basis. Check out these important reasons to change your air filters:

1. A dirty filter restricts the air flow into your HVAC system's air handler, placing additional strain on the air handler fan motor. Over time, it could burn out your motor and cause your system to overheat.
2. A dirty air filter makes your fan motor work harder and consume more energy. One of the easiest and quickest ways to help reduce your energy bill is to replace your air filter.
3. A dirty air filter makes your heating and air-conditioning systems and your ducts get dirty faster. This can lead to costly HVAC cleaning expenses or a need to repair or replace your HVAC unit sooner than expected.
4. The dirt and particles that would normally be trapped by the air filter can cause the system to work harder and be more prone to freezing over or burning out.



Air filters are an important part of your heating and cooling system. Typically, your HVAC system is one of your most expensive investments in your home and a repair could prove costly. Air filters are a small price to pay to help ensure value with your HVAC investment.

Replacing filters every 2-3 months can help extend the life expectancy of your system.

Save Up to 15% on your Heating and Cooling Costs

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that regularly-scheduled air filter changes will save you 5-15% on your heating and cooling costs each month! For most homeowners, this is a savings of \$12-\$25 every single month.

Regularly changing your air filters is an extremely inexpensive and easy way to lower your energy bill. By changing your air filter regularly, you are ensuring that your HVAC system can operate at its highest efficiency by making sure it stays in good working order, meaning it takes less energy to push air through your home.

ElecTel Credit Union: Another Benefit to Being a Co-op Member



For more information, or to join the ElecTel Credit Union, go to electel.org or call 1-800-849-5600.

Did you know that as a Union Power Cooperative member, you are eligible for membership with ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union?

ElecTel's comprehensive financial services rival those of larger financial institutions, and you get the benefits of belonging to a credit union. Direct Deposit, Stop Payments, Overdraft Protection, Courtesy Pay and more are all convenient, timesaving services offered at ElecTel. Learn more about the credit union and its high level of member service by visiting electel.org.

Here are a couple of outstanding and unique programs you'll have access to by becoming a member of ElecTel:

- **Energy Efficient Loan Program:** Members can borrow up to \$35,000 at low rates for home improvements, including new windows and doors, electric heat pumps, furnaces, air conditioners, generators, solar projects, water heaters, insulation, and ENERGY STAR® appliances. This program offers flexible payment terms and is open to residential property owners of single-family homes, duplexes, mobile homes and owner-occupied condominiums.
- **The Christmas Club Account:** This special program allows you to save money for the holidays. At any time during the year, you can set up, via your savings, checking or even payroll deduction, a certain amount of money each month to be transferred to your

Christmas Club Account! Come October, all the money deposited will be automatically transferred into an account of your choice or a check can be sent to you. Now is the perfect time to get started, as your holiday budget will be all set come this fall!

- **Auto Loan Program:** ElecTel offers hassle-free auto loans, including up to 120 percent financing, low rates for new and used models, terms up to 84 months, affordable extended warranties, loan pre-approvals, and convenient payroll deduction. ElecTel takes it one step further and offers the unique service called "The Car Connection" at no cost to its members. When you've selected the car and options you want, visit electel.org/apply/car-connection and receive a quote that includes everything except tax and tags, including trade-in information and rebates. The Car Connection will handle preparation of all paperwork necessary for the transaction, arrange delivery, and even help with your trade. There's no fee and no obligation.

ElecTel membership is open to all Union Power Cooperative members and their families. It's just another way we are looking out for you!



Considering Solar?

We're Here to Help

Today's consumers want and expect options, including the type of energy powering their homes. Many homeowners are looking for ways to save on their energy bills. Some are looking for a green energy source. These two motives are why many homeowners are exploring rooftop solar panels.

As attractive and popular as rooftop solar may appear, it is important for consumers to fully understand its true costs, the operational reality of this form of energy, along with potential energy savings it could provide. To determine whether rooftop solar is right for their particular situation, homeowners must undertake their due diligence.

We're here to help.

As your trusted energy advisor, Union Power Cooperative can offer an assessment of your specific situation. We advise that you set goals of what you want to achieve with a solar system. Take your time and do your homework to determine if the investment with solar makes sense to help you achieve those goals.

When assessing solar options, it is an excellent time to examine other potential energy efficiency improvements for your home. We can work with you to ensure that your home is operating at the most efficient condition. It may be a good time to determine the age and current condition of your water heater. It is always good to know the condition of your HVAC system as well. Overall, HVAC contributes the most towards your power consumption. If there is an opportunity to improve the performance of your home, we want to bring that to your attention before investing in solar options.

Is rooftop solar right for you?

To help determine whether rooftop solar is right for you, Union Power's energy advisors will look at the:

- overall energy efficiency of the home/building
- age and pitch of the roof
- orientation of the sun in relation to the home/building
- tree coverage near the home/building
- weather patterns for the region

Unlike a solar company that has one objective—to sell their products and services—we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. While rooftop solar certainly works for many people, it's not the answer for all.



Jake Thomas

Manager of Marketing & Energy Services

When helping co-op members determine whether rooftop solar is right for them, a co-op energy advisor will also discuss the many financial considerations:

- Is there a large, up-front payment required or are fees spread out over time?
- Will the homeowner own the panels or will they be leased?
- Are there any hidden costs, i.e., does the roof need to be replaced before installing the panels?
- Are there ongoing maintenance fees?
- Are there rebates or other financial incentives available?
- Is the estimated energy savings worth the investment?
- Is it more cost effective to invest in other energy-saving measures?

Taking into account current energy consumption, the home "envelope," age and efficiency of the HVAC system and home site, an energy advisor can help co-op members determine whether rooftop solar is the best choice given the homeowners' objectives.

Union Power Cooperative recognizes that consumer interest in green energy sources and renewables is at an all-time high, and we stand ready to help our members determine their best options.



Deadline Approaching to Apply for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship

The buzzer will sound soon for local fifth through seventh graders to apply for a basketball camp scholarship.

Union Power will send one young man to the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp June 22-26 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and one young woman to the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp June 9-12 at NC State University in Raleigh. Campers will work directly with players and coaches to develop basketball skills and practice leadership and teamwork at the overnight camps.

To be eligible for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarship, students must be in sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the 2019–2020 school year. Students currently in eighth grade are not eligible for the scholarship program, per NCAA rules and regulations. Applicants must have permission from a parent or legal guardian to attend and must provide their own transportation to and from the camp if selected.

Applicants will be judged on academics, extracurricular activities, and an essay. To access the application, visit union-power.com/sportscampscholarship or email llissa.cunningham@union-power.com for more information about the program. Applications must be postmarked by March 31, with winners expected to be announced by the beginning of May.



Celebrating Agriculture and Our Rural Roots

Eighty years ago, farmers and rural community members came together to form Union Power Cooperative and other electric cooperatives across the state and the nation. They set the poles, strung the lines and went door-to-door asking the people in their communities to join them in establishing a local, member-owned business that could transform communities and change lives.

We've come a long way since then, but we've remained true to our roots and steadfast in our commitment to investing in and strengthening our local communities. Electricity continues to hold great promise for agriculture—North Carolina's top industry—and open the door to new opportunity across numerous sectors, as we work to embrace 21st-century innovation and implement new technologies.

March 14 marks the 46th anniversary of National Ag Day, which recognizes the essential role agriculture plays in

our everyday lives. We are proud to support farmers' operational needs through safe, reliable and affordable power and look forward to growing the relationship between agriculture and energy to create efficiencies that will benefit all North Carolina communities.

As Union Power Cooperative celebrates our 80th anniversary and we reflect on our long history, we are also looking ahead to building the foundation for the future and what's yet to come.

Rate Schedule Effective April 1

General Service Rate*

Applicable to farm, residential, small business, schools, churches and community buildings receiving single-phase service or to residential receiving three-phase service.

Basic Facilities Charge

- Single-Phase (400 amps or less) \$30.00 per month
- Single-Phase (>400 amps or 3-phase res.) \$50.00 per month

Energy Charges

- Summer (bills rendered June - October)
- All kWh \$0.10060 per kWh
- Winter (bills rendered November - May)
- First 1,000 kWh \$0.10060 per kWh
- Over 1,000 kWh \$0.09540 per kWh

Residential All-Electric Service Rate*

Applicable to residential members, mobile homes or individually metered apartments only.

Basic Facilities Charge

- Single-Phase (400 amps or less) \$30.00 per month
- Single-Phase (>400 amps or 3-phase res.) \$50.00 per month

Energy Charges

- Summer (bills rendered June - October)
- All kWh \$0.09740 per kWh
- Winter (bills rendered November - May)
- First 500 kWh \$0.09660 per kWh
- Over 500 kWh \$0.09160 per kWh

Pre-Pay Service Rate*

Basic Facilities Charge

- Single-Phase (400 amps or less) \$1.08 per day

Energy Charges

- General Service Rate \$0.09985 per kWh
- Res. All-Electric Service Rate \$0.09487 per kWh

Fees

- Connection Fee \$25.00
- Minimum Purchase \$50.00

Commercial Service Rate*

Applicable to members located on or near three-phase lines and receiving three-phase service.

Basic Facilities Charge \$75.00 per month

Demand Charges

- First 25 kW \$0.00 per kW
- Over 25 kW \$7.75 per kW

Energy Charges

- First 3,000 kWh \$0.1111 per kWh
- Next 7,000 kWh \$0.0740 per kWh
- Next 20,000 kWh \$0.0596 per kWh
- Next 50,000 kWh \$0.0562 per kWh
- Over 80,000 kWh \$0.0528 per kWh

*Applicable riders, including those associated with the North Carolina Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) and the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) may apply. Visit union-power.com for a full schedule of all Union Power's Rates and Riders.

How Your New Rate Affects Your Bill		
General Service Rate		
kWh	Current Avg Bill	Proposed Avg Bill
1,000	\$127.29	\$130.60
1,250	\$151.51	\$154.99
1,500	\$175.73	\$179.38
Residential All-Electric Service Rate		
kWh	Current Avg Bill	Proposed Avg Bill
1,000	\$121.08	\$125.48
1,250	\$144.06	\$148.98
1,500	\$167.05	\$172.48



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



Save Energy: Water Heater Efficiency Tips

Having hot water is a modern convenience that most people don't even think about. Lucky for us, when we turn the shower knob on, a relaxing, hot shower is in the near future! But did you know that water heating is one of your home's top expenses? According to the Department of Energy, water heating typically accounts for 18 percent of electricity consumed in a typical home.

You can easily reduce your water heating expenses by following these simple steps:

- Reduce your water heater's temperature to 120 degrees. Every 10-degree reduction can save up to 5 percent on your overall water heating costs. Other benefits of lowering your water heater thermostat include increasing the longevity of your water heater, eliminating the risk of scalding water, and slowing the mineral buildup and corrosion in your water heater and pipes.
- Before adjusting your water heater's thermostat, cut off the power at its breaker. If you are unsure how to do this, consider hiring a professional to show you how to safely change your water heater's temperature.
- When it's time to get in the shower, get the temperature how you like it, and jump in! Don't run hot water excessively. Shortening your shower by just a few minutes can save hundreds of gallons of hot water each month.
- Wash clothes with cold water instead of hot, unless totally necessary. You can save up to 40 cents per load using cold water.
- Insulate your hot water pipes and water heater. This helps reduce losses as the hot water is flowing to your faucet. By insulating your hot water pipes, water will arrive at the faucet 2 to 4 degrees warmer. This means you won't have to wait as long for the water to heat up, thus saving water and money. Also, check your hot water pipes for leaks that can increase electricity costs as well.

According to the Department of Energy, water heating typically accounts for 18 percent of electricity consumed in a typical home.

Union Power's promise is to provide exceptional service to its members. That includes looking out for you by helping you save on your monthly electric bill...that's the Cooperative difference!

Board of Directors: District IV



Union Power Cooperative extends appreciation to Carole P. Jones for her 10 years of dedicated service to the members of the Cooperative. Jones, who recently retired from the Board of Directors, represented District IV in Mecklenburg County and a portion of Union County.



The Cooperative is pleased to announce the appointment of Sue B. Threath of Monroe to represent District IV. Threath has previously served the members of Union Power on the Nominating Committee.

BECAUSE YOUR HOME'S HEATING & A/C IS A BIG DEAL.

EXPERTS YOU CAN TRUST SINCE 1991.

WE'RE A WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF UNION POWER COOPERATIVE



At Union Services, since 1991 we've been serving the greater Monroe area as a trusted local resource for Heating & A/C solutions. That means when you need help with your home's Heating & Cooling, you can trust the experts at Union Services to give the right advice and follow-through with proper service & installation.

To request your FREE in-home estimate on a new Heating & A/C system or any other question, contact us online anytime at SaveWithUnion.com or give us a call at (704) 207-0368.



Right-of-Way Clearing

During the next month, you may see our tree-trimming crews in your neighborhood: ABC Professional Tree Service and Lewis Tree Service.

Cabarrus County: Abernathy Pl, Asbury Rd, Backwoods Pond Ln, Benhill Dr, Biltmore Dr, Bullfrog Pl, Burlwood Rd, Cherrysford Ct, Edgar Ct, Grady Harris Sr Rd, Green Park Ct, Hickory Ridge Rd, Julia Ct, Lower Rocky River Rd, Lucas Ct, Mattons Grove Church Rd, McMillian Dr, NC-US Hwy 52, Robinson Church Rd, Rocky Ridge Ln, Rocky River Rd, Short Cut Rd, Stack Rd

Rowan County: NC-US Hwy 52

Stanly County: Collie Rd, Mattons Grove Church Rd, NC-US Hwy 49

Union County: Abbotsbury Ct, Arminius Ct, Asbury Dr, Baucom Deese Rd, Baucom Rd, Bearskin Ln, Briar Cliff Dr, Carson St, Concord Ave, Deercross Ln, Dillingham Ct, E Lawyers Rd, Euclid St, Fisher Ridge Rd, Fowler Secrest Rd, Glynwater Ln, Goldmine Rd, Grass Ln, Haigler Gin Rd, Hice St, Hillcrest Dr, Hollybrook Ln, Hunter Oak Ln, James Hamilton Rd, Kempars Ln, Lochaven Rd, Lomax St, Love Mill Rd, Love Rd, Morgan Mill Rd, N Rocky River Rd, Old Camden Rd, Patton Ave, Raccoon Run, Rea Rd, Reid Dairy Rd, Ridge Rd, Salem Church Rd, Sanford Ln, Sanlee Dr, Secrest Price Rd, Sells St, Seymour St, Sikes Mill Rd, Skyway Dr, Stevens Rd, Sue St, Thornhill Dr, Tintinhull Ln, Tomm Boyd Rd, Towton Ct, Watkins Rd, Wilburn Park Ct, Wilson Ave, Winfield Dr, Wolfe Rd, Woodbrook Ln, Zebulon Williams Rd



For more information about Union Power's vegetation management program or tree trimming practices, please call 704-289-3145 and speak with Wil Ortiz (ext. 3323) or Carrie Lorenz-Efird (ext. 3291). Visit union-power.com for monthly right-of-way clearing updates.

Class of 2019

Last chance to apply for a \$1,000 UPC College Scholarship

Deadline: March 22, 2019

union-power.com/collegescholarships

Union Power Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The Cooperative Review newsletter is published monthly for the members and friends of Union Power Cooperative.

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