

# COOPERATIVE

## REVIEW

For members of Union Power Cooperative



Defining a **Brighter Future**  
for Our Members and the  
Community

**UnionPower**  
**Cooperative**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## Executive Perspective

**A**s we begin this new year, Union Power is pursuing efforts to build a brighter future for our members and the community we all share – a brighter future that continues our commitment to delivering reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost while also advancing responsible sustainability goals.

Last July, along with the rest of North Carolina's electric cooperative network, we announced our new vision for a Brighter Future – a long-term roadmap for providing sustainable, affordable energy; reliability and innovation; and continued local community support to enrich the people and communities we serve.

Our vision centers on achieving two voluntary sustainability goals: a 50 percent reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. To reach these goals, we will continue to rely on emissions-free nuclear, an extremely reliable, safe, and affordable source of electricity that currently fuels more than half our power, along with natural

gas, which can be dispatched quickly when needed. We are bringing more renewable energy resources online while investing in new technology, such as battery storage, to make renewables like solar power more versatile and reliable.

These carbon reduction goals also rely on the advanced coordination of resources across the electric grid, as well as innovative solutions and technologies to make the grid as flexible and efficient as possible. They also encompass our efforts to electrify devices and processes as an alternative to fossil fuels and use electricity in new and exciting ways.

As a locally-based cooperative, Union Power remains committed to not only powering, but also empowering this community. That's why our vision for a Brighter Future extends far beyond delivering reliable, affordable, sustainable

electricity to include community support efforts like education initiatives and economic development activities that truly demonstrate the cooperative difference. Our structure affords us unique opportunities to make local investments and engage with local people, businesses, and community leaders to work together to meet changing needs.

The brightest part of our future will always be our members, like you. We look forward to continuing to serve you and to building a brighter future, now and in the years to come.



**Greg Andress**

Executive Vice President and  
General Manager

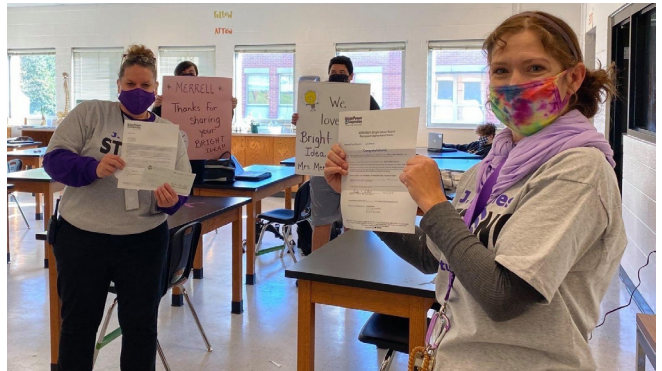


## Education Grants to Illuminate the Lives of Nearly 4,300 Students in Our Area

Union Power Cooperative granted more than \$20,000 to local teachers for their 'bright ideas' – and nearly 4,300 students in Cabarrus, Stanly, and Union counties will benefit from the Bright Ideas grants awarded in November.

The Bright Ideas grant program, sponsored by North Carolina's electric cooperatives, strives to improve education in North Carolina classrooms. Grants of up to \$2,000 are awarded to teachers for innovative, classroom-based projects in grades K-12 that would not otherwise be funded.

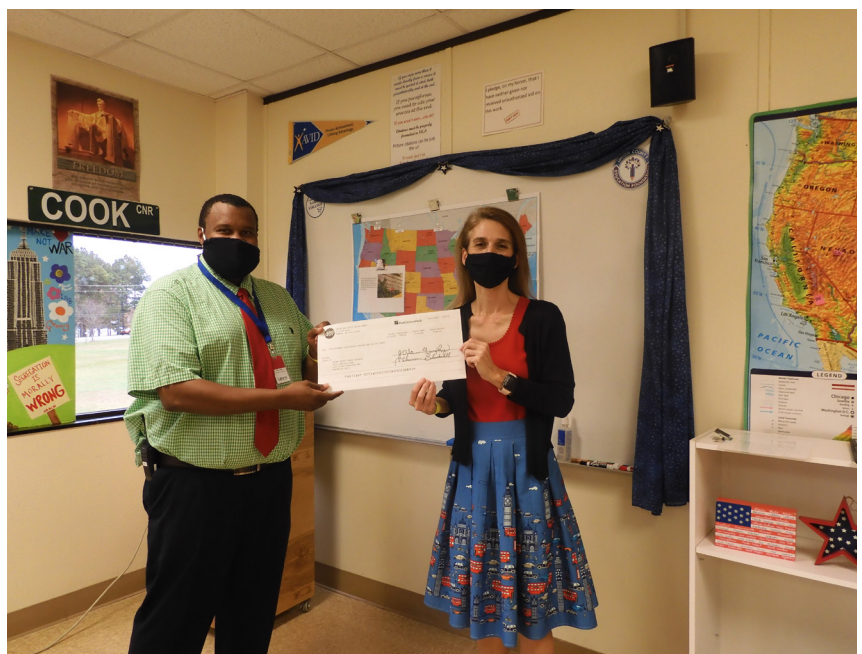
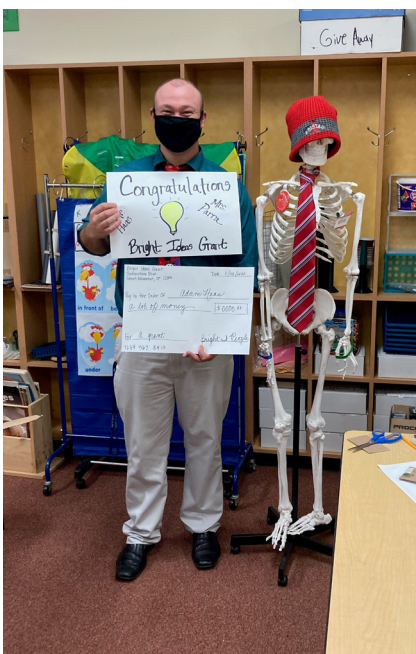
"Teachers in our area have discovered new and innovative ways to support the education of their students during this unprecedented time — which is what the Bright Ideas grant program is all about," said Carrie Stroud, vice president of communications & marketing at Union Power. "Through these innovative and creative ideas, students can engage in learning inside and outside of the classroom. We are thankful we can help strengthen our communities through programs like Bright Ideas."





## 2020-2021 Bright Ideas Winners

Teacher Name	School	Grant Name	Amount Awarded
Sandy Ku	A. T. Allen Elementary	A Hub of Learning	\$1,997
Lara B. Cabaniss	Winecoff Elementary	P.L.U.G Into the Zones	\$1,938
Emily Wheeler Schmidt	W.M. Irvin Elementary	Vroom! Vroom! Let's Roll!	\$593
Carrie Morgan	Harold E. Winkler Middle	Vocational Training for Students with Special Needs	\$952
Leila Merrell	J.N. Fries Middle	Mobile STEM Classroom	\$1,251
David Parisi	Jay M. Robinson High	Robotics V5 Coding Initiative	\$1,486
Zachary Trivett	Northwest Cabarrus High	Electricity and the Magnetic Field-Electric Guitar	\$1,804
Brittani Waldrip	Central Elementary	Central Elementary School Counseling Department	\$300
Dana Hardeman	Albemarle High	Safe Haven Project	\$500
Joanna Gagliardi	North Stanly High	Sports Medicine Program	\$1,948
Kelly Nance	Prospect Elementary	Teach ALL Kids to READ!	\$1,684
Adam Haas	Rocky River Elementary	Creating Engineers with "Rube Goldberg" Machines	\$1,971
Sabrina Parra	Rocky River Elementary	Dream STEAM Building Engineers	\$685
Stefanie Carnathan	Cuthbertson High	Cavalier Cultivator	\$789
Bethany L. Walker	Piedmont High	Exploring the Language of Life	\$1,975
Melissa Cook	Union County Early College	STEAM Synergy	\$569





## Is Your Home Ready for Cold Weather?

**W**hile winter's cold weather can produce higher home energy use, the good news is Union Power is committed to helping you stick to your New Year's resolution of reducing your monthly utility bill. Here are some tips to help you save both energy and money when cold weather strikes:

- **Seal air leaks** - Use weather stripping or caulk to seal any cracks or gaps around doors, windows, and thresholds. Also, check your ceiling – make sure that attic fans and light fixtures are properly sealed to prevent the air in your home from escaping into the attic. Furthermore, you may also want to consider investing in an attic door tent if you have dropdown stairs.
- **Inspect your insulation** - Ensure you have adequate insulation in your attic. This helps keep warm air in your house, rather than allowing it to escape into the attic. If your home has a crawl space, be sure to check the insulation below your subfloor as well. The insulation below should be tight against the floor and never droop.
- **Set your thermostat** – Verify that your thermostat is set to “Heat” mode only; lower the setting to 68 degrees, or as low as is comfortable. For the best consumption results, you want to try to maintain that temperature setting all winter. Your heater has to work harder when temperatures are frigid so lower temperature settings can lead to savings. If you have a heat pump, be careful only to increase your settings by two-degree increments. Otherwise, you may unintentionally activate the auxiliary heat. Stay warm by wearing layers and adding extra blankets to beds.
- **Switch to LED lighting** - LEDs are more efficient than incandescent bulbs and Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFLs). Make the switch to LED bulbs in your home, and enjoy increased efficiency that will create savings now and all year round.

- **Save hot water** - It takes energy to heat water, and you can save by adjusting your water heater's setting to 120 degrees Fahrenheit (factory setting), installing high-efficiency showerheads, and washing clothes in cold water.

Union Power also offers a number of services to help residents manage energy use during colder-than-normal temperatures, such as:

- **Mobile App** - Track your energy use from your smartphone to keep heating and energy-related costs in check.
- **Usage Alerts** - Sign up to receive text or email alerts that let you know when your energy use reaches a certain level, so there are no surprises when your bill arrives.
- **PrePay** - Our PrePay service is a flexible and convenient payment method that allows you to pay for electricity before using it, putting you in control of how much you spend on electricity. PrePay can help you manage your budget by allowing you to monitor your power use and only buy as much electricity as you need.
- **Online Tools & Calculators** - Take advantage of our interactive tools and calculators at [union-power.com](http://union-power.com) to help estimate energy and cost-savings based on your energy consumption practices, and determine if adjustments need to be made to save energy and lower your bill.
- **Energy Specialists** - Contact one of our Energy Specialist to discuss any questions or concerns you may have about making your home more energy-efficient.

Visit [union-power.com](http://union-power.com) to access more tools and resources to help you understand and manage your energy use and make more informed energy decisions during the cold of winter and throughout the year.



# Don't get caught out in the cold!

In unpredictable weather, be sure your heating system is able to take on the cold this winter.

Stay home, stay safe, and stay cozy this season with a new high-efficiency Trane furnace.

Trane guarantees its furnaces will keep you and your home reliably warm during those colder months. Here are just a few of the reasons you should choose a Trane furnace for your home:

- **High-efficiency system.** Everyone claims to have the highest-efficiency furnace, but Trane has worked hard to include components across the board to ensure its furnaces operate at 90 percent annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) and higher.
- **Quiet operation.** Many furnaces have a noisy sound level, enabling you to hear them while they are running. Trane furnaces have cabinet insulation for their moving parts like the blower motor and fans. These furnaces are amongst the quietest while they are running.
- **Great value.** A great value does not necessarily mean the lowest price. In fact, it typically does not. It does mean with all the updated features and high-efficiency ratings on a Trane furnace, you will receive a more affordable unit than others with more bells and whistles.



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# High School Seniors: Apply for a College Scholarship Today!



High school seniors can now apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to attend an accredited university or community college in North Carolina. Students will be chosen from our five-county service area, which is made up of Union, Stanly, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Rowan counties.

All applicants for Union Power Cooperative's scholarships must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must be the child of a Union Power Cooperative member or reside in a household served by Union Power.
- The applicant must be a high school senior in the current graduating class.
- Criteria for awarding the scholarship to an individual is based on 40% need; 30% scholastic achievement; and 30% extracurricular activities in school, civic, and community functions.

Applications will be accepted now through **March 19** at [union-power.com](http://union-power.com).



## *Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:*

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)





## What Is the Top Cause of Outages?

If you answered this question by saying trees coming into contact with power lines, you would be right! Trees contribute to over half of the outage times and blinks on our system. This is why Union Power has a dedicated, year-round vegetation management program to maintain right-of-way areas to increase reliability and protect over 6,000 miles of power lines on our system.

On the last page of this newsletter, we list the roads in our service area that will be receiving right-of-way clearing during the month. But what does this mean? Here's a quick overview of why right-of-way maintenance is important.

A right-of-way is the area around our lines that Union Power has access to in order to maintain or repair the electric system. When trees or limbs fall on our power lines, particularly during severe weather, there's a greater chance of power outages within our communities. While we can't control the weather, we can take steps to deliver the most reliable power possible.

By performing routine right-of-way maintenance, we can reduce the risk of outages due to fallen branches

and trees. When outages do occur, right-of-way preventative maintenance helps shorten the duration of the outages because power lines are easy to access and not overgrown with trees. A clear path to power lines creates a safer working environment for line technicians, whether they're performing routine maintenance or power restoration.

Members can help by avoiding planting trees near power lines. For existing trees that are directly in the cooperative's rights-of-way, Union Power helps with removal and replacement.



For more information, contact a member of our vegetation management department at 704-289-3145 or visit the Vegetation Management tab at [union-power.com](http://union-power.com).

# Right-of-Way Clearing

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

**Union County:** Baron Rd, Beacon Hills Rd, Bernard Simpson Rd, Beulah Church Rd, Bloomsberry Ln, Bouchard Dr, Brandy Courts, Bridle Trail, Caravan Ln, Chasestone Ct, Chickadee Ct, Curling Creek Dr, Deal Rd, Duncan Rd, Eagle Rd, Elder Ct, Fox Run Rd, Friendly Baptist Church Rd, Garden View Ln, Gatewood Ln, Gramercy Dr, Greenhurst Ln, Hembywood Dr, Hillcrest Circle, Horn Tassel Ct, Hornyak Dr, Hudson Church Rd, Huntington Dr, Idlewild Rd, Kee Ct, Ken Ryan Dr, Larkfield Dr, Lenny Stadler Way, Maple Grove Church Rd, Maple Leaf Dr, New Town Rd, Old Waxhaw Monroe Rd, Pennigar Rd, Perry Pond Dr, Potter Rd, Price Rd, Red Fox Trail, Ridge Rd, Ridgeview Ln, Rockwell Dr, Shannon Rd, Skytop Rd, Steeplechase Circle, Stoney Ridge Dr, Twelve Mile Creek Rd, Underwood Rd, Valley Glen Dr, W Unionville Indian Trail Rd, Waxhaw Indian Trail Rd, Weddington Church Rd, Weddington Hills Dr, Weddington Rd, Wild Flower Pl, Winding Ln, Woodvine Ct, Wynnview 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), Carrie Lorenz-Efird (ext. 3291), or Ted Connell (ext. 3320). Visit [union-power.com](http://union-power.com) for monthly right-of-way clearing updates.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Greg Andress  
*Exec. Vice President &  
General Manager*

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