

COOPERATIVE

REVIEW

For members of Union Power Cooperative



Delivering on our Sustainability Goals

The word sustainability can take on different meanings depending upon the context, but here at Union Power, sustainability means delivering reliable, affordable, low-carbon electricity over an electric grid that is increasingly efficient, resilient, secure, and capable of supporting the needs of our members and communities.

For decades, your needs have centered on reliable power delivered at the lowest possible cost. While those priorities still exist today, we also know our members' expectations related to clean energy are growing.

Our goal is to achieve all three—reliability, affordability, and sustainability—in a balanced approach that makes the most of the tremendous value electricity has to offer and ensures a brighter future for those we serve.

Our Brighter Future vision centers on two voluntary sustainability goals: a 50% reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We're pursuing these goals in several ways, including:

- **Continued use of multiple power sources.** The electricity we provide to you is generated from a variety of power sources that each offer important benefits. **Nuclear energy**, which is currently used to generate more than half our power, not only is an extremely reliable, safe, and affordable source of electricity, but it is

also emissions-free, making it environmentally friendly. We also use **natural gas** because it's affordable and can be dispatched quickly when needed, making it a great complement to other power resources, like renewable energy. Concurrently, we are strategically expanding our use of **renewable energy**.

- **Investments in technology.** New technology, such as battery storage, will allow us to utilize renewable energy sources by making it possible to store energy when demand is low and use it later when demand is high. Future technologies could include the more effective and efficient capture of carbon emissions from non-renewable sources, and new ways to match local power needs with local power resources.

To learn more about our work to build a brighter future, visit [union-power.com](https://www.union-power.com).



Western Union Elementary Wins N.C. GreenPower Grant to Bring Solar Educational Projects to Students

A team of teachers at Western Union Elementary applied for, and recently won, a matching grant from N.C. GreenPower Solar+ Schools. As one of only 10 North Carolina schools to receive this opportunity, Western Union Elementary will receive a 3.0-5.22 kW educational solar installation plus a weather station, real-time data monitoring, a STEM curriculum, and teacher training.

Grant funding for this project was provided, in part, by N.C. GreenPower, a non-profit founded in 2003 whose mission is to expand public knowledge and acceptance of cleaner energy technologies to all North Carolinians through local, community-based initiatives. And since 2015, N.C. GreenPower has installed solar PV systems at K-12 schools across the state, providing teachers and students with valuable environmental educational tools.

“It’s going to enrich the curriculum,” said Western Union Elementary Principal Kristi Williford in an interview with Union County Public Schools. “It’s going to engage kids because, even within Union County, there are a lot of solar panel farms coming. So, just being able to give them that knowledge of what it can do for you, when it’s useful, and when it’s not useful.”

Because it’s a matching grant, each school was responsible for raising the remaining portion of the funds required.

For as little as \$4 a month, members can donate to this program to help bridge the gap between those who are unable to develop their own projects with those who need additional financial support. Each \$4 donation provides grants for a solar package at schools in our state AND generates 125 kilowatt-hours of green energy. Visit union-power.com/renewable-energy/nc-greenpower to learn more and to sign up.

Interested in applying for a grant? N.C. GreenPower is now accepting applications for the N.C. GreenPower Solar+ Schools grant program for 2021 through February 28. Any K-12 school in North Carolina may apply for a 50% matching grant up to \$10,000, and N.C. GreenPower will provide online tools to assist with raising the remaining funds. To apply, visit ncgreenpower.org/solar-schools/#2021-schools.



Let's Connect!

When we say that we live in a “connected” world, most of us think about technology, like our smartphones and other devices and gadgets. But when you’re a member of an electric co-op (that’s you!), there’s so much more to being part of our connected co-op community.

As a Union Power member, you help to power good in our local community through Power Bucks and other initiatives that help the most vulnerable in our community.

We greatly value our connection to you, the members we serve. And we’d like to help you maximize the value you can get from Union Power through various programs, products, and services that we offer our members.

Use Our Online Tools & Resources

We can help you manage your energy use and even save money on your monthly energy bill with our free online energy audits, energy saving calculators, and other useful resources on our website, union-power.com.

Download Our Mobile App

When you download our mobile app, you can monitor and manage your home energy use, pay your bill online, and access a menu of additional options for potential savings and more. To download our app you can search “Union Power Cooperative” in the App Store or Google Play.

Connect with Us On Social Media

When you follow Union Power on social media, you can stay up to date on power restoration efforts, tree trimming planning, co-op director elections, and more. You’ll also see photos of our line crews in action and our employees helping with community service projects— and who doesn’t enjoy seeing good things happening in our community!

Sign Up for Text Alerts

When you sign up for text alerts/push notifications, you can receive billing updates and high usage alerts.

Update Contact Information

Union Power relies on data for nearly every aspect of our operations. Having updated contact information from our members helps ensure that we can provide the highest level of service that you expect and deserve. Updated contact information can even speed up the power restoration process during an outage. That’s because when you call to report an outage, our automated system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage-management system predict the location and the possible cause of an outage, making it easier for Union Power crews to correct the problem.

Union Power exists to serve our members, and when we’re better connected to you and our local community, we’re better prepared to answer the call. To update your contact information or learn more about co-op products and services that can help you save, visit union-power.com or call 704-289-3145.

We hope you will connect with us whenever and wherever you can— whether that means attending our annual meeting, providing feedback on a recent visit or call with our employees, or simply following us on social media. We look forward to connecting with you soon!



How Much Energy Does Your TV Use?

From binge-watching a TV series to late night gaming marathons, today's TVs are a cornerstone of home entertainment. Any activity that increases screen time means increased energy use in your home, making it more important than ever to understand how much electricity the TVs in your home use. Once you understand how much electricity a TV uses, you can make an informed decision on how much effort you want to put into energy conservation. Even though modern TVs' energy costs are low compared to other home appliances, it never hurts to conserve energy when and where you can. With that in mind, here are a few key tips to help minimize your TV energy use:

- **Turn off all TVs when nobody is watching.** It's the single most effective way to reduce energy use.
- **Check the efficiency rating.** When shopping for a new TV, check the federal ENERGY STAR website to see if the models you're considering meet their energy conservation standards.
- **Avoid plasma TVs, as these use more energy than other modern flat-screen models.** Instead, look for TVs that use OLEDs, the latest in energy-efficient TV technology.
- **Be mindful of your TV's settings, especially brightness, which affect energy efficiency.** You can set the TV brightness lower if you dim the lights in the room.
- **Disable "always-on" features.** Disabling "always-on" features like voice control and quick startup can ensure that your TV draws no power when it's turned off. Since this will only spare you a tiny amount of energy, don't sacrifice the convenience of these features if you use them.



Save Energy with our Television Calculator

Since today's TVs are already relatively energy-efficient, there's only a few dollars' worth of difference to be saved, but as part of a larger initiative to bring your utility bills down, however, every little bit counts. **Access Union Power's TV Calculator** to see how much electricity your TV, cable box, DVD/DVR, and game consoles cost based on the type of TV (LED, LCD, Plasma), size, when it's used, the amount of time, and how much energy it consumes when it's just plugged in. Visit union-power.com and click **Member Resources & Services > Energy Savings Calculators**

> Appliances > Television Calculator to access energy savings today!

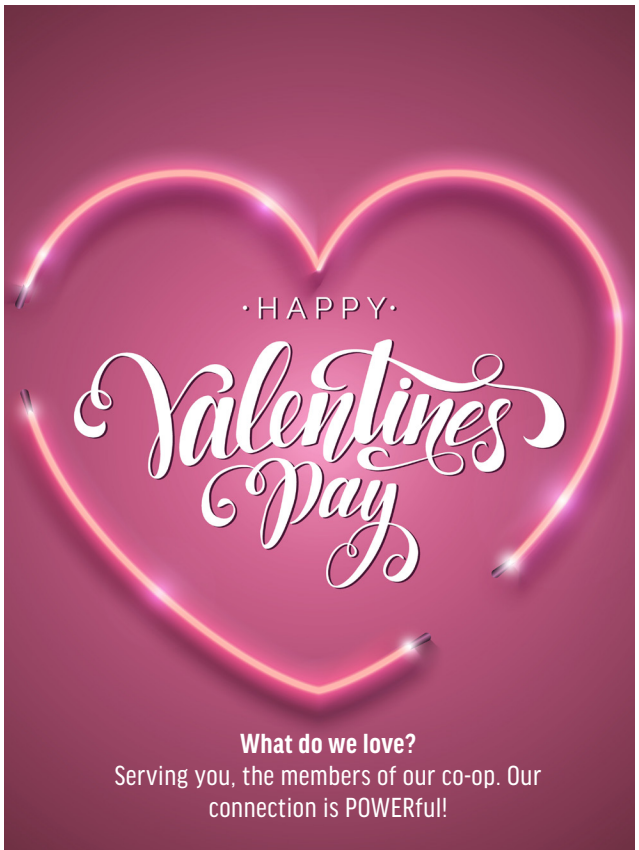
For additional information on what is contributing towards your monthly power consumption, please be sure to answer the 11-question survey to complete your Home Profile. To access your Home Profile on our website, click **Member Resources & Services > Energy Savings Calculators > Energy Advisor > My Home**. If you need assistance, please contact one of our Energy Specialists at 704-289-3145.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static. Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source: energy.gov





High-Efficiency Trane® Heat Pumps. **MORE AFFORDABLE THAN YOU KNOW.**

Now is the perfect time to purchase a new high-efficiency Trane® heat pump! They deliver clean energy, keeping you comfortable all year long and helping you save on your energy bill. Be sure to check the HSPF and SEER ratings for their efficiency.

With their clean energy, heat pumps cost less to operate. Your annual energy bills will decrease, and you will reap the financial benefits in no time.

Contact Union Services to discuss our affordable monthly payment plans. We have one that will fit your needs.



704-283-9047
savewithunion.com



The Wells Fargo Home Projects credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., an Equal Housing Lender. Special terms apply to qualifying purchases charged with approved credit. The special terms APR will continue to apply until all qualifying purchases are paid in full. The monthly payment for this purchase will be the amount that will pay for the purchase in full in equal payments during the promotional (special terms) period. The APR for purchases will apply to certain fees such as a late payment fee or if you use the card for other transactions. For new accounts, the APR for purchases is 28.99%. If you are charged interest in any billing cycle, the minimum interest charge will be \$1.00. This information is accurate as of 10/01/2020 and is subject to change. For current information, call us at 1-800-431-5921. Offer expires 2/28/2021.

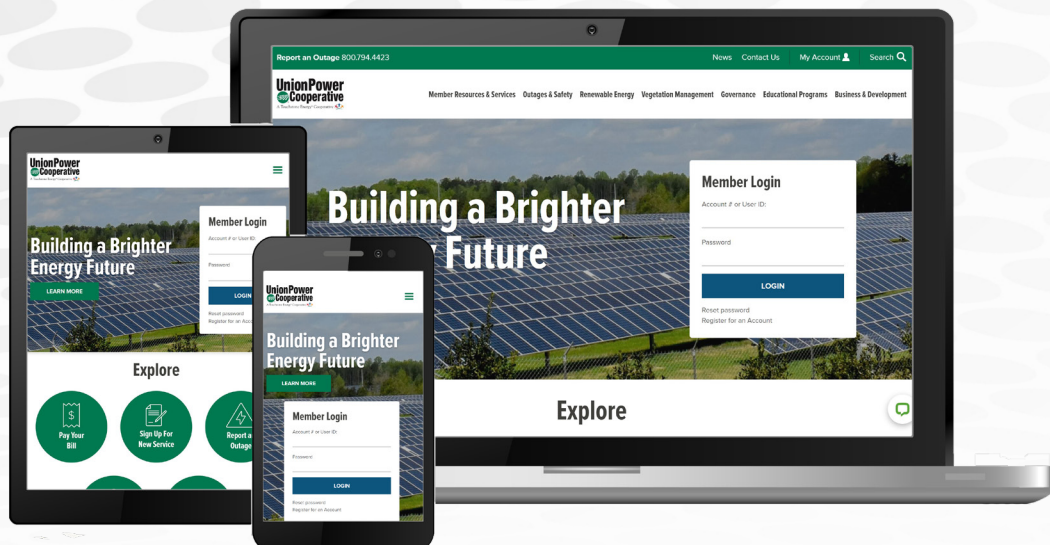
High School Seniors: Apply for a UPC College Scholarship



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.

Application Deadline: March 19

To learn more and apply visit,
union-power.com.



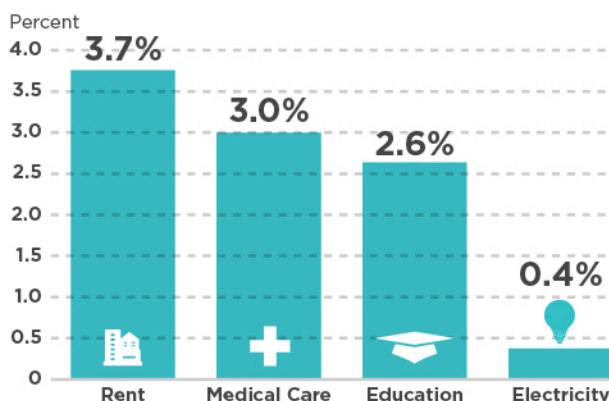
OUR NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE.

Visit our website, union-power.com, for information and updates about your cooperative.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

When you look at price increases of common expenses over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2014-2019



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index



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

Cabarrus County: Barrier Georgeville Rd, Bost Cut Off Rd, Brush Harbor Rd, Cedar Cove Dr, County Line Rd, Faith Trl, Miami Church Rd, Miami Ln, Mt Pleasant Rd S

Rowan County: Barber Rd, Bull Dog Ln, High Rock Rd, Morgan Acres Dr, Morgan Rd, Red Pine Rd, Stokesferry Rd

Stanly County: Harvell Rd, Island Creek Rd, NC Hwy 200 S, Sunset Lake Rd, Fiji Ct, Hatley Burris Rd, Lee-Griffin Rd, Rustic Ln, St Johns Dr, St Simon Ct, St Thomas Dr, Travis Rd, Wayfield Dr

Union County: Beacon Hills Rd, Beverly Dr, Bridle Trail, Brown Ln, Carol Ave, Crow Rd, Doster Rd, Forest Springs Dr, Hembywood Dr, Hillcrest Circle, Idlewild Rd, Indian Trail Fairview Rd, John Baker Rd, Kennedy Dr, Maple Leaf Dr, Oak Spring Rd, Oakland Ave, Oscar Robinson Rd, Porter Dr, Quarterhorse Ln, Reid Rd, Rockwell Dr, Roscoe Howey Rd, Rose Dr, Rushing Rd, S Potter Rd, Second Ave, Stevens Mill Rd, Stinson Hartis Rd, Stoney Ridge Dr, Strand Dr, Third Ave, Timnah Ln, Tom Laney Rd, Waxhaw Hwy, Wild Flower Pl, Woodhaven 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 for monthly right-of-way clearing updates.



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

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