

# COOPERATIVE REVIEW

For members of Union Power Cooperative

## Be Sure to #ThankALineworker on April 18

Each year, Union Power joins other electric cooperatives across our state and nation to celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day. Held annually in April, this day recognizes lineworkers' critical role in providing our members with the power they depend on every day.

The important responsibilities of lineworkers have become all the more challenging over the past year as they have implemented additional safety procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic— from staggering daily lineworker shifts to limiting the number of guys per truck and scheduling fueling and yard pickups. Our lineworkers are taking every precaution to maintain social distancing best practices to ensure they remain safe, healthy, and capable of doing the essential work they've been called to do.

“Our lineworkers undergo extensive training and follow numerous protocols to ensure safety as they work to maintain our lines and restore power, often in very treacherous conditions,” said David Gross, vice president of engineering and operations. “The current pandemic has added another layer of precaution to an already demanding job, but our lineworkers have risen to the challenge and demonstrated an exceptional level of skill, dedication, and expertise.”

In addition to serving their own communities, lineworkers are also called on to provide aid across the state and nation following major storms and other times of need.



This commitment to “cooperation among cooperatives” is one of the core principles that demonstrates the true strength and character of the cooperative network.

Please use the hashtag #ThankALineworker on April 18 and throughout the year to pay tribute to our lineworkers' many outstanding efforts!



### Teach Your Children About Electrical Safety

Teaching your children about electrical safety just got a lot easier with Union Power's Kids Korner educational program. Kids Korner introduces children to learning about electricity in a fun, kid-friendly way with science lessons on electricity, energy-efficiency tips, hands-on experiments, and much more! Visit [union-power.com/educational-programs/kids-korner](http://union-power.com/educational-programs/kids-korner) to get connected.

# Claim Your Capital Credit Check

Union Power Cooperative is searching for members and former members who have outstanding capital credit checks. Historically, capital credits are retired (paid) in the fall of each year.

However, in June 2020, the co-op retired \$3.48 million worth of capital credits to eligible members in an effort to assist those impacted by the pandemic. Checks were issued and mailed to the last known address associated with the member's account.

## Check Our Website Listing

Any checks that were returned or marked undeliverable by the U.S. Postal Service are listed on our website. To see if your name is listed, visit [union-power.com/member-resources-services/capital-credits](https://union-power.com/member-resources-services/capital-credits), then type your name into the search bar. If your name is listed or if you have questions, please call 704-289-3145 to speak with a customer service representative.



*Remind your family, friends, and former neighbors to check for their names, too, as they may have moved away from the service area without leaving a forwarding address.*

Union Power would like to return all outstanding capital credit checks to their rightful owners. Remind your family, friends, and former neighbors to check for their names, too, as they may have moved away from the service area

without leaving a forwarding address.

It is the duty of Union Power Cooperative to return all unclaimed capital credit checks to the State of North Carolina or to the state of the last known address, if different.

## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Source: call811.com

### 1. NOTIFY



Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.

### 2. WAIT



Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

### 3. CONFIRM



Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.

### 4. RESPECT



Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.

### 5. DIG CAREFULLY



If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



*North Carolina's electric cooperative network owns a 61.51 percent share of the Catawba Nuclear Station's Unit 1 in York County, S.C., which produces much of the nuclear power we deliver to our members.*

## Building a Brighter Future: Nuclear 101

As a safe, dependable, and carbon-free source of power, nuclear energy is a key contributor to our Brighter Future vision, part of which promotes environmental sustainability, including a goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. More than half of the electricity we provide to our members is generated from nuclear energy, and it will continue to be a critical component of our balanced energy portfolio.

### How Nuclear Works

Nuclear energy is stored in the core of an atom and can be released in the form of heat and radiation when an atom is split, a process known as nuclear fission. Nuclear power plants include a reactor where uranium atoms are split over and over again in a nuclear chain reaction. This reaction is continuously regulated using control rods that absorb neutrons to speed and slow the fission process.

The energy released from the atoms is used to heat water until it boils into steam, which then turns the blades of four turbines that drive the generator that makes electricity. The steam is then cooled back into water and reused to create more steam in an ongoing cycle. The water that touches the nuclear fuel is separate from the water that turns the turbines, and also not the same water that is emitted from the cooling towers as water vapor.

### Benefits of Nuclear

The use of uranium instead of fossil fuels makes the energy produced by nuclear fission carbon-free. The nuclear process also results in relatively little waste. To ensure safety, used fuel rods are enclosed in steel-lined concrete pools of water for an average of 10 years before being stored in special steel and concrete containers. Nuclear power plants are also closely regulated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and utilize numerous technologies and redundancies to keep their systems safe and secure.

Beyond being environmentally sustainable and safe, nuclear power is also extremely reliable. Based on data from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy, nuclear power plants operated at full capacity more than 93 percent of the time in 2019. Nuclear power plants are

designed to run 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and can often go up to two years without refueling.

Electric cooperatives in North Carolina invested in nuclear power years ago, and co-op members continue to benefit from the dependable, affordable, and emissions-free power it provides. As more renewables are integrated into our portfolio, nuclear provides "always on" power that supports reliability and smooths out the intermittency of sources like solar, which produces electricity only during sunny hours.

For more information about nuclear energy and its benefits, see page 12 of this month's issue of *Carolina Country*. You can also learn more about the ways we are Powering a Brighter Future at [union-power.com](https://www.union-power.com).



# Bring Your Home Out of Winter Hibernation



Is your HVAC ready to keep you cool this season? You may have enjoyed a warm, toasty winter thanks to the heat from your HVAC unit, but that doesn't mean it's ready to keep you cool for those warm spring and summer days. Here are some energy-efficient ways to make sure your HVAC is ready to keep things cool as things start to heat up.

## ■ Get your HVAC unit serviced by a professional before turning it on

Having your unit tuned up annually can help extend its life and keep it running efficiently. Seasonal maintenance usually includes inspecting and cleaning your unit and servicing parts that might need it.

## ■ Change your air filters

One of the top ways to improve how well your HVAC performs and lower your cost at the same time is by putting in a new filter. A clogged or dirty filter makes your unit run longer, costing you more money. It's recommended that you change out the old one with a new one at least every three months.

## ■ Check your air handlers for possible leaks

Sealing leaks in your air handler is very important for maximizing your HVAC equipment because it helps to ensure maximum airflow to the ducts and circulation in your home.

## ■ Clear blockages from your condensate drain line

Every central air conditioner has a condensate drain line that runs from the indoor air handler to the outside of the home. Look for a white PVC pipe that's located near your outdoor condensing unit. Verify that the condensate drain line isn't clogged up. A clogged line can result in an overflow pan filling with water and possibly overflowing into your attic or crawl space, potentially causing extensive home damage.

Performing the proper seasonal maintenance and repairs can help protect against the risk of your HVAC unit breaking down and the risk of high energy bills. These easy tips can keep the cool air flowing and your family feeling comfortable, no matter how high the temperature is outside. These tips can lead to more energy and money savings throughout the rest of the year, and who doesn't love that?

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees. Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



# Union Power Awarded for Top-Quality Tree Care for 16 Consecutive Years

A true testament to our commitment to safety and reliability, The Arbor Day Foundation has named Union Power a 2021 Tree Line USA utility to honor its commitment to proper tree pruning, planting, and care throughout our service area for the 16th consecutive year.

“I am glad a program like Tree Line USA exists, as it sets a template for higher standards for utilities wishing to do better. We work diligently to keep our right-of-ways safe for our members, employees, and communities,” said Wil Ortiz, manager of vegetation management at Union Power. “Our level of reliability of service to our members speaks for itself, and the high level of replacement plantings we are undertaking is positively impacting our communities for the better.”

Tree Line USA is a national program recognizing public and private utilities for practices that protect and enhance America’s urban forests. A collaboration of the Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters, Tree Line USA promotes the dual goals of delivering safe and

reliable electricity while maintaining healthy community trees.

“Trees are a critical part of urban landscapes all across the United States,” said Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation. “They provide important benefits to residents, including clean air, clean water, and a tolerable climate. Service providers like Union Power Cooperative demonstrate that it’s possible for trees and utilities to co-exist for the benefit of communities and citizens.”

Since the beginning, Union Power has consistently achieved Tree Line USA by meeting these five program standards:

- Following industry standards for quality tree care.
- Providing annual employee training in best tree care practices.
- Sponsoring a tree planting and public education program.
- Maintaining a tree-based energy conservation program.
- Participating in an Arbor Day celebration.



## Celebrating Earth Day

On April 22, Union Power, along with billions of others around the world, will celebrate Earth Day. And while every day is technically a great day to be kind to the planet, this is a day to show our appreciation and start practicing more earth-friendly habits.

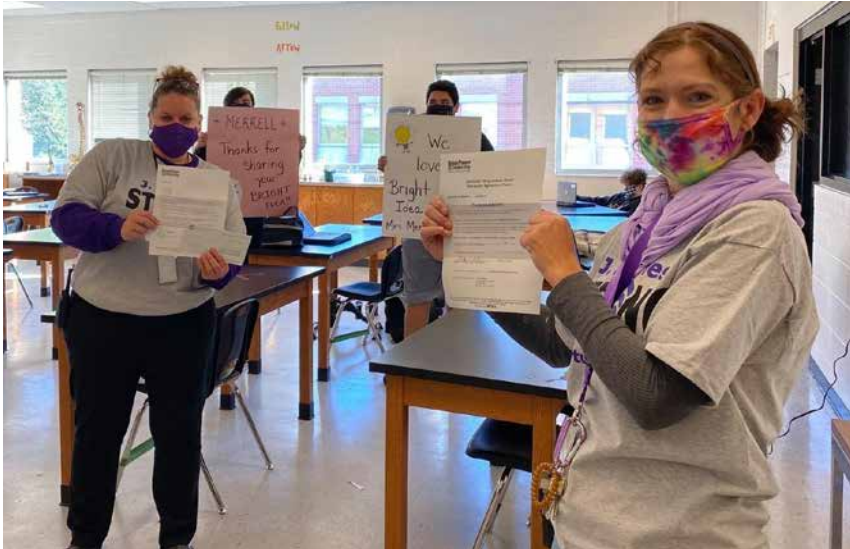
Here are five simple earth-friendly tips you can start practicing today to celebrate and save the Earth!

1. Take a shorter shower and use a water-saving shower head.
2. Buy and use reusable bags at the grocery store.
3. Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
4. Use reusable bottles for water and reusable mugs for coffee.
5. Turn off and unplug unused electronics.

Earth Day comes once a year, but these lifestyle changes can be beneficial for the other 364 days, as well as many years to come! To learn more ways you can celebrate and help save the Earth, visit [earthday.org/earth-day-tips](http://earthday.org/earth-day-tips).

For more information on Union Power’s Vegetation Management Program, visit [union-power.com/vegetation-management](http://union-power.com/vegetation-management).





## Educators, Get Your Bright Ideas Ready!

It's that time again! Union Power kicks off its Bright Ideas Education Grant program and begins accepting applications from innovative educators for the 2021-22 school year on April 1. Teachers with ideas for creative classroom projects that bring learning to life can learn more and apply online at [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com).

Grants are available for projects across all grade levels and subject areas, and educators can apply for grant funding individually or as a team. Over the past year, the program has supported educators as they seek new ways to engage their students in modified classroom environments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Union Power will continue to provide resources to facilitate innovative learning no matter what the upcoming school year holds.

Applications will be accepted until **Sept. 17**. As an added incentive to apply early, educators who submit their

applications by **Aug. 15** will be entered into a drawing to receive a Visa gift card.

Since 1994, electric cooperatives in North Carolina, including Union Power, have partnered with K-12 teachers statewide to provide Bright Ideas grants for unique classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded.

Over the program's history, more than 2.7 million students across North Carolina have benefited from nearly 13,000 Bright Ideas-funded projects totaling more than \$13.6 million.

The Bright Ideas grant program is part of our continued commitment to building a brighter future for the people, businesses, and communities we serve.

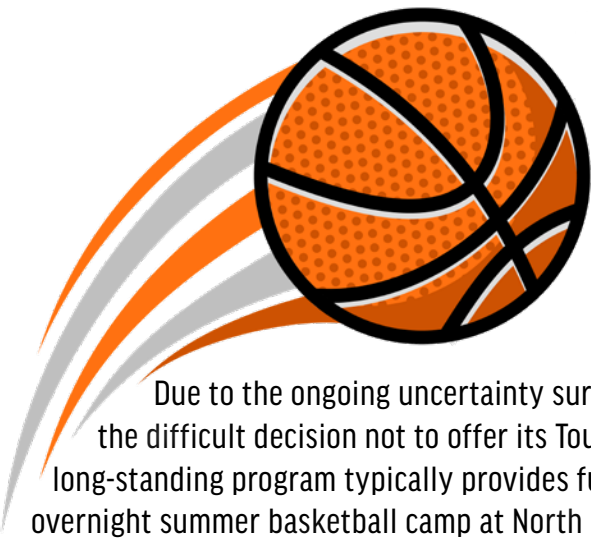


In addition to ensuring reliable, affordable, and sustainable power, this vision emphasizes the importance of innovation and ongoing community support. Learn more at [union-power.com/educational-programs/bright-ideas-grants](http://union-power.com/educational-programs/bright-ideas-grants).



### Bright Ideas Spotlight *Exploring the Language of Life*

Beth Walker, a Piedmont High biology teacher and 2020 Bright Ideas grant recipient, shows her project: "Exploring the Language of Life" in action. This grant gives students first-hand experience creating and analyzing DNA using gel electrophoresis to provide evidence to answer scientific questions such as, "Which genetic disorder has a child inherited?" "Electrophoresis equipment is very expensive and this grant will allow our students to be 'real' scientists by using some of the same equipment used in labs all over the world," Walker shared.



## 2021 Basketball Camp Scholarship Program Suspended Due to COVID-19

Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, Union Power has made the difficult decision not to offer its Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships this year. This long-standing program typically provides full scholarships for middle school students to attend overnight summer basketball camp at North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“We are disappointed not to move forward with this program this year, but feel this decision is in the best interest of scholarship applicants and their families given the challenges of the current pandemic,” said Ilissa Cunningham, communications specialist at Union Power. “We remain optimistic that we can resume this opportunity in 2022 when campers can once again experience the full benefits of the program.”

Middle school students at qualifying schools are encouraged to apply for a scholarship to attend camp in summer 2022. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities, and an essay. The application period will begin on **Jan. 1, 2022**, with a final deadline of **March 31, 2022**. To learn more about this program and its impact on local youth, visit [union-power.com/educational-programs/basketball-camp-scholarships](http://union-power.com/educational-programs/basketball-camp-scholarships).

# Think Spring

*and Learn How You Can Save!*

**IT'S TIME TO PLAN AHEAD!**  
Get your spring offer and **FREE** in-home estimate on a new system installation.

**Union Services**  
*A Union Power Company*

[savewithunion.com](http://savewithunion.com)  
**704-283-9047**

 **TRANE**  
*It's Hard To Stop A Trane.*



# 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:** Barkley Rd, Bondale Dr, Cal Bost Rd, Flowes Store Rd E, Robert Bost Rd, Sossoman Springs Rd, Wickersham Rd

**Stanly County:** Avery Dr, Canyon Ct, Chapel Rd, Cooper Rd, Dry Rd, Edgefield Rd, Faulker Rd, George Rd, Hartsell Rd, Huneycutt Mill Rd, Ingold Dr, Kimrey Rd, Lilly Ln, Lorene Dr, Mabry Rd, Mauldin Rd, Midway Rd, NC Hwy 138, Old Aquadale Rd, Porter Rd, Quail Ridge Rd, Quincy Rd, Reap Rd, Reba Dr, Rummage Cemetery Rd, Sides Rd, Tyson Rd, Union Grove Rd, Western Rd, Wrenn Rd

**Union County:** Autumn Dr, Belmont Church Rd, Blackvine Dr, Bloomsberry Ln, Brookmeade Dr, Burning Ridge Dr, Cannon Dr, Caravan Ln, Chasstone Ct, Cottage Creek Rd, Crow Rd, Doster Rd, Earl Griffin Rd, Forest Springs Dr, Foxworth Dr, Gumtree Rd, High Gate Dr, Hillside Dr, Hollow Tree Ln, Indigo Run, John Baker Rd, Kee Ct, Lake Dr, Lake Monroe Dr, Larkfield Dr, Lenny Stadler Way, Macedonia Church Rd, Marvin Watkins Rd, N Rocky River Rd, North Lake Dr, Oak Dr, Oakwood Ln, Porter Dr, Red Maple Dr, Roscoe Howey Rd, Rushing Rd, S Potter Rd, S Rocky River Rd, Sardis Church Rd, Scott Long Rd, Secrest Shortcut Rd, Shannon Rd, Spring Harvest Dr, Stack Rd, Steeplechase Circle, Suburban Ln, Sustar Dr, Three Knotts Rd, Timnah Ln, Tom Laney Rd, Vagabond Dr, Valley Glen Dr, W Unionville Indian Trail Rd, Waxhaw Hwy, Waxhaw Indian Trail Rd, Weddington Church Rd, Weddington Rd, Wildwood Rd, Willoughby Rd, Willoughby Woods Dr, Willow Trace Ln, Wind Carved Ln, Wolf Pond Rd, Wood Duck Point 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.

— GOOD —  
**FRIDAY**

Our offices will be closed Friday, April 2.

**Union Power  
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

Greg Andress  
*Exec. Vice President &  
General Manager*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lee Roy Kirk, Jr.  
*President*

Dent H. Turner  
*Vice President*

Sherise Jones  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

David G. Hyatt  
*Asst. Secretary-Treasurer*

Tom J. Caudle  
Neil W. Hasty  
Thomas E. Porter, Jr.  
David E. Smith  
Sue B. Threatt

[union-power.com](http://union-power.com)

Toll-Free  
Customer Service

1-800-922-6840

24-Hour Outage Reporting &  
Account Info

1-800-794-4423

