

COOPERATIVE

REVIEW

For members of Union Power Cooperative



Bring Electrical Safety Home

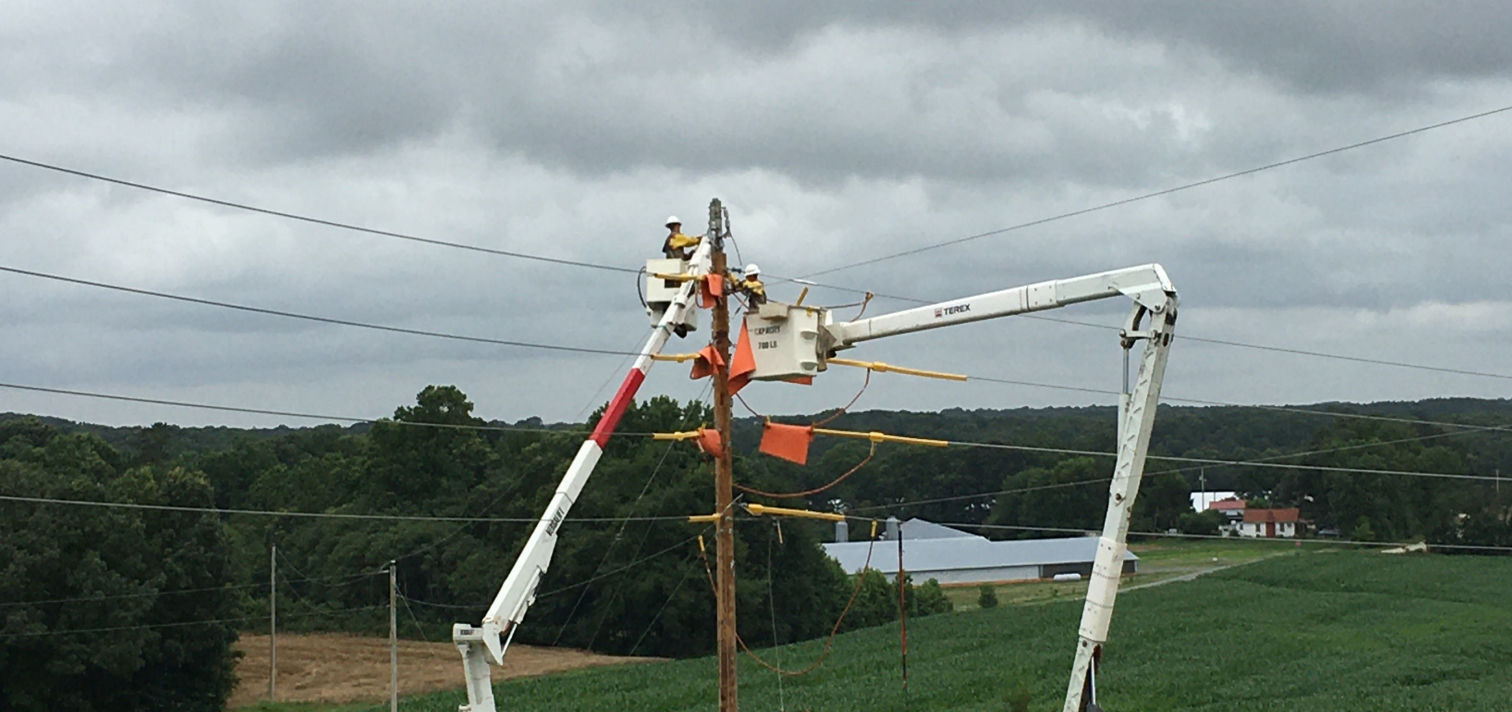
As your local energy partner, and in honor of May being National Electrical Safety Month, Union Power is encouraging members to take time this month to talk to your family about safe electricity practices. You can start by sharing these simple tips:

Inside:

- Never put anything other than an electrical plug in an outlet. Use outlet covers to protect children.
- Examine electrical cords often for fraying or cracking, and throw away any worn cords.
- Extension cords are for temporary use. They are not intended for use as permanent home wiring.
- Don't run cords under carpets or rugs.
- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets should be used in any area where water and electricity could mix—including kitchens, bathrooms, garages, and outdoors—and should be tested monthly.
- Never touch electrical appliances with wet hands or use them near sinks, tubs, toilets, or showers.
- Don't use extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances. All major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall outlet.

Outside:

- Never go near or drive over a power line. If you encounter a downed line, stay far away and notify Union Power at 704-289-3145.
- Keep kites, model airplanes, and metallic balloons away from power lines.
- Watch for overhead lines when using a ladder, working on a roof, or carrying a long tool.
- Call 811 before any digging project.
- If it is necessary to use a portable generator, always operate the generator outdoors in an open area. Use an extension cord to connect the generator directly to the appliance, ensuring the extension cord has three-prongs and is rated for the amount of power used by the appliance. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring unless the work is completed by a licensed electrician. This prevents back feeding, which could electrocute utility workers.



Improving Grid Resilience

At Union Power, our focus on improving the resilience of the electric grid is a year-round effort. We take steps daily to ensure the electric grid can quickly and effectively recover from storms and other threats, so our members have the reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity they depend on.

The electric grid has evolved substantially in recent years and will continue to change as new advancements transform the way co-ops and other utilities transmit power, and our members use it. Digital technology is also making an unprecedented level of energy monitoring and communication possible, which ultimately benefits you by alerting us to issues on the grid and enabling tools that allow you to be more aware of your energy use.

On today's modern grid, power no longer moves in a linear path from cooperative to member. Instead, includes a wide variety of resources and technologies spread throughout the grid, like a spider web. Many of these distributed energy resources stem directly from members like

you, including smart thermostats, residential solar, and even electric vehicles. Union Power and the state's other electric cooperatives are also pursuing a range of innovative energy solutions, from microgrids to solar and storage, that further enhance grid flexibility and efficiency. Using a sophisticated energy management platform, we are carefully coordinating and dispatching these interconnected resources to meet electricity demand and balance traffic on the grid.

We are also undertaking other measures that increase grid resilience and strengthen our infrastructure against storms. Some of those measures include the addition of system enhancements that help prevent outages from occurring and decrease restoration times when

they do occur. Our proactive system maintenance programs help ensure the system's equipment is in good working order, while our right-of-way maintenance program helps mitigate the risk of damage from trees, branches, and other types of vegetation to our power lines.

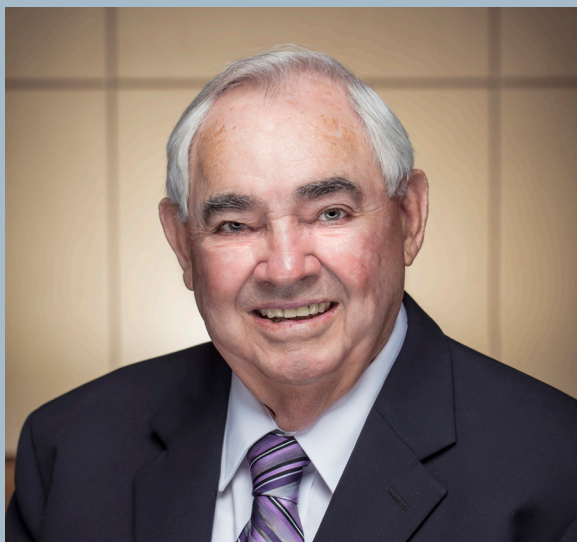
All of these efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to building a brighter future for the people, businesses, and communities we serve.



Greg Andress

Executive Vice President and
General Manager

Board of Directors Update



Union Power Cooperative extends appreciation to B. L. Starnes for his years of dedicated service to the Cooperative members. During his tenure, Mr. Starnes served as Board President and represented the Cooperative on various boards of North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives.



The Cooperative welcomes our newest member of the Board of Directors, David E. Smith, who is representing District III. Mr. Smith is a financial advisor and an active member of the community, including serving as an executive board member of the Union County Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Atrium Health Union Advisory Council.

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Goes Virtual in Summer 2021

Each year, Union Power joins other electric cooperatives from across the state and nation to sponsor the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, an annual trip that gives exceptional high school juniors the opportunity to experience the sites of Washington, D.C., meet with elected officials, and learn more about how they can make a difference as young leaders.

Unfortunately, the 2020 Youth Tour was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so as an added safety measure, the 2021 Youth Tour will be held as a week-long virtual event, rather than in-person in Washington, D.C., from Sunday, June 20 to Saturday, June 26.

As part of the virtual experience, students selected for this year's tour will be able to participate in engaging



Ally Nielsen



Lori Hoover



Sophia Freeman

online group activities that bring them together with other young leaders from across the state and country. They will learn more about their government and electric cooperatives and hear from members of North Carolina's congressional delegation, as well as other notable North Carolinians. All participating students will be eligible to apply for multiple scholarships.

While 2021 will look a little

different than previous years, Union Power is proud to continue the long-standing cooperative tradition of the Youth Tour, and we are excited to announce our winners.

Congratulations to Ally Nielsen of Piedmont High School, Lori Hoover of Mount Pleasant High School, and Sophia Freeman of Marvin Ridge High School, who were selected to represent the co-op at this year's Youth Tour.



Practice Safety When DIY-ing

These days, many of us are spending more time at home and finding new, creative ways to enhance our living space. Tackling do-it-yourself (DIY) projects for the home can be fun and cost-effective, so why not roll up those sleeves and get started! Whether you're painting the front door with a fresh hue or finally upgrading those patio lights, successfully completing a DIY home project is incredibly satisfying. But many of these projects do not come without risks. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind as you get to work.

- Start by selecting a designated work area. The amount of space you'll need will depend on the size and scope of your project, but make sure you have adequate lighting and ventilation (if necessary). Required tools and equipment should be located in your workspace and organized for easy access.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) is your friend. We know you're a pro, but investing a few bucks in PPE is essential for most home projects. Stock up on safety goggles, dust masks, ear plugs (or noise reduction ear protectors), gloves, and any other kind of protection you'll need for your project. Remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. (Ditch the sandals for this!)
- Work slowly and clean as you go. When you rush through a DIY project, you'll likely end up with less desirable results than you intended, or worse, you could make a costly or dangerous mistake. Take your time and

remember that you are in control of the project. You should also clean as you go to ensure a safer workspace. Pick up any scrap materials, tools that aren't in use, and any tripping hazards.

- Be cautious with power tools. Annually, 8% of electrocutions in the U.S. are attributed to improper use of power tools. The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers the following safety tips:
 1. Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) with every power tool to protect against electrical shock.
 2. Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
 3. Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.
 4. If a power tool trips a safety device while in use, take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.
 5. Do not use power tools without the proper guards.
 6. When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electrical shock.

Remember, you should only tackle DIY home projects within your skill and comfort level. For projects that require extensive electrical work, we strongly recommend you hire a licensed, qualified electrician for assistance. To learn more about electrical safety, visit our website at union-power.com.



Your Guide to Going Solar

You may be considering the option of adding a solar energy system to your home's roof or finding another way to harness the sun's energy to help power your home. While rooftop solar certainly works for many people, there's no one-size-fits-all solar solution. Homeowners should fully understand its true costs, the operational reality of this form of energy, along with the potential energy savings it could provide before making the decision to go solar.

As your trusted energy advisor, helping you make informed decisions is important to us at Union Power, so we recommend giving us a call first to help you assess whether rooftop solar is right for your specific situation. When considering solar, you must consider the overall energy efficiency of the home/building, the age and pitch of the roof orientation of the sun in relation to the home/building, tree coverage near the home/building, and weather patterns for the region.

Along with general questions like, "Is my home suitable for solar panels?", "How much power can I generate with solar?", and "Will I save money by going solar?", a Union Power 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?

We advise you to set goals of what you want to achieve with a solar system. Take your time and do your research to determine if an investment in solar makes sense to help you achieve those goals. As always, we stand ready to help our members make the best decisions. Feel free to call and speak with one of our energy advisors at 704-289-3145.

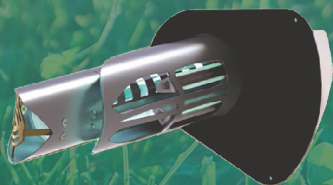
CHOOSE YOUR OFFER!

GET \$500 OFF:



a qualifying new
system installation

OR



a germicidal light

OR



Aprilaire



a whole-house
air purifier



704-283-9047
savewithunion.com

Spring Clean Your Finances

Become a Member of ElecTel Credit Union



Spring cleaning is a practice many of us prioritize each year as the season changes. While nothing feels quite as satisfying as cleaning your house from the baseboards to the ceiling fans and decluttering your closets, it's also a great opportunity to declutter your finances. Get the most out of your spring cleaning and take some time to sit down and comb through your budget. Where are you missing the mark on your savings goals each month? Where can you reallocate funds to other expenses? Cut the clutter and reorganize your finances this season by joining ElecTel Credit Union.

As a member of ElecTel Credit Union, you'll have access to outstanding financing programs, higher savings rates, lower loan rates, and fewer fees than you'll find at most other financial institutions.

ElecTel offers a full range of personalized services designed to meet the financial needs of its members and their families. Member benefits include, but are not limited to the following:

- Full access to services once you've joined the credit union
- Savings
- Free checking
- Direct deposits
- Overdraft protection
- Loans
- Free online banking, bill pay, and eStatements

By becoming a member of ElecTel, you will also have access to programs such as the Energy-Efficient Loan program, Electric Vehicle Loan program, Auto Loan program, Home Equity Loan program, and more!

Visit electel.org to join and start spring cleaning your finances today!

Is it worth the switch?



Most people are aware that changing over to LED lights makes it more energy-efficient to light up a home. However, in some cases, it has been reported that the cost of changing to LED is too high and this may have put off some people from making the switch.

LED bulbs use only a fraction of the electricity consumed compared to traditional incandescent bulbs, they are cheaper to run than fluorescent lighting, and they can last for up to fifty times longer.

Our Lighting Savings Calculator can help you make smart decisions when it comes to choosing lighting for your home by comparing the savings potential of using energy-efficient bulbs vs. regular incandescent bulbs based on the wattage, number of bulbs, and hours used per day.

Visit union-power.com/member-resources-services/energy-saving-calculators to access our Lighting Calculator and discover your home's energy and cost savings potential today!

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, Cooper Rd, Dry Rd, Edgefield Rd, Faulker Rd, George Rd, Huneycutt Mill Rd, Ingold Dr, Kimrey Rd, Lilly Ln, Lorene Dr, Mabry Rd, Mauldin Rd, Midway Rd, NC Hwy 138, Porter Rd, Quail Ridge Rd, Quincy Rd, Reba Dr, Rummage Cemetery Rd, Union Grove Rd, Western Rd, Wrenn Rd

Union County: Altan Ridge Dr, Atan Woods Rd, Bernard Simpson Rd, Brookstone Terrace Brown Ln, Buford Shortcut Rd, Duncan Keziah Rd, E Independence Blvd, E Sandy Ridge Rd, Foxworth Dr, Granite Ct, Hillcrest Church Rd, Hollow Tree Ln, JD Helms Rd, Joe Collins Rd, Maness Dr, N Rocky River Rd, Perrette Rd, Pine Oaks Dr, Plyler Rd, Price Dairy Rd, Red Maple Dr, Ridge Rd, Roanoke church Rd, Rocky Meadow Way, Rose Dr, S Rocky River Rd, Sizemore Rd, Stonington Dr, Technology Dr, Tyson Rd, W Sandy Ridge Rd, W Unionville-Indian Trail Rd, Weddington Rd, West CJ Thomas Rd, Wildwood Rd, Willoughby Rd, Willoughby Woods Dr, Winchester Rd, Wind Carved Ln, Wolf Pond Rd, Woodhaven Ln, Woodlawn Ln, Younts 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.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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