

Cooperative Review

JULY 2021



The Power of Cooperative Membership

Investing in Our Community

As a local, not-for-profit cooperative, Union Power is committed to creating a brighter future for our members and our community. Beyond providing safe, reliable, sustainable, and affordable power, Union Power partners with educators, students, and local organizations to support scholarships, grants, community programs, and economic development.

Bright Ideas Education Grants

Local K-12 teachers bring learning to life each year with help from the cooperative's Bright Ideas Education Grants. Since 1994, nearly 70,000 students in our community have participated in over 400 creative projects stemming from \$422,543 in grant funding. Teachers can apply for a grant now through Sept. 17 at union-power.com/brightideas.

Community Investment

College Scholarships and Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships, awarded each year by Union Power, empower local high school and middle school youth with unique educational and athletic opportunities that demonstrate our commitment to enriching the lives of our members.

Power Bucks

Through the generosity of members who have donated Power Bucks to assist members with paying their power bills, Power Bucks has helped brighten the lives of our community through the gift of power. You can donate Power Bucks to a family, friend, or neighbor in need by calling 704-289-3145 to speak with a customer service representative who will apply the Power Bucks credit to the member's account of your choice. The member's next bill will show a credit for the amount of Power Bucks purchased.

Economic Development

By partnering with local and state officials, we are doing our part to support economic growth. By working with our business members and helping them secure zero-interest loans through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's



Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program, Union Power is helping create and retain jobs, promote economic development, and enhance community facilities and public services like police protection and fire and rescue. Statewide, North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives have contributed to projects resulting in \$1 billion in new capital investment and the creation of over 5,000 jobs.

Our electric co-op is led by members and belongs to the communities it serves. Our local focus drives these and other efforts to support our community and deliver value to cooperative members. In this decade and beyond, we will continue our commitment to building a brighter local future by providing reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost while advancing the pursuit of responsible sustainability goals and meaningful investments in education, economic development, and other community-focused activities. Learn more at union-power.com/building-a-brighter-future.



An Opportunity for a Brighter Future

Union Power Awards College Scholarships to Local High School Students

At Union Power, we believe in making an impact in our communities and we are committed to creating a brighter future for our members—that's why each year, we award graduating high school seniors with scholarships to North Carolina accredited universities and community colleges.

With an emphasis on financial need, academic achievement, and volunteer/extracurricular experience, we're awarding those students who are making a big impact in their schools and local communities.

This year, we are awarding 10 \$1,000 scholarships to the following students for the 2021–2022 academic year:

Adelie Barbee, Stanly County



Adelie is a graduate of West Stanly High School, with a 4.2 GPA. She will attend North Carolina State University to study Sports Management. She was a four-year varsity volleyball and basketball player, and was a member of the National Honors Society and National Beta

Club. Adelie dreams of returning to her community to further the advancement of recreational programs and activities for other young women that “promote problem-solving and communication skills, self-confidence, and self-acceptance.”

Chase Belk, Union County



Chase is a graduate of Parkwood High School, with a 4.4 GPA, who will attend The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He plans to study Civil Engineering, with hopes of obtaining his Master's degree upon graduating college. Chase is a member of

the National Honors Society, Beta Club, Future Farmers of America, and Youth Christian Athletics. He was also a dedicated baseball player at Parkwood throughout all four years.

Sarah Bristle, Union County



Sarah is a graduate of Parkwood High School, with a 4.4 GPA. She will attend North Carolina State University to study Criminology. She has dreams of becoming a Forensic Scientist and is deeply passionate about bringing justice to victims and closure to their

families. Sarah is a member of the National Honors Society, the Senior Beta Club, and has received the Girl Scout Silver and Gold Awards.

Abby Furr, Stanly County



Abby is a Graduate of Stanly Early College, with a 4.0 GPA. She will attend Appalachian State University to study Nutrition and Food Dietetics. Abby has had long-time aspirations of working in the health and wellness field but it was last year, during the pandemic, when

she gained clarity of her purpose and developed a new-found love for the science of nutrition. Upon receiving her high school diploma, Abby will also have an Associate of Science and Business Administration certificate. She is a member of the National Honors Society, Melissa Kathleen's School of Dance Performance, and the secretary/public relations officer of Phi Beta Kappa.

Hannah McCain, Union County



Hannah is a graduate of Piedmont High School, with a 4.6 GPA—ranking 4 out of 312 students in her senior class. She will attend North Carolina State University to study Civil Engineering so that she can pursue a career in construction and design of commercial real estate. She has

served in various leadership roles in student government, Leo Club, and Unified Champion Schools.

Lucas McCain, Union County



Lucas is a graduate of Piedmont High School, with a 4.7 GPA—ranking 1 out of 312 students in his senior class. He will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study Biology, and then pursue a doctoral degree in Physical Therapy. Lucas is a dedicated member of the National

Honors Society, Beta Club, and Leo Club among other extracurricular roles including playing on the Men's Varsity Basketball team.

Haley Overcash, Rowan County



Haley is a graduate of East Rowan High School, with a 4.3 GPA, who will attend Johnson & Wales University. She will major in Entrepreneurship with a focus in Baking & Pastry Arts. Haley has participated in several extracurricular and academic

clubs including the Spanish Club, Sigma Phi Gamma, The National Technical Honor Society, and Student Council.

Ella Sepesi, Cabarrus County



Ella is a graduate of Mount Pleasant High School, with a 4.7 GPA—ranking 1 out of 200 students. She will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she will major in Marketing and minor in Public Health, combining her

skills and passions of problem solving with marketing strategies and making the world a better place with the resources provided in Public Health. Ella has been a dedicated member of Student Council, the Varsity Football and Basketball cheer team, among other academic and extracurricular achievements.

Marissa Stephens, Cabarrus County



Marissa is a graduate of Carolina International School, with a 4.4 GPA— ranking 3 out of 59 students. Marissa will attend the University of North Carolina at Greensboro to study Business Administration. She is dually enrolled in the Rowan-Cabarrus

Community College in the Career and College Promise Program. Her goal is to own a cosmetics and skincare company; hoping to provide employment for as many people as possible and give back to her community by supporting various charities and community organizations.

Daniel Taldo, Union County



Daniel is a graduate of Central Academy of Technology & Arts, with a 4.3 GPA. He will attend North Carolina State University to study Computer Engineering. Daniel dedicated his time to playing two varsity sports, being a member of The National Honors

Society and the Beta Club, and playing in the symphonic band. He also participated in several extracurricular activities while maintaining his commitment to his studies and other community service endeavors.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients!

Improve Efficiency the Easy Way with an Energy Efficient Loan

Got a home energy efficiency project coming up? ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union is an ideal resource! With this valuable co-op member benefit, 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.

With an Energy Efficient Loan from ElecTel, members can borrow up to \$35,000 for home improvements including but not limited to:

- Efficient windows & doors
- Electric heat pumps
- Furnaces
- Air conditioners
- Generators
- Solar projects
- Water heaters
- Insulation
- ENERGY STAR appliances



Learn more about an ElecTel membership and the Energy Efficient Loan Program at electel.org or by calling 800-849-5600.

The “Early Bird” Advantage

Apply Early for Bright Ideas Education Grants and Be Entered to Win \$100

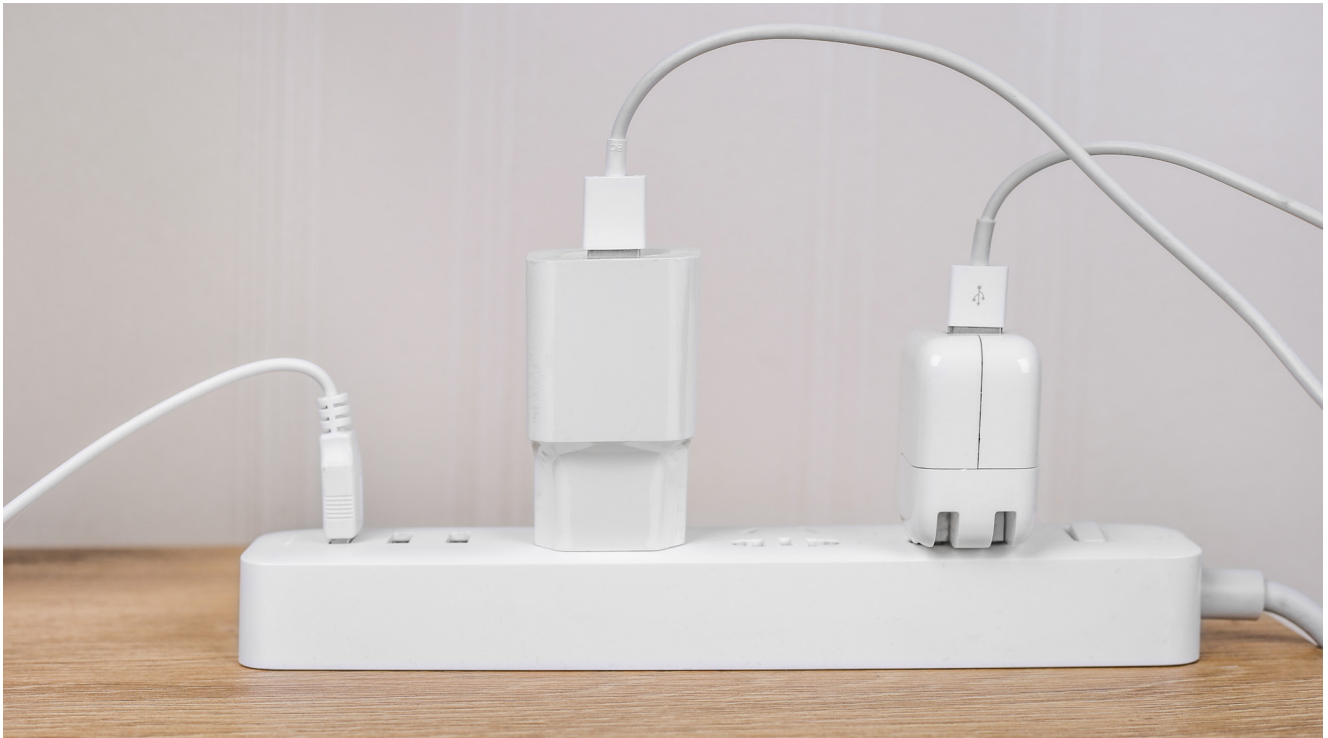
As the old saying goes, “the early bird gets the worm.” Be one of the “early bird” K–12 teachers who submit their Bright Ideas Education Grant application by Aug. 16 for a chance to win one of five \$100 gift cards in a statewide drawing.

The final deadline to apply for a Bright Ideas grant of up to \$2,000 from Union Power is Sept. 17.

The Bright Ideas Education Grant program, offered by Union Power and North Carolina’s 26 electric cooperatives, advances excellence in education and accelerates student learning by providing funds for innovative projects. Since the program began in 1994, educators statewide have received more than \$13.6 million in Bright Ideas grant funding for nearly 13,000 projects benefiting 2.7 million North Carolina students.

To learn more about the program and apply, visit union-power.com/brightideas.





Save Energy in Your Home with Smart Power Strips

Installing a smart power strip (or an advanced power strip) in your home is a quick and easy way to start saving money while making your household a little more energy-efficient.

You may be asking yourself, “why should I bother with a power strip when I turn my electronics off, already?” The answer is quite simple: vampire or phantom loads, and no, this isn’t some cloaked villain that comes in and turns your electronics on when you aren’t looking. Vampire loads continue to consume energy even when your devices are in sleep mode.

And while you may already have traditional power strips in your home, keep in mind, if devices are plugged in, they will continue to use energy. Take, for instance, your smart TV, your laptop computer, and your cable box, all of these devices use energy when they’re off.

Smart power strips, however, can cut the power off and save energy since they can detect when a device is in standby mode. They 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.

On the hunt for a smart power strip? Take a look at this guide!

There are three types of smart power strips to choose from:

Timer-equipped—These power strips have outlets that are controlled by programmable timers. Devices plugged into them can be scheduled to automatically turn off or on at designated times of day or night.

Occupancy sensing—Occupancy sensing power strips have outlets that are controlled by a motion detector. Devices plugged into them can automatically turn off or on in response to your physical presence or after a user-defined period of time elapses (i.e., anywhere from 30 seconds to 60 minutes).

Current sensing—These power strips can automatically turn several outlets off or on when they detect that a monitor (plugged into the “master outlet”) either enters a low-powered sleep mode, is turned off, or is turned on. Used in combination with monitor power management features, these power strips can turn just about any electric device off and on automatically.

Be sure to do your research to see which of these is the best option for your home! Over time, you’ll notice little changes make a lot of difference; save energy, save money!



A Balanced Fuel Mix Promotes Power Reliability

The energy industry is undergoing a dramatic transformation as consumer demand for more renewable energy sources grows and innovation and technology continue to advance exponentially. You're likely witnessing this energy evolution first-hand.

In driving across the region, you may have noticed fields of solar panels, along with an increase in solar panels on your neighbors' roofs. Or maybe you've heard about the impending changes in the transportation sector, with most major vehicle companies announcing plans to offer more electric vehicles at more affordable prices.

Consumer interest in renewable energy is strong and growing. In addition, national studies indicate

that consumers have an expectation that companies operate in an ethical and responsible manner—including when it comes to the environment.

At Union Power, we have always put the good of our community first. While our primary function is to provide reliable and affordable energy to our members, we are more than an electricity provider. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members

and to serve the long-term interests of our community. We feel we're doing both by investing in renewable energy sources.

Clean energy is certainly not new. Solar, wind, and hydropower have been around for decades. However, the recent innovations and advances in renewable technology have led to sharp decreases in cost, making it more feasible and accessible. In recent years, Union Power has been



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.

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

able to adjust our fuel mix by utilizing more renewables. We are working to bring more renewables resources online while investing in new technology, such as battery storage, making renewables like solar power more versatile and reliable. Today, 19% of our fuel mix is comprised of renewable energy sources, the majority of which is hydro.

However, changing the energy mix we use to power homes and businesses doesn't happen overnight. While renewable energy use increases, we still depend on

traditional forms of energy to keep power flowing reliably to your home. After all, solar and wind energy are referred to as "intermittent" power since the sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow. This fact, coupled with the growing demand for renewables, creates its own challenges. That's why there is real value in maintaining a balanced mixture of fuel types to ensure reliability, resiliency, and meet the growing demand for electricity.

As the energy industry continues to evolve, Union Power strives

to take advantage of technology advances and market opportunities as they become available. This means we can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power selections as we continue to bring safe, reliable, and affordable power to our community.

In order for Union Power to meet the growing demand for renewable energy and ensure the reliability of our power supply, we must constantly make operational adjustments as we strive for balance and a brighter future for our members.

With a new Trane high-efficiency system from Union Services, all of your boxes will be checked!

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**Union
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A Union Power Company

Right-of-Way Clearing

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

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

Union County: Beacon Hills Rd, Bridle Tr, Brookstone Terrace, Brown Ln, E Independence Blvd, Foxworth Dr, Granite Ct, Hembywood Dr, Hollow Tree Ln, Maness Dr, Maple Leaf Dr, N Rocky River Rd, Perrette Rd, Plyler Rd, Red Lantern Rd, Red Maple Dr, Rockwell Dr, Rocky Meadow Way, Rose Dr, S Rocky River Rd, Stoney Ridge Dr, Technology Dr, Tyson Rd, W Unionville Indian Trail Rd, Weddington Rd, Wildflower Pl, Wildwood Rd, Willoughby Rd, Willoughby Woods Dr, Winchester Rd, Wind Carved Ln, Woodhaven Ln, Woodlawn Ln, Woodvine Ct, Wynnview Rd, Younts Rd



Union Power Cooperative will be closed for the Fourth of July holiday on Monday, July 5, 2021.



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) and Carrie Lorenz-Efird (ext. 3291). Visit union-power.com for monthly right-of-way clearing updates.

UnionPower
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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