

Cooperative Review

NOVEMBER 2021



Cook Up Energy Savings this Season

The holiday season is here, which means it's time to connect with friends and family, and of course, it's also time for some delicious food. If you're like most people, you gather for family dinners throughout the holidays and spend lots of time in the kitchen. While it's a wonderful season for reuniting with loved ones, the additional cooking can take a toll on your energy bill—unless you follow these energy-saving tips.

- **Don't open up the oven door while cooking.** It's tempting to check on cakes and casseroles to make sure they're cooking evenly but avoid the temptation. This habit isn't good for your cooking, and it's even worse for your energy bill. Instead, use your oven window to take a peek, or simply set a timer to remind yourself that dinner is ready. Also, keep a lid on your pots and pans to keep in heat and use less energy while cooking your meal.
- **Match the size of your pots to your stove's burners.** The burners on your stove are different sizes due to the variety of sizes in which pots and pans come in. If you use a large burner for a small pot, you're simply wasting energy. It's best to match the pot or pan precisely to the size of the burner. If the pan is just a little too large, it will still cook evenly without wasting gas or electricity.
- **Keep your oven clean.** A clean oven is ideal because it allows heat to transfer more evenly, which saves

energy. If you regularly clean your oven, you'll also save your physical energy since it's much easier to clean a slightly dirty oven than a filthy one. If you have a self-cleaning oven, turn it on immediately after baking. With your oven already heated, you'll use less energy to heat the oven to the cleaning temperature.

- **Use Your Grill.** If you have a grill and temperatures are above freezing, you might consider cooking your holiday meal outdoors. It's nice to get out of the stuffy kitchen on a pretty day, and your energy bill will thank you for it.
 - **Only store room temperature food in the fridge.** Before you put away holiday leftovers, let the food cool down to room temperature. Refrigerators consume more energy when cooling food that's still hot, so it's best to let it sit for a while first. Once the food is stored safely, you can take some time to reflect on all the money you saved by staying energy-conscious this holiday season.
- Take control of your holiday spending with the help of Union Power. Following these holiday cooking tips can help you ensure you're not eating into your holiday budget, and you're able to comfortably enjoy your events without concern of high energy bills. Learn more ways to save energy by visiting union-power.com.



Our offices will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 25, and Friday, Nov. 26.

We are Thankful for Our Members

Being a part of a cooperative means being part of a community. This is just another example of how the cooperative principle, “Concern for Community,” sets us apart from a traditional utility structure and empowers Union Power Cooperative to be a source of strength and stability for our members.

Our Union Power community is filled with generous members who choose to donate to our Power Bucks program to assist members who are in need of assistance paying their electric bills. If you would like to show your support or gratitude by donating Power Bucks to a family member, neighbor, or friend, call us at 704-289-3145 to speak with a Customer Service Representative who will apply the Power Bucks gift certificate to the member’s account of your choice.

The Cooperative reflects our local community and its evolving needs. Together, let’s continue making our



corner of the world a better and brighter place to live. We couldn’t do it without you, and for that, we’re thankful for your membership.

Brighten your Holidays with our Holiday Lighting Calculator



Union Power’s Holiday Lighting Calculator helps determine monthly energy costs from converting your traditional incandescent Christmas lights to LED bulbs—calculating savings based on the number of strings used and the total hours used per day. With this tool, members can make smart energy decisions while shopping for Christmas lights, reduce the energy impacts on their electricity bills, and brighten their holiday celebrations.

Visit union-power.com/energysavingscalculators to access our Holiday Lighting Calculator for extra holiday energy savings today!

Honoring Those Who Served

Thank You, Vets!

Each year, our nation comes together to honor the proud men and women who have stepped up to protect and serve our country. On this Veterans Day, we remember all those who served and the sacrifices they and their families have made to keep us safe. We salute and honor you for your tremendous courage, and we thank you for your service. **Our offices will be closed, Thursday, Nov. 11, in honor of our Veterans.**



Safe Decor Tips for a Happy Holiday Season

It's almost time to deck those halls! Statistics show that home fires and electrical accidents typically increase during winter months, so keep these holiday lighting tips in mind for a safe holiday season.

1 Carefully inspect your holiday decorations
Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Damaged sockets and loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.

2 Purchase LED lights
If you're shopping for new holiday decor, LED lights are your best bet for safety and efficiency! LEDs use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.

3 Carefully choose how and where you hang holiday lights
Stringing up lights this holiday season? Never mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation. Also make sure cords are

not pinched in doors, windows, or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation.

4 Unplug all electrical decorations
Broken bulb? No problem! Just remember to always unplug before replacing bulbs or fuses.

5 Turn off all decorations
When you go to sleep, your decorations should, too. Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before turning in for the night or leaving home.

Safety is a top priority here at Union Power, and we encourage our members to practice safety while celebrating this holiday season. Taking a little extra time to ensure you and your family's safety will help make your holidays even brighter.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways to save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weather-strip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ductwork, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, and ceilings for additional energy savings. Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



Look Toward a Brighter Future

Calling all high school seniors: it's that time of the year, again! Union Power Cooperative is now accepting applications and will award 10 local students with a college scholarship to a North Carolina accredited college or university.

Applicants 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.
- The applicant must meet the criteria for awarding the scholarship: 40% need; 30% scholastic achievement; and 30% extracurricular activities in school, civic, and community functions.
- Children of Union Power employees and its subsidiary, Union Services, are not eligible to apply.

An independent committee not affiliated with the Cooperative will conduct judging of applicants and the selection of winners. Apply to win one of 10 \$1,000 college scholarships from Union Power Cooperative today!

Visit union-power.com/collegescholarships to apply!



**Union Power
Cooperative**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**Application Deadline:
March 18, 2022**

Youth Tour Inspires Young Leaders to Make a Difference



Are you a young leader looking to make a difference? Apply to spend a week in Washington, D.C., next summer on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour where high school juniors will get the opportunity to learn more about how they can make a difference as young adults.

Tourists will pay their respects at historic monuments and memorials, meet with North Carolina's members of Congress on Capitol Hill, tour a variety of Smithsonian museums, and get access to scholarship opportunities, all while building a peer network with other young leaders across the country.



Visit union-power.com/youthtour to learn more and apply!

Application Deadline: Dec. 31, 2021



"I truly enjoyed the Youth Tour experience! It was fun being able to connect with other young leaders in the virtual environment. I would also like to thank you for encouraging me to participate in the YLC speech competition; there were many great speeches! That is something that would traditionally be out of my comfort zone, but I was pleased to come in third place!"

—Ally Neilson, 2021 Youth Tourist

"Thank you for the opportunity to represent Union Power! I absolutely loved the 2021 virtual Youth Tour; I especially enjoyed talking with our representatives and their teams to learn more about our government. I'm really interested in public policy and legislation, and I view that as a possible career path." —Sophia Freeman, 2021 Youth Tourist





Overhead vs. Underground Power Lines

Why aren't all power lines underground?

Storms often stir up questions about overhead versus underground distribution of electricity. For example, when powerful winds roll through our area, like summer storms or hurricanes, and we experience widespread outages, we are often asked why aren't all of our power lines buried underground—and if a line is underground—why does the power still go out.

The answer is quite simple. While more than half of the Cooperative's lines are underground, overhead lines are still more affordable to construct, repair, and maintain, which helps keep costs affordable for our members. In addition, our crews can visually inspect faults on the line, and repairs are usually made quicker. Those factors play a prominent role when severe storms and hurricanes strike our area, and our crews need to find and fix problems safely and quickly.

That's not the case with underground lines. While the Cooperative uses the most reliable underground technologies and materials available, such as insulated cable and protective conduit, problems with existing underground cables can still take longer to find and fix. Additionally, installing underground cables costs significantly more than building overhead lines, and they are much more expensive if they need to be replaced.

"When the power goes out, there are two obstacles our crews face before they can fix a line," said David Medlock, line superintendent at Union Power. "One is identification

of the fault, and then two is having access to the line in order to make the necessary repairs. While smart grid technology—devices that tell us exactly where in the system a given disruption lies—makes identifying faults easier, access to underground systems is hindered. Repairs often require disruptive digging and are intensified by severe weather conditions."

Another factor worth mentioning is that many of the outages we currently receive on our underground system are due to other utilities digging into our underground cables. And as more utilities like telephone, gas, and cable companies are putting more of their services underground in the same area, it makes our lines more likely to get hit.

Home improvement projects that involve digging also play a significant role. That's why it is vital to call 811 before starting any digging projects to ensure all underground power lines are avoided. It's a free service that gives Union Power and other utilities time to locate and mark our cables properly and helps keep you safe and the power on.

Rest assured, whether lines are overhead or underground, we are always prepared to respond in the event of an outage. As your electric cooperative, Union Power is dedicated to delivering safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our members daily and during the more difficult times.



Congratulations to Deidre Mallow of Independence High School, who won a \$100 Visa gift card for submitting her Bright Ideas application by the early-bird deadline.

Festive savings to be thankful for.

HURRY
Offer ending soon!

Get a **\$1,000 REBATE** on a new qualifying system installation, or contact us for special financing!

Gather with grateful hearts and let Union Services keep you cozy all season long.



704-283-9047
savewithunion.com

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.

Cabarrus County: Barkley Rd, Cal Bost Rd, Robert Bost Rd, US Hwy 601, Wickersham Rd

Stanly County: Bridle Rd, Dorrie Dr, Hatley Burris Rd, Hilltop Rd, Hunter Ct, Jet Dr, Peach Tree Rd, Rosegate Ln, Sedgefield Cir, St Onge Dr, Trotters Ridge, Waco Dr, Webb 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) or Carrie Lorenz-Efird (ext. 3291). Visit union-power.com for monthly right-of-way clearing updates.



Don't forget to “fall back” and set your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 7.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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