



## Season's Greetings from Union Power

**A**t Union Power, we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members because we live here, too.

While many of our charitable, community-focused programs and activities, such as fundraisers for Hospice and food drives, ramp up this time of year, we have several programs and services in place to help our members year-round. We'd like to remind you about some of these offerings in hopes you'll find them beneficial.

We hope you'll take advantage of the Union Power Cooperative mobile app, an app that empowers you to monitor, manage, and pay your energy bill conveniently through your phone. Another service we offer is Pre-Pay,

which is intended to help budget your monthly energy costs. Union Power members can pay for electricity before it's used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. During the time period paid for, you'll receive regular feedback on your balance. We also offer energy efficiency programs to save you money and energy, which can be found on our website at [union-power.com](http://union-power.com).

By simply choosing to donate Power Bucks to a member in need, you can help others right here in our community. Through members' generous donations over the last year, we've been able to give more than \$8,000 to those in need. To participate in our Power Bucks program, please call 704-289-3145 to speak to a customer service representative who can apply the

donation to the member's account of your choice.

In addition to helping members save today, we're focusing on the future. In recent years, Union Power has been able to adjust our fuel mix by incorporating more renewables. We've spent the past decade reducing our dependence on carbon-intensive power generation, and as a result, our current fuel mix is more than 60% carbon-free. Along with other cooperatives in the state, we are working toward our vision for a Brighter Future, a long-term road map for providing sustainable, affordable energy; reliability and innovation; and continued local community support. We share the goal of a 50% reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

But the most important investment we make is in our local youth. Union Power has logged many volunteer hours supporting schools and programs along with investing more than \$37,500 in education in the past year. Each year, through our Youth Tour program, we sponsor three high school juniors to take part in learning about Washington, D.C.,

and the cooperative business model. In addition, we award 10 \$1,000 college scholarships to high school seniors, and through our Bright Ideas program, we grant up to \$2,000 to local educators for innovative classroom projects that would otherwise not be funded.

At the heart of all of these programs is you—the members we

proudly serve. We're grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make. This holiday season, Union Power wishes you and your loved ones peace, joy, and prosperity.



## Need Help Paying for College?

Planning for your future just got a little easier – Union Power is now accepting college scholarship applications and will award 10 \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors attending a North Carolina accredited university or community college.

Apply now through March 18, 2022, by visiting [union-power.com/collegescholarships](https://union-power.com/collegescholarships).



Union Power College  
**Scholarships**

# Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*From our family to yours, we wish you a happy holiday season and a joyous New Year.*

*Union Power Cooperative will be closed Dec. 24–27 for Christmas, and Dec. 31 for New Year's.*

# Thank You for Viewing our 82nd Annual Meeting



Our 82nd Annual Meeting, held on October 9, began promptly at 9 a.m. with a welcome and a call to order by Board President Lee Roy Kirk, Jr. Board Secretary-Treasurer Sherise Jones gave the financial report highlighting the co-op's continued commitment to financial strength and stability.

Following, Executive Vice President and General Manager Greg Andress shared remarks and highlighted our continued efforts throughout the pandemic to maintain our operations and ensure our system continued to provide reliable electricity and energy services for our members.

Additionally, Aaron Christensen, general counsel for Union Power, announced the results of our 2021 board election where candidates were nominated and elected to serve three-year terms.

We concluded the meeting by announcing our prize winners, who each received a \$50 bill credit from the Cooperative. A recap of the 82nd Annual Meeting is available for viewing on the Union Power Cooperative YouTube channel. We hope you'll check it out and enjoy learning about the current state and future direction of your Cooperative.



Visit us at [union-power.com/annualmeeting](https://union-power.com/annualmeeting) for more information about the Annual Meeting and to access the link to our YouTube channel.

# Energy-Saving Solutions to Maximize your Holiday Budget

**T**he holidays can be a busy and expensive time—between shopping for gifts, decorating your home, cooking meals and special holiday treats, and planning family activities—your schedule and your wallet can be stretched thin. The good news is that Union Power offers multiple programs and tools to help you maintain energy use during the busy holiday season and year-round.

**Pre-Pay:** Our Pre-Pay service is a flexible and convenient payment method that allows you to pay for electricity before you use it, putting you in control of how much you spend on electricity. During the holiday season, Pre-Pay can help you manage your budget by allowing

you to monitor your power use and only buy as much electricity as you need.

**Online Tools & Calculators:** Take advantage of our interactive tools and calculators at [union-power.com/energysavingscalculators](https://union-power.com/energysavingscalculators) to help estimate energy and cost savings based on your energy consumption practices, and determine if adjustments need to be made to save energy and lower your bill.

**Usage Alerts:** Sign up to receive text or email alerts when your energy use has reached a certain level, so there are no surprises when your bill arrives.



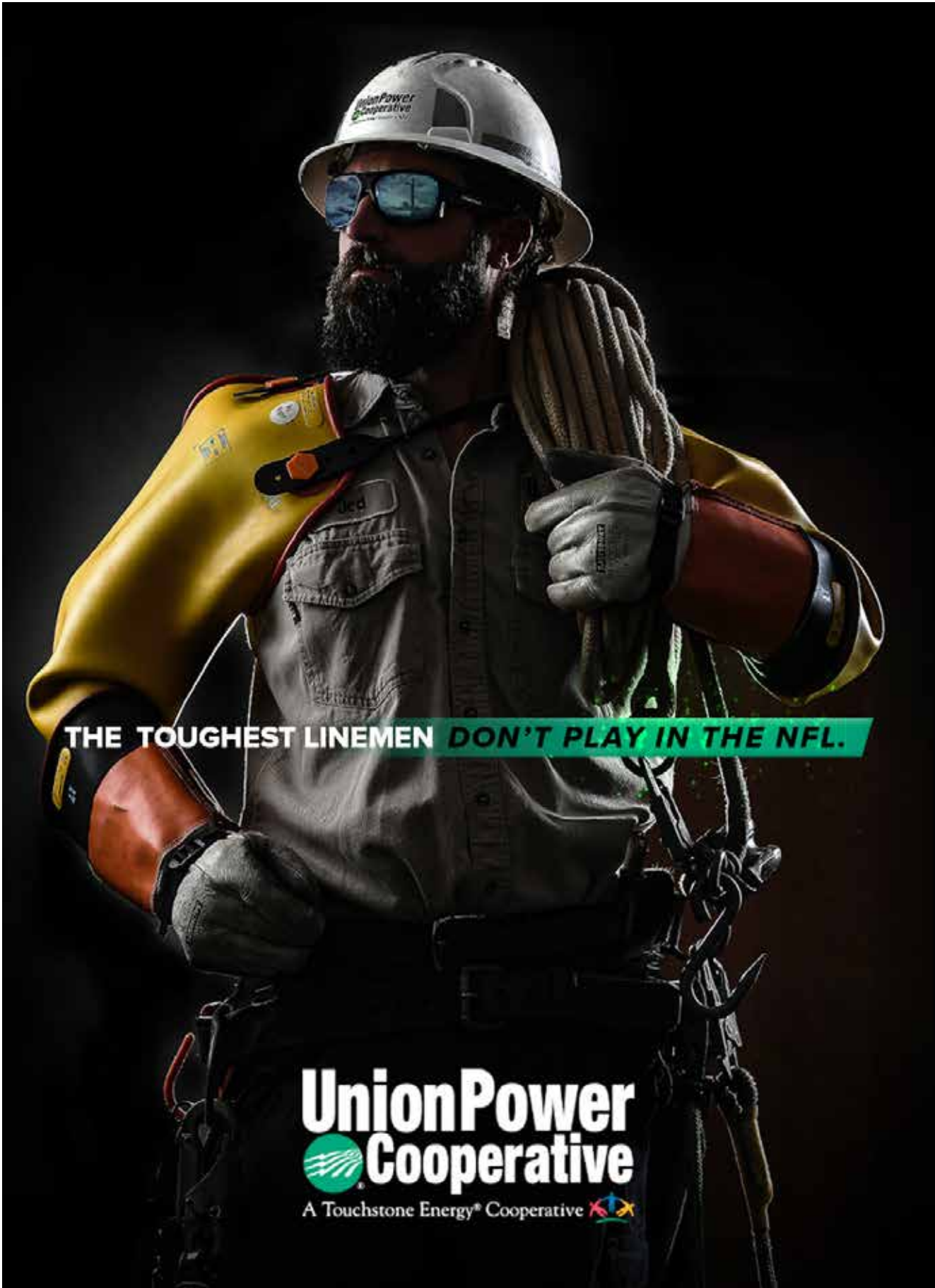
Visit [union-power.com](https://union-power.com) for more information about how we can help you save during the holiday season and stay in control of your energy budget all year long.

## 2022 Youth Tour Canceled

As you know, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour was canceled in 2020 and held virtually this year due to concerns for the health and safety of our staff, members, and community in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.


Unfortunately, with safety still a primary concern, Union Power has decided to forgo participation in next year's Youth Tour experience scheduled for June.

We were looking forward to connecting with our local North Carolina youth through the Youth Tour. However, we have given careful consideration in making the decision not to participate. Thank you so much for your understanding, and we look forward to seeing you again for the 2023 Youth Tour.



**THE TOUGHEST LINEMEN DON'T PLAY IN THE NFL.**

**Union Power  
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Heat Your Home Safely This Winter

As temperatures drop, families often look for alternative ways to generate heat throughout their homes to supplement the use of their HVAC units throughout those cold winter months. Space heaters are a great way to warm specific rooms in your home without having to crank up the thermostat, but using space heaters does not come without risks.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), space heaters account for about one-third of home heating fires and 80% of home heating fire deaths annually, with almost half of these fires occurring in the months of December, January, and February. Common household mistakes contribute to the majority of these fires, such as placing flammable objects too close to heating equipment. Families should use extreme caution with all alternative heating devices. Here are a few tips to consider when purchasing and using a space heater.

## Look for Safety Features:

**Certification:** Make sure the heater you buy carries a safety certification label from an independent testing organization, such as the UL mark, the ETL label from Intertek, or certification from CSA International.

**Shutoff features:** A smart sensor that automatically shuts off a heater when it overheats is a must. You'll also want a tip-over switch that does the same if the heater is knocked over.

**A ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) plug:** Most space heaters don't come equipped with a GFCI plug, which prevents electric shock. Heaters without one should not be used around water.

**A sturdy cord:** Most space heaters come with a cord that's six feet long. To prevent overheating, never use an extension cord or a power strip with an electric heater.

## Use a Space Heater Safely

- Place the heater on a hard, level, and nonflammable surface. These appliances are intended to sit on the floor, not on a table, or other high surfaces.
- Establish a three-foot, kid-and pet-free zone around the heater, and never put a space heater in a child's room.
- Keep the space heater at least three feet away from combustible materials, such as furniture, bedding, and curtains.
- Don't use a heater in a workshop or garage near paint, gas cans, or matches.
- Turn it off when you leave the room or go to bed.



- Plug the heater directly into an outlet.
- Unplug the heater when it's not in use by pulling the plug straight from the outlet. Check the cord for damage periodically, and don't use the heater if the cord is frayed or worn.
- Don't plug another electrical device or an extension cord into the same outlet as a heater—that can cause overheating.

Remember that using caution when using a space heater not only covers you from the dangers brought on by trying to keep warm during winter's cold temperatures, it also protects you and your family from additional, and possibly bigger expenses.



**Please note:** Space heaters are designed to be supplemental heaters used for short periods of time in specific rooms. They are not designed to be used as primary heating resources for entire floors or an entire home. Your most efficient heating resource is your home's HVAC system, and consistency is key. If for some reason, you do not feel that your system is heating properly or working efficiently, it would be a great idea to have your unit inspected by an HVAC professional.



## Turn Up the Heat Without Running Up Your Electric Bill

### Check out our Space Heater Calculator

With colder weather settling in, you are likely ready to fire up the heat on your thermostat and plug in your portable space heaters, but you may also be dreading the increased costs this could have on your monthly electric bill.

Turn up the heat without running up your electric bill by using our Space Heater Calculator. Our Space Heater Calculator helps you quickly understand the added operating cost and additional safety precautions required.

Visit [union-power.com/energysavingscalculators](http://union-power.com/energysavingscalculators) and select the Space Heater Calculator icon.

## How to use the Space Heater Calculator:

- 1** Enter the number of space heaters you plan to use in your home. Note: The calculator assumes 1,500 watts, which is the average amount for household heaters.
- 2** Enter the hours per day you plan to use the space heaters.
- 3** Enter the average cost you pay per kilowatt-hour (our calculators use the default value of 0.10 or 10 cents).
- 4** The calculator gives you an estimated cost per month. Reduce the number of heaters and operating hours to see how much you can reduce the estimated cost.



*Deck the halls without breaking the bank!*

Don't get your tinsel in a tangle this holiday season. Contact Union Services and receive

**0% APR until 2025**

on a new furnace or heating system when you lock in your year-end special today!



Scan the QR code to learn more or apply for financing.

704-283-9047  
savewithunion.com

We are your local heating, cooling, and electrical services company serving the greater Union county since 2003.



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 12/31/21.

# 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:** Miami Church Rd, Basswood Dr, Harbor Dr, Atwater Dr, Faraway Cir, Thunderbolt Rd, Faith Trl, Point View Ct, Shore View Dr, Mallard Dr, Island View Dr, Swan Dr, Flowes Store Rd, Sam Black Rd, Honeysuckle Ln, Timber Ridge Rd, Hickory Ridge Rd, Cedar Cove Dr, Peach Orchard Rd, Macallano Dr, Roundtree Rd, Hahn Scott Rd, Cauble Rd, Boyd Allman Rd, Paige Rd

**Rowan County:** High Rock Rd, Turkey Trot Ln

**Stanly County:** Reap Rd, Hartsell Rd, Old Aquadale Rd, Chapel Rd, Canyon Ct, Dry Rd, Edgefield Rd, Wrenn Rd, Mabry Rd, Lorene Dr, Coyle Rd, Sunset Lake Rd, Island Creek Rd, NC Hwy 200S, Harvell Rd, Travis Rd, Lee Griffin Rd, Churchill Rd, Hatley Burris Rd, St Thomas Dr, St Johns Dr, St Simon Ct, Fiji Ct., Wayfield Dr, Rustic Ln, Big Lick Rd, Griffin Greene Blvd

**Union County:** Beacon Hills Rd, Rockwell Dr, Maple Leaf Dr, Stoney Ridge Dr, Gail Dr, Woodvine Ct, Hembywood Dr, Idlewild Rd, Wynnview Rd, Bridle Tr, Wildflower Pl, Hillcrest Cir



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](http://union-power.com) for monthly right-of-way clearing updates.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Heading out of town for the holiday season? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles, and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use. Source: energy.gov



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

Greg Adress  
**Exec. Vice President & General Manager**

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