

Cooperative Review

APRIL 2022



National Lineworker Appreciation Day

On April 18, Union Power will join other electric cooperatives across our state and nation to honor Lineworker Appreciation Day. This day, we will recognize our lineworkers and the critical role they play in providing you, our members, with the power you depend on every day.

Lineworkers work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep the power flowing to our local communities. While taking care of our members is a lineworkers' first priority, there are times when they are called on to aid across the state and nation following major storms. This commitment to “cooperation

among cooperatives” is one of the core principles that demonstrates the true strength and character of the cooperative network.

Join us on April 18 by using #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support and thank our lineworkers for all they do to keep the power ON!

Remember to #ThankALineworker



NOT JUST FOR...

Kid's Korner



Teaching Children About Energy

Teaching children about energy is fun and exciting with Union Power's Kid's Korner educational program. Kid's Korner introduces children to learning about energy in a fun and kid-friendly way with science lessons on electricity, energy-efficiency tips, hands-on experiments, and much more! Visit union-power.com/kidskorner to get connected.

ENERGY EDUCATION IS FUN!

Union Power Earns Tree Line USA Recognition

Union Power Cooperative recently earned the Tree Line USA Recognition for the 17th consecutive year by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize its dedication to proper urban forest management in the provider's service area.

Tree Line USA, a partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes public and private utilities for pursuing best practices that protect and cultivate America's urban tree canopy. As a result, Tree Line USA promotes safe and reliable electricity while maintaining healthy community forests.

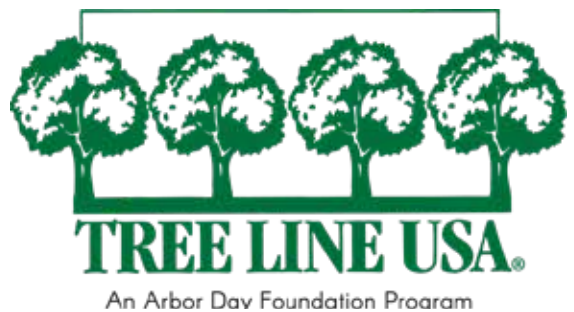
"Trees are essential to creating more urban green spaces in communities across the United States," said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "In addition, they provide important benefits to residents, including clean air, clean water, and vital tree shade. Service providers like Union Power Cooperative demonstrate how easily trees and utilities can co-exist for the benefit of communities and residents."

By joining the Tree Line USA program, service providers benefit from lowering line clearance costs due to proper pruning. In addition, as a result of those properly pruned and maintained trees, the people benefit from increased service reliability because those trees will have healthy root systems that decay less, have less structural weakness, and ultimately result in fewer downed lines during storms.

Union Power Cooperative achieved the Tree Line USA recognition by meeting five program standards:

- Quality tree care
- Annual worker training
- Tree planting and public education
- Formal tree-based energy conservation
- Sponsorship of or participation in an Arbor Day celebration

For more information on Union Power's Vegetation Management program and guidelines visit, union-power.com/vegetation-management.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Stream content on ENERGY STAR® rated devices such as tablets or laptops, which use 25%-30% less energy. Avoid streaming on gaming consoles, which use 10 times more power.

Source: Energy.gov

Bright Ideas Scholarship Program Kicks Off

Applications accepted beginning April 1

On April 1, Union Power will kick off the 2022/2023 Bright Ideas grant scholarship program and begin accepting applications with the potential to award up to \$2,000 per project. All K-12 teachers are encouraged to apply with creative ideas to be incorporated as reusable classroom projects.

Applications will be accepted through **Sept. 15**. 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, Union Power Cooperative and other North Carolina electric cooperatives have partnered with K-12 teachers statewide to provide Bright Ideas grants for unique classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded. Teacher Adam Haas, pictured right, from Rocky River Elementary in Union County applied and was awarded \$2,000 for his project, Engineering Critical Thinking Skills.

Over the program's history, more than 2.8-plus million students across North Carolina have benefited from nearly 13,536 Bright Ideas-funded projects totaling more than \$14.3 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.



Apply today by visiting union-power.com/brightideas. Applications must be submitted by Sept. 15.

Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

Over 40 ft.

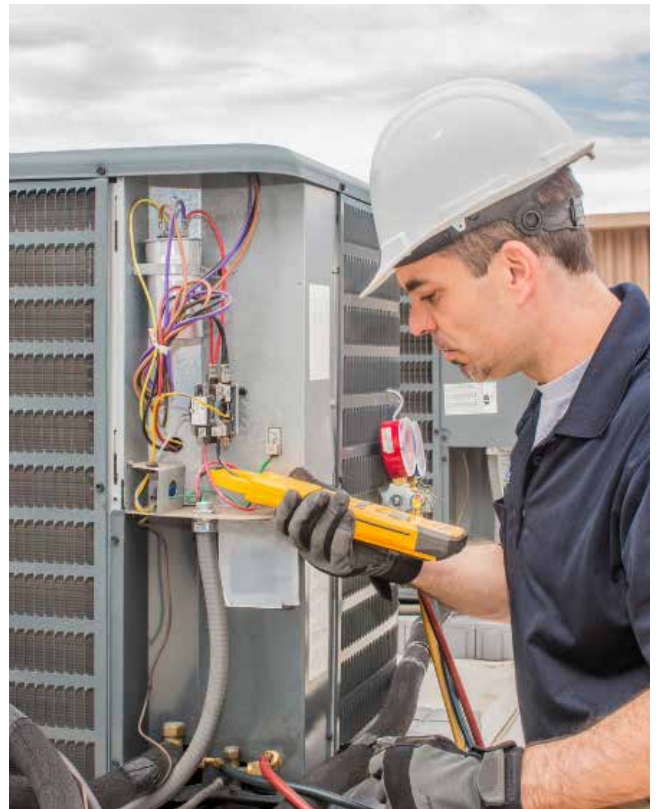


Seasonal Maintenance of Your HVAC System

Is your home's air-conditioning system ready to keep you cool this season?

Hopefully, you enjoyed a warm, toasty winter thanks to the heat from your HVAC system, but that doesn't mean it's ready to keep you cool for those warm spring and summer days ahead. Depending on your home's resources, your air conditioning may have hibernated over the winter with a gas heat furnace, or your system may have continued to work strong over the winter with an electric heat pump. Therefore, it's important to know exactly what type of HVAC unit(s) you own, along with the brand of unit(s) and what year the unit(s) were installed. Here are some energy-efficient ways to make sure your HVAC system is ready to keep things cool as things start to heat up.

- **Have a professional service the system before the season begins.** Having your HVAC system serviced routinely can help extend its life and keep it running efficiently. Regular maintenance usually includes inspecting and cleaning the unit, servicing parts that might need it, and ensuring the freon charge is maintained at the manufacturer's suggested level. Having too little or too much freon can impact the HVAC system's performance, which can affect your monthly power bill.
- **Change air filters.** One of the top ways to improve how well your HVAC performs and lower your cost at the same time is by installing a new filter. A clogged or dirty filter makes the unit have longer run times, costing you more money. Therefore, it's recommended that you change the filters with a new one at least every three months. To know how long a filter has been in place, we suggest marking the new filter with the installation date.
- **Check the air handlers for possible leaks.** Sealing leaks on the air handler is very important for maximizing your HVAC equipment's performance because it helps to ensure maximum airflow to the ducts and circulation in the home. Please do not consider duct tape for this routine maintenance. Instead, we suggest mastic HVAC sealant tape as it is more durable.



- **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 outside temperature is. In addition, these tips can lead to more energy efficiency and money savings throughout the rest of the year, and who doesn't love that?

Have You Cashed 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. In September 2021, the co-op retired \$3.6 million worth of capital credits to eligible members. Payments were either applied on account or were 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/unclaimedcapitalcredits, 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.

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.

Think **SPRING** and Learn How You Can Save!

DON'T WAIT!
Spring Offer Ending Soon!

We are your heating, cooling, and electrical experts serving the Union Power community.

UP TO \$1,200 REBATE ON QUALIFYING SYSTEMS.

Offer valid for purchases between April 1, 2022 and May 31, 2022. Restrictions may apply. Contact us for more details.



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TRANE
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Working Together to Answer Your Solar Questions

At Union Power Cooperative, we are focused on supporting our members and building a brighter future for our communities. Beyond our efforts to integrate renewables while upholding the reliability and affordability of electricity, we are also supporting changing community and individual needs, like increased interest in home solar installations.

As we receive more questions about home solar, our energy specialists are dedicated to working with members to assess their home energy use and new energy technologies. We also have a dedicated section on our website, union-power.com/consideringsolar that provides clear information about this technology, how it works, a list of frequently asked questions, along with information for the interconnection process.

Embarking on a solar home project can be a significant investment. And like any major investment, it is important to consider a range of personal, geographic, and financial factors when determining the best fit for your home and family.

One of the most important questions to ask is: What are my goals? A recent study conducted across North Carolina's electric cooperatives revealed that 56 percent of co-op members who express an interest in home solar are interested because of perceived savings on their electric bills. If savings are your aim, please contact us. Our energy experts can walk through several home energy technologies and their impact on energy use. We can also perform an energy audit of your home that will yield recommendations for energy efficiency upgrades to provide a faster return on your investment.

If your motivation stems from environmental factors or the opportunity to embrace a growing technology, check out our website. It provides information about how home solar works and also shines a light on the most common questions we hear from members, including:

- Is my home in a good location for solar? Research your potential sun number online.
- How could solar impact my energy bill? Please visit union-power.com/consideringsolar. For a free consultation, contact a trusted Union Power energy advisor at 704-289-3145.
- How would my home solar system interconnect with the grid? Refer to union-power.com/renewable-energy/solar-wind-interconnection process.
- What other factors should I consider?
If you have researched home solar and it seems like a

fit, we encourage you to contact Union Power as your first step. We will provide you with important information about rates and grid interconnection agreements that you will need before entering into conversations with solar installers. While many installers are reputable and knowledgeable, there are more than 100 electric utilities in North Carolina, and it is possible that they may miss facts and details specific to our co-op.

As our cooperative works to evolve the electricity grid, we are proud to support all energy solutions that are a fit for our members, uphold the safety and reliability of our grid, and improve the diversity of our resources, while also ensuring that costs are not shifted to members without home solar panels.

Union Power is here to support you in meeting your energy goals. If you're eyeing home solar, we hope you'll connect with us soon to learn more about our interconnection process and get the accurate information you need to make an informed decision. Our team of experts is ready to help, and we look forward to continuing to work together with our members to build a brighter future for all.

To connect with an energy specialist about your specific energy goals, call 704-289-3145.



Right-of-Way Clearing

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

Cabarrus County: Geneva Dr, Henslee Pl, Hilliard Ln, Lazy Ridge Ln, Lower Rocky River Rd, Mark Dr, Pine Grove Church Rd

Mecklenburg County: Aylesbury Ln, Barry Whitaker Pl, Beaver Dam Ln, Burmester Ln, Camberwell Rd, Chislehurst Rd, Creekside Dr, Danbrooke Park Dr, Davis Trace Dr, Ellesmere Ct, Errington N, Farm Oak Ln, Hackamore Dr, Hitchgate Dr, Honeysuckle Ridge Dr, Horeback Cir, Idle Dr, Idlefield Ln, Idlewild Rd, Kuck Rd, Lawyers Rd, Markus Dr, Mills End Cir, Morris Farm Ln, Oakwielde Ct, Old Oak Ln, Peckham Rye Rd, Pine Lake Ln, Pitchfork Ln, Plashet Ln, Rebu Rd, Springwater Dr, Sustare Ct, Thamesmead Ln, Thompson Rd, Wealdstone Ct, Windrow Ln

Union County: Alden St, Arthur Dr, Balsam St, Bessant Dr, Beulah Church R, Billy Howey Rd, Bobbie Ln, Bonterra Village Way, Brittany Ct, Brooktree Ln, Carol Ave, Centerfield Ln, Chambwood Rd, Chandlers Field Dr, Conaway Ct, Courtland St, Creft Circle, Crystal Creek Ct, Darrell Simpson Dr, Denise Dr, Ennis Rd, Esther St, Etheridge St, Faith Church Rd, Frank Carter Dr, Frederick St, Frost Ct, Ginger Ln, Glen Hollow Dr, Grace Ct, Hemby Rd, High Brook Dr, Hoover Ave, Hunters Trail Dr, Hwy 16, Iris St, Jed Circle, Lake Charles Way, Lake Park Rd, Lincoln Ct, Logan Circle, Majestic Forest Dr, New Town Rd, Nuthatch Dr, Old Mill Rd, Olson Ln, Paddington Dr, S Potter Rd, Santolina Ct, Scott Long Rd, Secrest Shortcut Rd, Sherringham Way, Southwind Trail Dr, St Joseph Dr, Taft Pl, Trevor Simpson Dr, Truman St, Victoria Lake Dr, W Unionville Indian Trail Rd, Waxhaw Indian Trail Rd, Weddington Matthews Rd, Wesley Glen Dr, West St, Woodhaven 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.



Union Power Cooperative offices will be closed on Friday, April 15, for Good Friday. We wish everyone a happy and blessed Easter holiday.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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