

# Cooperative Review

JULY 2022



## A Bright Idea Becomes a Shared Reality

Two Independence High School teachers, culinary instructor Deidre Mallow and art teacher Abbie Hess, were surprised this past November when they learned they each were awarded a Bright Ideas grant from Union Power.

“I want to thank Union Power for their support. Quite often, teachers have ideas and a passion to enhance the learning opportunities for our students, but they don’t always have the means to make that idea or their dream come true. So we really appreciate Union Power for providing this opportunity to support our teachers and their ideas,” said David Legrand, principal at Independence High School.

The Bright Ideas grants, submitted last April, started as two separate projects, but with the help of the Co-op, they are now a shared reality for both teachers and their students. “We didn’t know that we both applied, but it was a treat to find out that we both won the grant and wanted to apply it to the same shared space,” Mallow said.

Mallow’s bright idea for “Culinary Craving Greenhouse” was to turn the space into a farm-to-table garden to show students where food comes from, how it is grown, and how to apply in the kitchen. “We had bits and pieces of things we needed to get the project done, which was fantastic, but we didn’t have all the tools we needed, so the money was able to help us get a couple more things that would help us be more successful and make it easier to work with the grounds.”

Since receiving the grant, Mallow and fellow culinary instructor Luvena Brown have started preserving the food they’ve grown in the garden. Their goal was to show students the preservation process of how to can/freeze the food they’ve grown so that when they return next

[Continued on page B...](#)



Deidre Mallow with a few of her culinary students.



## A Bright Idea Becomes a Shared Reality, continued . . .

school year, students will be able to use what they grew in the kitchen.

Blending her love for art and gardening, Abbie Hess had the bright idea to create a “Sustainable Apothecary Art Supply Garden” after learning about eco-dyeing from a fellow art teacher. Her idea was to create a sustainable garden for natural arts and crafts supplies such as fabric dyes, paint pigments, fiber materials, natural binding mediums, compost, apothecary mediums, herbal remedies for sensory and art purposes, and an assortment of flowers. Students will work with teachers in the garden to grow, harvest, apothecary, compost natural botanicals, mix their own paints and natural dyes, and create living sculptures, among other innovative projects.

“This garden is so much more than I could have dreamed of it being,” Hess said. “I get to witness my students taking pride in their work, their school, and in the garden. I often hear how they can’t wait to come back when they are 40 with kids and show the garden off to their kids and that they will get to work out in the space one day, too!”

And while there are an infinite number of learning opportunities teachers can create through the garden, it also serves a deeper purpose at Independence High School. The teachers and their principal shared how creating a space for students to clear their minds and refresh after these challenging past two years is a bonus.



Abbie Hess teaches art and gardening.

“To be able to create an outside space/garden where students can get away from technology and be one with the earth really gives them a different perspective and helps to support their social and emotional well-being. It’s sort of therapeutic not only for our teachers, but for our students as well,” Legrand said.



Visit [union-power.com/brightideas](https://union-power.com/brightideas) to learn more. To be entered into a drawing to win one of five \$100 Visa Cards, the Early Bird deadline is Aug 15. The final deadline is Sep. 15.

## Notification and Assignment of Capital Credits for 2021

This is to certify that by virtue of its having received revenues in excess of expenses for the year ended December 31, 2021, each member of the cooperative during the year 2021 has been credited on the books of the Cooperative, at its principal office in Monroe, with having furnished the cooperative capital in an amount equal to the following percentage of each member’s patronage during that year:

Source:	Allocation%
General Allocation (Co-op)	5.718%
Generation & Transmission Allocation (G&T)	1.992%

The allocation percentages set forth above apply to amounts billed for electric service during the year, and represent the member’s share of the allocable margin

realized by the Cooperative during the year. The resulting amount has the same status as if it had been refunded to the member in cash and immediately returned by the member to the Cooperative as member-furnished capital.

### Example:

Assume amounts billed to a member total \$1,000 for 2021, the Co-op capital credit allocation will be \$57.18 ( $\$1,000 \times 0.05718$ ) and the G&T capital credit allocation will be \$19.92 ( $\$1,000 \times 0.01992$ ).

A capital credit allocation is not cashable, and it cannot be used as a credit on the member’s electric bill. It is issued subject to all the terms and conditions as contained in the Cooperative’s Bylaws, both as presently worded and as may hereafter be duly adopted or amended.

# Know the Signs of a Scam

It's no secret that consumers with a water, gas, or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but scammers have enhanced their tactics since the COVID-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school, and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changing environment.

Imposter scams are the No. 1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone, or text.

## Common Types of Scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in person, by phone, text, or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment, so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at 704-289-3145. Our phone number can be found on your monthly bill and on our website, [union-power.com](http://union-power.com). If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact us or use the Union Power Cooperative mobile app to check the status of your account. Remember, Union Power will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it and, if possible, block the sender. If you overpay on your energy bill, Union Power will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

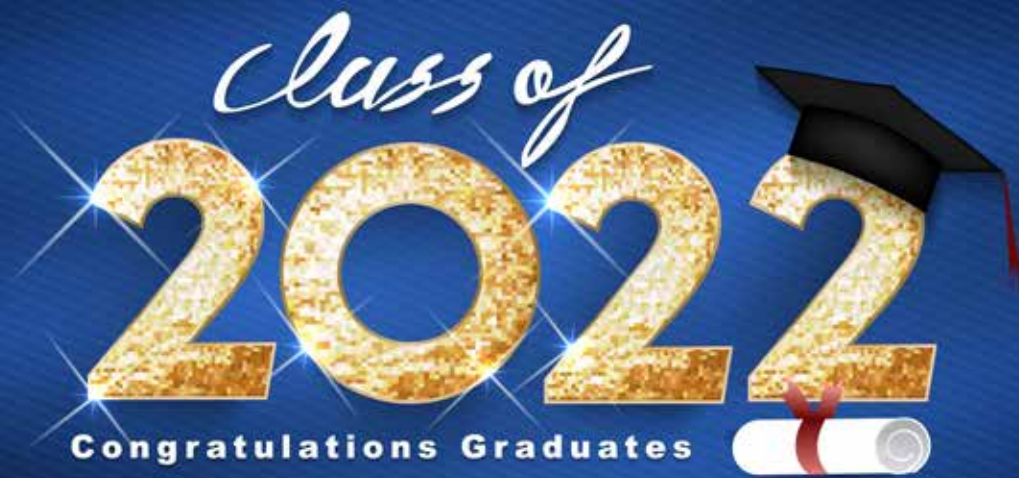


## Defend Yourself Against Scams

Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. For example, be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. Union Power employees wear uniforms that consist of khaki-colored shirts with a Union Power patch on the left-hand side and navy blue pants and carry ID badges. When we work on our members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.



## Investing in a Brighter Future for Local Students

Each year, Union Power works to support and strengthen the areas we serve while building a brighter future for our members. We do this through educational programs such as Bright Ideas, Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships, college scholarships, and other community-focused efforts. This year, we awarded a one-time \$1,000 scholarship to 10 well-deserving high school seniors to help with the cost of attending a North Carolina-accredited university or community college. The following students have met the criteria and have made an exceptional impact in their schools and local communities.



### Alicia Barrier - Union County

Alicia is a Forest Hills High School graduate with a 4.6 GPA. She plans to attend North Carolina State University to study Social Work with hopes of becoming a high school guidance counselor so that she can work

directly with the youth “to help make their lives better and establish a support system for them.”



### Leah Burlison - Stanly County

Leah is a graduate of West Stanly High School, with a 4.1 GPA. She plans to attend Stanly Community College to study Arts and later transfer to Wingate to obtain a Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood

Education. It is her hope to, one day, return to Stanly County and teach the youth in the community where she lives.



### Lacy Brooks - Mecklenburg County

Lacy is a graduate of Queen’s Grant High School, with a 4.2 GPA, who will attend Gardner-Webb University or Elon University to study Exercise Science. She was involved in various academic clubs

throughout high school, including the National Honor Society and Beta Club, where she served as vice president and secretary, respectively. She was also a leader for the school’s Youth Commission International Club and captain of the varsity tennis team.



### Hunter Dubar - Union County

Hunter is a Central Academy of Arts and Technology graduate with a 3.6 GPA. He plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in the fall to study Digital Animation. Among many of his

achievements during high school, Hunter received the Adobe Professional Certification in Video Design, played in the Symphonic Honor Band, and was a member of the National Honor Society.



### Gracie Helms - Union County

Gracie is a graduate of Porter Ridge High School, with a 4.5 GPA, who will attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study Psychology. Her goal is to become a clinical psychologist to help people, specifically young children. She served as student body president, National Art Honors Society president, and a Superintendent’s Council member. She also played on the varsity softball team.



### Abigail Lukac - Union County

Abigail is a graduate of Piedmont High School with a 4.3 GPA who will attend Western Carolina University to study Mathematics. Abigail plans to use her degree to help others by either following in her parent’s footsteps and becoming a teacher or in business by helping people create more financial stability. Abigail was a member of the marching band, the National Honors Society, and the school’s Journalism Club.



### Eden Campos - Stanly County

Eden is a graduate of West Stanly High School, with a 4.5 GPA, who plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study Political Science or Pre-Law and Spanish. Eden’s goal is to become an immigration attorney and hopes to, one day, give back to her community by helping those in the pursuit of a better life obtain their citizenship and live the life they deserve.



### Ashten Hansley - Union County

Ashten is a graduate of Parkwood High School, with a 4.2 GPA. He plans to attend Belmont Abbey College to study Business Administration and Management. Ashten’s motto is: “do your best and nothing less,” which has encouraged him throughout his high school career as a student-athlete. Ashten participated in the College Career Promise Program at South Piedmont

Community College. He also served on the Youth Council of Union County NAACP as assistant secretary, the National Honors Society, and the local and state Superintendent’s Advisory Council.



### Ashton Plyler - Union County

Ashton is a graduate of Parkwood High School, with a 3.4 GPA. He has plans to attend Wingate University to study Sports Marketing or Management in hopes of continuing his love for baseball and helping others. Ashton’s motto is: “Think it! Believe it! Live it!” and he is a firm believer in his ability to use the game of baseball to reach people. Ashton is a well-rounded student who has shown dedication to both academic and athletic achievement throughout his time in high school.



### Caitlyn Burry - Cabarrus County

Caitlyn is a graduate from Central Cabarrus High School with a 4.19 GPA. She plans to attend Rowan Cabarrus Community College and then transfer to a university to pursue a degree in Creative Writing/ Journalism. She hopes to become a well-known fiction novelist all around the world.



Visit [union-power.com/educational-programs](https://union-power.com/educational-programs) to explore all of our educational programs.

# Breathe Easier

## Five Tips for Better Indoor Air Quality

Our homes are becoming more energy-efficient—they're better insulated and sealed with less ventilation—which is great for our energy bills but not for our indoor air quality. The thought of breathing in pollutants can be scary, but the truth is that indoor air pollution is common and simply unavoidable. The good news is there are ways you can easily improve the air quality of your home.

Here are five tips to help you breathe a little easier.

### 1 Change your air filter often

Dirty filters reduce the amount of airflow and the HVAC system's efficiency. When a filter becomes too dirty, the excess dirt and dust are sent through your air ducts, adding unnecessary allergens and other unwanted particles into your living space. During the cooling season (summer months), the Department of Energy recommends replacing your air filter every month or two. This is one of the easiest ways to promote better indoor air quality and energy efficiency.

### 2 Regularly vacuum carpet and rugs—especially if you have furry friends

The cleaner the home, the healthier the home. Vacuuming carpet and area rugs once a week can significantly reduce the accumulation of pet dander and dust inside your home. Frequently clean other areas that collect dust, like drapes, bedding, and cluttered areas.

### 3 Use vents to remove cooking fumes

Those exhaust fans aren't just for when you burn the bacon. Fans help remove fumes emitted while cooking and eliminate unwanted moisture and odors. They may be a bit noisy, but these handy tools can help you improve indoor air quality while preparing that culinary masterpiece (or even a grilled cheese sandwich!).

### 4 Get a handle on humidity

Summer months typically bring more humidity than we'd like, especially if you live in a high-humidity climate zone. Moisture in the air can carry bacteria and other unwanted particles that you eventually breathe in. Dehumidifiers work to remove that moisture from the air, reducing the amount of bacteria, mold, and other allergens in your home.

### 5 Incorporate air-purifying plants into your living space

There are several varieties of indoor plants that can help detoxify your home from dust and germs found in a variety of home products, furniture, and other materials. A few low-maintenance, air-purifying plants to consider



are aloe vera, pothos (also known as Devil's Ivy), and snake plants. These vibrant, lush plants are eye-catching and beneficial for any home. Remember to review care conditions and think about placement for any new plants you add to your home.

Taking simple steps to purify indoor air can improve health and overall quality of life. With a little effort, you can improve the indoor air quality of your home and breathe a bit easier.

# Assess Your Home's Energy Use and Maximize Your Savings

Looking to take advantage of ways to save money on your electricity bill? Union Power Cooperative offers a variety of online features, tips, and tools to help you understand and manage your energy use, pinpoint issues, and develop solutions to make energy-saving home improvements.

One of these features is the Energy Advisor. It is a simple online form that asks eleven questions about your home, appliances, and energy-use habits. Have your Union Power account ready, and visit [union-power.com/myhome](http://union-power.com/myhome) to build your home energy profile. Then, click on the house icon at the top left of your screen to begin answering the questions. The home energy profile is complete when you see the house icon with a green circle around it.

At the bottom of the screen, click Show Analysis to get a personalized list of Ways to Save with suggested improvements that can help you reduce energy and costs. An Annual Energy Use Breakdown will also be provided for your home based on how you built your home energy profile.

If you're looking for more ideas to help you save, we can help! First, visit [union-power.com/auditmyhome/](http://union-power.com/auditmyhome/) and complete the Home Energy Audit Request Form. Then, an Energy Specialist from Union Power will contact you to



evaluate and provide an analysis of how your home is performing.

Start saving by updating your home energy profile and taking control of your energy use today!

Review our energy-saving calculators at [union-power.com/energysavingscalculators](http://union-power.com/energysavingscalculators).

*With a reliable Trane high-efficiency system from Union Services, you'll be prepared for the scorching heat.*

- ✓ Finance with convenient plans
- ✓ Stay comfortable all summer long
- ✓ Save money and energy all year



Scan the QR code or visit [savewithunion.com/request-estimate](http://savewithunion.com/request-estimate) to request a FREE estimate.

**704-283-9047**  
**savewithunion.com**

Subject to credit approval. Contact for details.



**TRANE**

*It's Hard To Stop A Trane.*

**Union Services**  
*A Union Power Company*

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

# Right-of-Way Clearing

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

**Stanly County:** Austin Rd, Barbee's Grove Rd, Bethel Church Rd, Big Bear Rd, Biles Rd, Booger Hollar Rd, Bridgeport Rd, Coley Store Rd, Creekview St, Crestview Ln, Efird Rd, Farmwood Ln, Flintridge Rd, Gold Rush Tr, Heavenly Path, Hinson Farm Ln, Lanes End Rd, Linda Ln, Little Creek Rd, Maple St, Mary Ln, Meadowcreek Ch Rd, Oakgrove St, Old Concord Rd, Pineridge St, Pond Rd, Quail Run Rd, Reed Mine Tr, Rowland Rd, Running Creek Ch Rd, Scout Rd, St Martin Rd, Stony Creek Ln, Sugar Hill Rd, Timberlane Dr, Twin Oaks Cir, Wayne Dr, Woodwinds St

**Union County:** Arthur Dr, Antioch Church Rd, Antioch Court, Bent Tree Tr, Bessant Dr, Billy Howey Rd, Bobbie Ln, Bonterra Village Way, Brittany Ct, Belair Dr, Brookstone Trail, Bonds Grove Church Rd, Brooktree Ln, Carol Ave, Cane Creek Rd, Chambwood Rd, Clarence Secrest Rd, Courtland St, Daniel Dr, Darrell Simpson Dr, Denise Dr, Eden Hollow Ln, Esther St, Etheridge St, Faith Church Rd, Frank Carter Dr, Four Wood Dr, George Guin Rd, Glenn Dr, Glenwood Dr, Greywood Ln, Ginger Ln, Grace Ct, HB Starnes Rd, Hoover Ave, Huntington Dr, Iris St, Lake Charles Way, Lake Park Rd, Lincoln Ct, Logan Circle, Majestic Forest Dr, Nesbit Rd, New Town Rd, Nuthatch Dr, Oak Forest Circle, Oakwood Dr, Old Highway Rd, Olson Ln, Paddington Dr, Plainview Dr, Ranch Dr, Rock Hill Church Rd, Rushing St, Ruth St, S Providence Rd, S Rocky River Rd, S Potter Rd, Sanlee Dr, Scott Long Rd, Secrest



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.

Shortcut Rd, Southwind Trail Dr, St Joseph Dr, Three Wood Dr, Tom Starnes Rd, Trevor Simpson Dr, Truman St, Union Rd, W Unionville Indian Trail Rd, Walden Ln, Waxhaw Hwy, Weddington Rd, West St, Whispering Hollow Rd, Wingard Rd, Woodhaven Rd



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lee Roy Kirk, Jr.  
**President**

Dent H. Turner  
**Vice President**

Sherise Jones  
**Secretary-Treasurer**

David G. Hyatt  
**Asst. Secretary-Treasurer**

Tom J. Caudle  
Winnie C. Honeycutt  
Thomas E. Porter, Jr.  
David E. Smith  
Sue B. Threath

[union-power.com](http://union-power.com)

**Toll-Free Customer Service**

1-800-922-6840

**24-Hour Outage**

**Reporting & Account Info**

1-800-794-4423

