

Five Easy Ways to Exercise Your Civic Duty

America's electric cooperatives, including Union Power Cooperative, understand the value of building relationships with elected officials at all levels of government. Many important policy issues directly impact electric utilities and you, the members we proudly serve. Strengthening our relationships with elected leaders allows us to advocate for our local community.

While Union Power Cooperative is a locally-owned cooperative, we are part of a larger network of electric co-ops. Through our non-partisan grassroots program known as "Co-ops Vote," we are working to enhance the political strength of electric co-ops and boost voter turnout. There's power in numbers, and when we all show up at the polls, we can voice the issues that matter most to our community.

National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 20, and midterm elections are right around the corner. If you want to get involved or make sure you're ready to vote, here are five easy ways to exercise your civic duty.

- **Don't assume your voter registration status is up-to-date.** Visit vote.coop, then click "Election Resources" to verify your status.
- **Get informed.** In addition to ensuring your registration is up-to-date, learning about local policy issues and candidates is one of the best ways to prepare to vote.
- **Get active on social media.** Follow [@coopsvote](https://www.facebook.com/coopsvote) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and encourage your friends and family to do the same.
- **Help others prepare to vote.** Work at a National Voter Registration Day event. Visit nationalvoterregistrationday.org/events to volunteer to be a poll worker during midterm elections or offer to drive others to their polling places.
- **Vote!** It's the easiest—and most important—way you can exercise your civic duty.

Voting is a form of personal empowerment that allows you to share your opinion on the issues that matter most to you. So make a plan to vote and help others in our community get [#VoteReady](https://www.facebook.com/coopsvote).



We encourage everyone, regardless of political beliefs, to vote, stand up for our local community and make a collective impact.



Keep Food Safe When the Power Goes Out

Severe winds, lightning, and even animals can temporarily cause the power to go out. Extended power outages are rare, but when they occur, it's important to understand food safety measures to avoid illness.

Before an outage

- Keep an emergency supply kit on hand. Be sure to include nonperishable food items like bottled water, powdered milk, canned goods, cereal, and protein bars in your emergency kit.
- If you have a warning that an outage is possible, fill a cooler with ice—just in case the outage spans several hours. Having a cooler ready to go can buy extra time for your refrigerated and perishable items.

During an outage

- If an outage occurs, do not open the refrigerator or freezer unless absolutely necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for about 24 hours, and a full freezer for about 48 hours.
- If it looks like the power outage will last longer than four hours, move your important perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

After an outage

- If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours, the American Red Cross recommends discarding the items. In addition, food with an unusual color, odor, or texture should be thrown away.
- When there is an extended outage, throw out any perishable food.

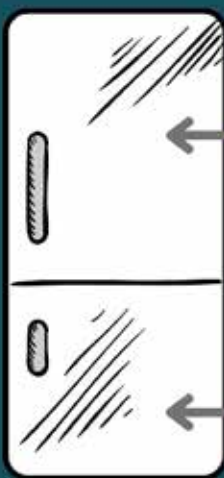
Items safe to consume after a two-hour exposure to 40+ degrees:

- Hard cheeses that are adequately wrapped
 - Butter or margarine that is adequately wrapped
 - Taco, barbecue, and soy sauces
 - Peanut butter, jelly, mustard, ketchup, and relish
- The best way to avoid illness from spoiled food during or after an outage is to follow the four-hour rule. After an outage, always smell and inspect foods before consuming, and remember: when in doubt, throw it out.

Keep Food Safe

During and After a Power Outage

Refrigerated or frozen foods may not be safe to eat after a power outage. Use these tips to minimize food loss and reduce risk of illness.



Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color or texture.
Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after four hours without power or a cold source (like a cooler with ice).
- 3.

When in doubt, throw it out!



To learn more about food safety after an emergency, visit [ready.gov/food](https://www.ready.gov/food).

Hurricane Season Is Here—Be Prepared

2022'S SEASON RUNS FROM JUNE 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30

North Carolina sees the most hurricanes in August, September, and October. Entering September, we have reached the season's peak. Just because we may not be on the coast, from past experience, we know that a hurricane can have a significant impact on the piedmont region. As our late afternoon and evening storms increase with high temperatures making them more severe, it is important to remember how to stay safe and prepared this month.

Union Power is always prepared to respond quickly and as safely as possible to outages. However, while we are working on getting your lights back on, here are some things you can do to help speed up the process:

- **Report the Outage.** Call 1-800-794-4423. This will help us let our crews know where to respond.
- **Have a plan.** It is always good to know what to do during any situation involving a hurricane. Consider every scenario and what you might do if one were to become a reality. Achieving this can be easy by creating a list of supplies you might need, locations to take shelter in, and even a communication plan in case of an emergency.

- **Follow Local Weather Reports.** Make sure to listen to and follow local weather reports during a storm so you can know as much information as possible.

We also want to remind you to never go near or drive over downed power lines, as they may be energized. So make a plan and stay safe!



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Protecting Yourself:

- Have a First Aid Kit.
- Make sure to have essential pet care items for your furry friends.
- Have a supply of food and water for at least three days.
- Make sure to have any important documents protected in waterproof containers.

Protecting Your Home:

- Move lawn furniture into a sheltered area, including bikes, grills, furniture, and propane tanks.
- Secure any loose objects.
- Cover windows and doors.
- Take inventory of your property in case anything is destroyed.
- Trim trees near the home.



It's Electric!

Electric vehicles (EVs) have a lot to offer including increased convenience, cost savings, decreased maintenance, and a better driving experience. National Drive Electric week runs from Sept. 23 through Oct. 2.

Today's EVs offer near-instant torque, meaning fast acceleration and more response behind the wheel. There are sleek options to fit any driver, from sedans to SUVs. As for charge time, vehicles will vary depending on the brand and type of battery they have. Because they have fewer moving parts than gas-powered cars, they require less maintenance and no oil changes. Finally, they continue to become more affordable, especially when paired with rebates, tax incentives, and a low-interest loan available to cooperative members through the ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union.

Union Power is taking steps to make it more convenient than ever to drive an electric vehicle. We are partnering with other electric cooperatives across North Carolina to build an electric vehicle charging network that allows EV drivers to easily travel throughout our state and to the communities co-ops are proud to call home.

Our Electric Vehicle Calculator is one of many resources that allow members to compare their gas-

powered vehicles with various plug-in and hybrid EVs to understand the difference in monthly costs and savings.

We encourage you to take 10 minutes out of your day to look into an electric vehicle and become educated on the benefits it could have for you!



If you are considering driving electric, contact one of our energy specialists at 704-289-3145, or visit union-power.com/energysavingscalculators and check out our Electric Vehicles Calculator for more information.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Our faucets and appliances use a lot of hot water. You can lower your water heating costs by using less hot water in your home. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills.

To save energy used for water heating, repair leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When purchasing a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

Scholarship Opportunities for High School Juniors and Seniors

Union Power College Scholarships

High School Seniors



Union Power Cooperative is accepting applications beginning on Sept. 1, and will award 10 local students with a college scholarship to a North Carolina-accredited college or university.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be the child of a Union Power Cooperative member or reside in a household served by Union Power.
- Be a high school senior in the current graduating class.
- Meet the criteria for awarding the scholarship: 40% need; 30% scholastic achievement; and 30% extracurricular activities in school, civic, and community functions.

Visit union-power.com/collegescholarships to apply for a \$1,000 college scholarship by March 1, 2023.

NC Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

High School Juniors

Juniors, would you like a free trip to Washington, D.C.? Union Power Cooperative is seeking applications from high school juniors willing to take a leadership opportunity of a lifetime. Step out of your comfort zone and join North Carolina's future leaders as they explore the nation's capital.



In just five days, you'll get to visit the National Mall, Smithsonian museums, Arlington National Cemetery, the Newseum (the world's most interactive museum), the Lincoln Memorial and more!

Students in the 2024 graduating class are eligible to attend and are encouraged to apply at union-power.com/youthtour.

The deadline to apply is Friday, Dec. 30, 2022.



All educational programs are judged, and winners are selected by an independent committee not affiliated with the Cooperative. Winners will be notified upon the conclusion of each event. Children of Union Power employees and its subsidiary, Union Services, are not eligible to apply.

2022 Annual Meeting

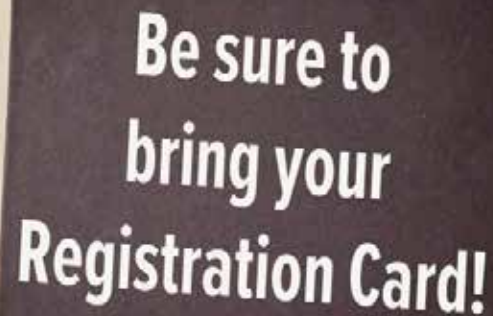
Join Us on October 8

Union Power will host an in-person Annual Meeting at Lee Park Church in Monroe on Saturday, Oct. 8, beginning at 7 a.m. Be on the lookout for your Official Notice and registration card arriving in your mailbox in September. Additional details will be available in the October issue of our newsletter and at union-power.com/annualmeeting.

Below is a list of our vendors:

- BMW
- Bucke Truck Photo Opp
- Carolina Country
- Council on Aging
- ElecTel Credit Union
- Farm Bureau
- HealthQuest
- James River Equipment
- Union Power Safety Demo
- Porsche
- Tesla
- Union County Ag Extension
- Union Services
- Visit Stanly

You should receive
your Registration Card
in the mail the week
of Sept. 5.



Be sure to
bring your
Registration Card!



Bright Ideas
EDUCATION GRANTS

BRING YOUR CREATIVE LEARNING PROJECTS **TO LIGHT!**

APPLY NOW
FINAL DEADLINE: SEPT 15, 2022

SCAN HERE

Union Power Cooperative
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

QUESTIONS?
Contact Carrie Stroud @
carrie.stroud@union-power.com

Get Ready For the Season of Change

Receive a **FREE** upgrade with the purchase of a new system

Pick one:

- A Free REME Halo LED Germicidal Light**
- OR
- A Free Media Filter**
- OR
- A Free WiFi Thermostat**

Scan the QR code or visit savewithunion.com/request-estimate to request a **FREE** estimate.

704-283-9047 | savewithunion.com

Restrictions may apply. Contact us 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: Bethel Church Rd, Coley Store Rd, Crestview Ln, Frog Pond Rd, Graham Rd, Hinson Farm Ln, Lorch Rd, Newsome Rd, Quail Run Rd, Woodfield Rd

Union County: Alisa Dr, Armfield Mill Rd, Arthur Dr, Austin Rd, Baker Rd, Balsam St, Bessant Dr, Bobbie Ln, Brooktree Ln, Cane Creek Rd, Carl Belk Rd, Carol Ave, Cheraw Rd, Circle S Ranch Rd, Clontz Taylor Rd, Countland St, Daniel Dr, Darrell Simpson Dr, Denise Dr, Ellis Belk Rd, Esther St, Etheridge St, Faith Church Rd, Forest Ln, Four Wood Dr, Foxhound Ln, George Guin Rd, Ginger Ln, Grace Ct, Gulledge Parker Rd, Gus Eubanks Rd, Hoover Ave, Hunters Trail Dr, Iris St, Jack Davis Rd, Jordan Dr, Jug Broome Rd, Kelly Autry Rd, Kensington Dr, Lake Charles Way, Lake Park Rd, Landsford Rd, Lincoln Ct, Logan Cir, McCall Rd, Moser Circle, Nesbit Rd, Nuthatch Dr, Oak Forest Circle, Oakwood Dr, Old Highway Rd, Philadelphia Church Rd, Plainview Dr, Plyler Mill Rd, Ranch Dr, Rape Rd, Riggins Rd, Rock Hill Church Rd, Rocky Pine Ct, S Potter Rd, S Providence Rd, S Rocky River Rd, Sara Hinson Rd, Secrest Shortcut Rd, St Joseph Dr, Stack Rd, Starnes Cemetery Rd, State Line Rd, Taft Pl, Third Ave, Three Wood Dr, Tom Starnes Rd, Trevor Simpson Dr, Trinity Church Rd, Truman St, Union Rd, Vann Sneed Rd, W Sandy Ridge Rd, W Unionville Indian Trail Rd, Wallace Branch Rd, Walt Gay Rd, Walters Mill Rd, Waxhaw Marvin Rd, West St, WM Griffin Rd, Wolf Pond Rd, 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.



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

Toll-Free Customer Service

1-800-922-6840

24-Hour Outage

Reporting & Account Info

1-800-794-4423

