

Cooperative Review

JANUARY 2023



What Are You Waiting On?

Download the Union Power App

Our mobile app is a more convenient and efficient way to manage your account. With the app, you can set up alerts, review your energy consumption, as well as update your password from the comfort of your home.

The app gives you unlimited access when it comes to viewing your account. For instance, if you have multiple accounts, you can select which one you would like to pay. Below are a few features the app offers.

- A credit/debit card can be saved through the app to make future payments quick and convenient.
- Sign up for auto-pay to give you more flexibility on managing your payments.
- View your billing or payment history.
- Review your energy usage results and compare them with weather that may have impacted your daily energy use. This can save you energy and money!
- Sign up for alerts through the app to receive notifications on your mobile device(s) via text, email, and voice mail.



Download the Union Power Mobile app:



Union Power Supports Local Teachers!

Recently, Union Power honored 16 teachers with Bright Ideas grants in our five-county service area. The grants will impact nearly 8,700 students and benefit all subjects and grade levels.

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have dedicated their interest to improving education in North Carolina. The Bright Ideas grant program has expanded over the past two decades, encouraging teachers to share their bright ideas that will be meaningful and engage students in furthering their education.

Vice President of Communications & Marketing Carrie Stroud said, "With the Bright Ideas program, teachers truly show how incredible and creative they are through their applications. It is an honor that the North Carolina electric cooperatives including Union Power can support our local teachers and strengthen our communities."

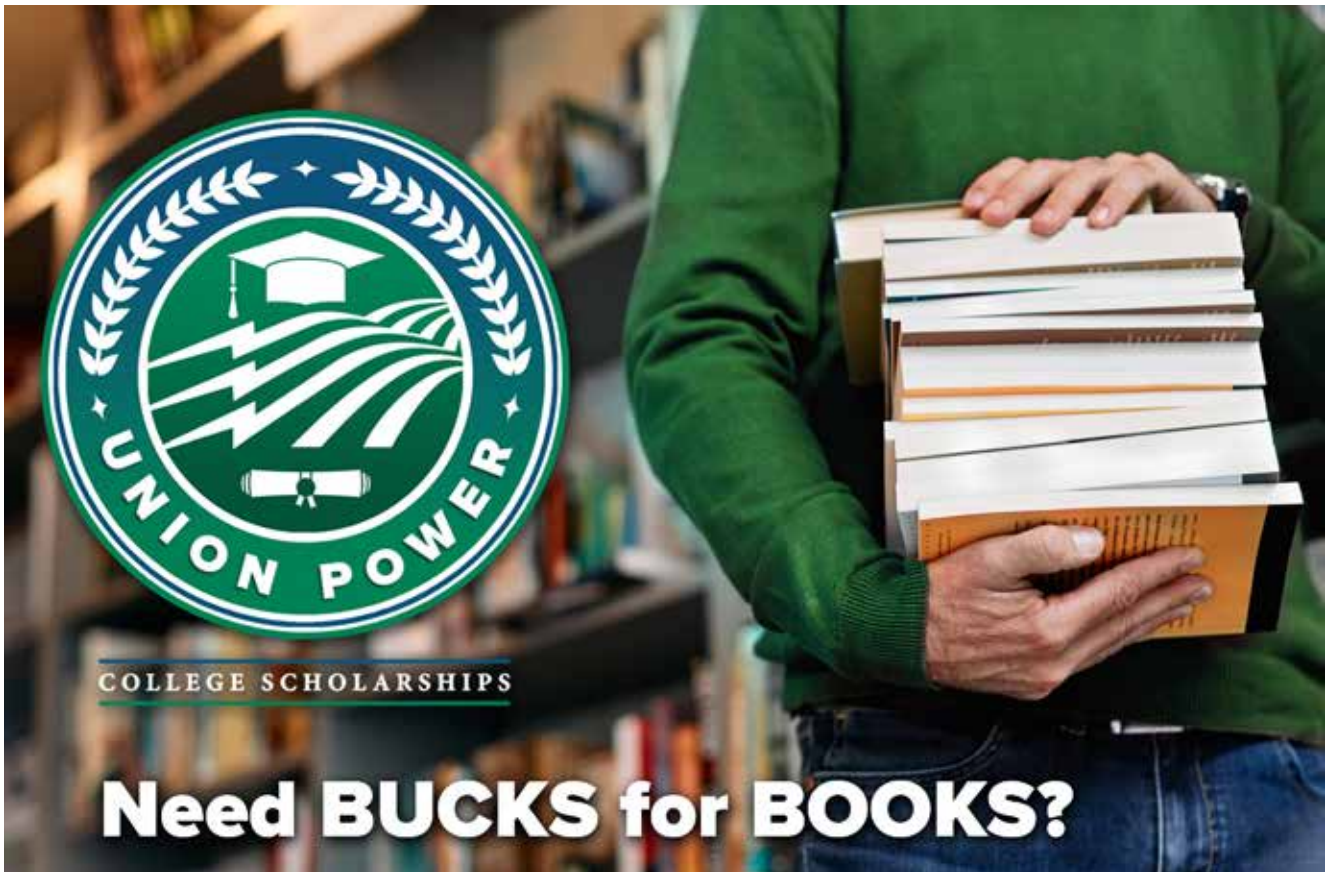
Beginning April 1, 2023, teachers are encouraged to visit union-power.com/brightideas to apply.



2022-2023 Bright Ideas Winners

Teacher Name	School	County	Grant Name	Awarded
Carina Brossy	Arborbrook Christian Academy	Union	All the World's a Stage	\$1,768
Shelly Vetter	Badin Elementary	Stanly	Beat Your Heart Out!	\$1,412
Carrie Morgan	Harold E. Winkler Middle	Cabarrus	Job Training for Students with Disabilities	\$1,786
Heather Shulman	Hickory Ridge Elementary	Cabarrus	Adventure Awaits	\$1,390
Abbie Hess	Independence High	Mecklenburg	Apothecary Art Garden	\$2,000
Deidre Mallow	Independence High	Mecklenburg	Culinary Cravings Greenhouse	\$1,995
Darleen Morris	Parkwood High	Union	Every'body' Needs Some'body'	\$667
Shelley Gordon	Parkwood High	Union	Spike into Learning! with LEGO Education SPIKE	\$448
Adam Haas	Rocky River Elementary	Union	Adaptive Coding Collaborators	\$2,000
Elizabeth Benstead	Rocky River Elementary	Cabarrus	Rocky River Philanthropists	\$948
Amy Erb	Stallings Elementary	Union	Zooming into STEAM	\$1,233
Nadene Tracy	Union Academy High	Union	Forces in the Real World	\$775
Jeff Starnes	Union Academy Middle	Union	Together, we endeavor to keep a weather eye!	\$552
Callie Thigpen	West Stanly Middle	Stanly	Triple C (Colts' Chicken Coop)	\$958
Mary Barbee	West Stanly Middle	Stanly	Colt News - Vlogging & Videos	\$860
Lacy McIntyre	Wingate Elementary	Union	Hydroponics System	\$1,867





If you are a high school senior planning to go to college, take advantage of this opportunity for a chance to win a \$1,000 college scholarship. Union Power is awarding 10 outstanding students from our five-county service area—Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties—with a \$1,000 college scholarship.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

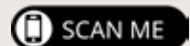
- Be the child of a Union Power Cooperative member or reside in a household served by Union Power.
- Be a high school senior in the current graduating class.
- Meet the criteria for awarding the scholarship: 40% need; 30% scholastic achievement; and 30%

extracurricular activities in school, civic, and community functions.

Visit union-power.com/collegescholarships to apply by March 1, 2023.



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.



Basketball Camp Is Just Around The Corner

Attention, middle school students: If you are a rising sixth- or seventh-grader who loves basketball and would love to learn from the pros, here is your chance.

Union Power is now accepting applications for one young boy and one young girl to attend basketball camp at two North Carolina universities this summer. Union Power will select one boy to attend the Carolina Basketball school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The chosen young girl will attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball camp at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

The two chosen students will work closely with college coaches to develop fundamental skills and techniques, build relationships with other students and players, and help the young athletes perform and excel on and off the court. The camp will also cover training and overnight stays in the dorm during the camp sessions in June 2023.

Middle schoolers from Union Power's five-county territory - Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties - can apply to attend Touchstone Energy's basketball camp beginning Jan. 1, 2023.

Applicants will be judged based on their academics, extracurricular activities, and two short essays. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2023.



For more information about the Touchstone Energy Basketball Sports Camp, visit union-power.com/sportscampscholarships.

Touchstone Energy®
Sports Camp Scholarships

Rising 6th & 7th graders can apply for a summer basketball camp scholarship!

APPLICATION DEADLINE
MARCH 31ST

APPLY NOW!

union-power.com/sportscampscholarships

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SCAN ME



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Did you know insulating your electric water heater could reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs.

Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. The Department of Energy rates this project level as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores.

Learning Your System in the Cooler Temperatures

Cooler temperatures are here, and it is important to know what kind of heating unit you have in your home, whether it is an electric heat pump, gas furnace, electric furnace, oil furnace, or dual fuel system. At Union Power, we help our members manage their energy during cooler temperatures and save money.

Understanding what type of unit you have is important; knowing how to operate your unit for the highest efficiency in the long term is also beneficial. For example, with heat pumps, if you adjust your thermostat while in heat mode, make sure you do so in two-degree increments or less. If you raise the temperature setting more than two degrees above the room temperature, this will result in the emergency heat being activated and will run until the thermostat is back within two degrees of the set point, which could cause an increase in your energy consumption.

Emergency/auxiliary heat will also turn on when the heat pump goes into its defrost cycle, which occurs when the coil temperature outside reaches at or around freezing temperatures. Heat pumps will automatically transition to the auxiliary heat mode during this time. Typically, a heat pump will become ineffective with outside temperatures at or below freezing and will have to rely on the emergency/auxiliary heat to maintain the home thermostat setting.

If you notice your emergency/auxiliary heat is operating and the outside temperatures do not justify it, then it is recommended to have your unit inspected by a professional.

Knowing the basics of your home heating system could provide you with the ability to ensure your unit is operating efficiently. Contact our energy specialist team if you have any additional questions or need further help.



What Type of Heating System Do You Have?

To determine the type of heating system you have in your home, below are a few ways to do so:

- Check the thermostat's mode selection.
- If your thermostat **does not have** an emergency/auxiliary heat selection, this most likely means you have a gas furnace, oil furnace, or an all-electric furnace as your primary heating source for your home.
- If your thermostat has an emergency/auxiliary heat option, you most likely have a heat pump as your primary heating source, with electric or gas auxiliary heat.
- Check the label on the outside unit for the make and model number.
- Call 704-289-3145 and speak with one of our energy specialists to help you determine the type of unit you have.



Don't get caught out in the cold!

In unpredictable weather, be sure your heating system is able to take on the cold this winter.

Stay home, stay safe, and stay cozy this season with a new high-efficiency Trane furnace.



Trane guarantees its furnaces will keep you and your home reliably warm during those colder months. Here are just a few of the reasons you should choose a Trane furnace for your home:

High-efficiency system. Everyone claims to have the highest-efficiency furnace, but Trane has worked hard to include components across the board to ensure its furnaces operate at 90 percent annual fuel utilization efficiency (AFUE) and higher.

Quiet operation. Many furnaces have a noisy sound level while running. Trane furnaces have cabinet insulation for their moving parts like the blower motor and fans. These furnaces run exceptionally quiet.

Great value. A great value does not necessarily mean the lowest price. In fact, it typically does not. It does mean with all the updated features and high-efficiency ratings on a Trane furnace, you will receive a more affordable unit than others with more bells and whistles.



TRANE

It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

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*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.

Mecklenburg County: Allen Black Rd

Stanly County: Joy Rd

Union County: Allen Black Rd, Banyan Way, Bent Oak Dr, Bonds Grove Church Rd, Brookgreen Terrace, Brownstone Ct, Cedar Knoll Dr, Crane Rd, Edgefield Ct, Fairfield Dr, Fieldstone Dr, Gray Byrum Rd, Green Ash Ln, Hillcrest Dr, Idlewild Rd, Lake Dr, Laurelwood Ln, Linden Ct, Lineview Dr, Mary Elizabeth Church Rd, McCain Mill Rd, Millhouse Ln, Millwright Ln, Old Farm Ct, Old Highway Rd, Prince Valiant Dr, Rainbow Dr, Red Bud Tr, S Potter Rd, Sandalwood Dr, Shadow Lake Ln, Stacy Howie Rd, Stevens Mill Rd, Stoney Ridge Rd, Tom Starnes Rd, Viking Dr, W Lawyers Rd, Waxhaw Marvin Rd, Wild Rose Ct, Willowbrook Dr, Woodland Ct



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 and information on our programs.

IN OBSERVANCE OF
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day
UNION POWER COOPERATIVE'S
Offices will be closed
01.16.23



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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