

Cooperative Review

FEBRUARY 2023



My Home Energy Report

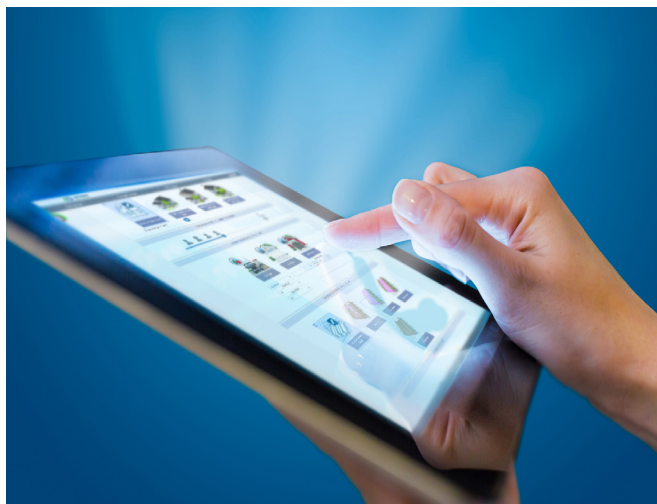
Complete Your Home Profile

Union Power provides a way for our members to manage their energy and save money at the same time. With a completed My Home profile, you will receive easy-to-read graphs and helpful information about how your household uses energy and ways to make your home more efficient, comfortable, and enjoyable.

Our Home Energy Assessment is analyzed based on the answers you provide about your home. Once our system receives the information you provide, the assessment will create a customized report that shows how your home is predicted to use energy and how to save with improvements in the home. Take your assessment today!

How to get started:

- **Create your home's energy profile.** To begin, visit union-power.com, click on the Member Resources & Services tab, then Audit My Home. Next, select the "My Home" link at the bottom of the page. Once you click on the link, you will need to enter the account number printed on your electric bill and the location of your home. Once you provide the information, you will be asked a series of 11 questions ranging from your home's size (square feet), number of occupants, insulation type, average thermostat settings, and more. Remember, the more details you share, the more accurate the analysis will be.
- **Get custom recommendations.** Once you finish the questions, click "Show Analysis" to see your results. The analysis will give a home "efficiency rating" and a detailed breakdown of your electricity cost usage from year to year and month to month, as well as information on ways to save energy based on your results.
- **Improve your home's efficiency.** Based on the results, build on your list of improvements and track your progress!



Taking small steps to ensure your home is as energy-efficient as possible can add significant results.



Visit union-power.com/member-resources-services/usage-alerts  more information regarding the mobile app, or call 704-289-3145 to speak with one of our energy specialists.

Don't Miss Out on these Educational Programs!



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SCAN ME



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Attention High School Seniors!

Are you looking for a scholarship to cover the increasing cost of education after high school? Union Power is proud to offer 10 \$1,000 scholarship to a high school senior planning to attend a North Carolina accredited four-year institution or community college. All applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2023.



To learn more about our educational programs or to download an application, visit union-power.com/educational-programs.

Six Ways to Save Energy this Winter

The colder months often bring higher energy bills for homeowners. Many people are at home more during the winter months, which can increase energy use. It's important to save electricity in the winter to lower your electric bills, not to mention reduce your carbon footprint.

Below are six ways to conserve energy when the temperature drops:

1 Switch to a smart thermostat

A smart thermostat is a high-tech way to save electricity in the winter. Programmable thermostat savings come from the ability to fine-tune and optimize when your furnace runs. You can program the thermostat to turn down while you're sleeping and away from home. You can reduce your electric bill in winter without sacrificing comfort. If you still feel chilly, wrap up in a blanket or add layers of clothing.



2 Don't block the heat

If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture or rugs, your home isn't adequately heated.

3 Take advantage of sunlight

Sunshine coming through your windows can help heat up a room. Opening and closing drapes strategically can help you save on your energy bill this winter. Open drapes when the sun is shining in, then close them when it gets dark. Be sure to close drapes and shades across all of your windows at night to prevent drafts and heat loss through the glass.

4 Weather-strip your doors and windows

Drafts from your doors and windows can leak out more heat than you might imagine, but you can put a stop to it by installing weather stripping around them. Plus, door sweeps help seal the space between the bottom of your door and the door frame. Also, draft stoppers can give you some measure of protection from the cold.

5 Close the damper when not using the fireplace

Relaxing in front of a warm fireplace can be a wonderful end to a cold day, but the heat could escape up the chimney if you forget to close the damper. You can also save electricity in winter by installing a more efficient fireplace and switching from wood burning to gas. Installing a glass screen will make your fireplace more energy efficient as well. It radiates the heat from the fire but prevents warm air from being pulled in and vented out the chimney.

6 Block air leaks

Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weather stripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

Check Out Our Space Heater Calculator

Small space heaters do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is whether you should use space heaters or not depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

Suppose you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system. In that case, space heaters are not a practical solution. They are not designed to be used as primary heating resources for large areas.

The simplest way to improve home efficiency is to inspect your home, caulk windows, and weather-strip around exterior doors. However, adding insulation can be

a significant next step to improve home efficiency. Contact one of our energy specialists to explain how insulation may help reduce your power bill.

Taking these proactive energy-saving measures, rather than relying on space heaters for warmth, can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come. The space heater calculator will help determine the cost per kWh based on the number of space heaters used in the home and the hours you use them. Visit union-power.com/



[energysavingscalculators](#) and click on the Space Heater Calculator icon for an estimated cost of your space heater use.

STREET LIGHT Need Repair?





UPC
0
7
1
1
8
3

1 Get the pole number from the yellow tag on the light pole.

2 Complete the "Street Light Repair" Form found at union-power.com/lightrepair. Or, call 1-800-922-6840.

3 We will confirm your request and repairs will be scheduled.



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Looking for Ways to Start a Budget for 2023?

Union Power has the tools to help you get started and achieve those budget goals. We use multiple resources to help you put more money in your pocket! With our two programs, Budget Billing and Levelized Billing, we want to ensure you have all the right tools and guidance to reach your goals of starting the new year strong.

Levelized Billing

Levelized Billing is based on a rolling, 12-month average. Each month the amount will increase or decrease slightly as consumption changes. Levelized Billing prevents drastic changes in your bill, even during the coldest or hottest months of the year. Within each monthly bill, there is rarely a significant difference in the payment amount from month to month – typically a few dollars.

Budget Billing

Budget billing is a fixed dollar average determined by Union Power based on your previous 12-month history consumption. The average is reviewed annually each November. Upon review, a new monthly bill amount will be determined based on one-twelfth of your annual estimated usage.



To learn more about starting a budget and saving money for the new year, visit union-power.co/member-resources-services/billing-and-payment-options or speak to one of our Customer Service representatives at 704-289-3145 to help you get started.

John is going to do a Valentine QR for the storm ready

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heating, cooling, and electrical
experts serving the
Union Power Community.*



High-Efficiency Trane® Heat Pumps. **MORE AFFORDABLE THAN YOU KNOW.**

Now is the perfect time to purchase a new high-efficiency Trane® heat pump! They deliver clean energy, keeping you comfortable all year long and helping you save on your energy bill. Be sure to check the HSPF and SEER ratings for their efficiency.

With their clean energy, heat pumps cost less to operate. Your annual energy bills will decrease, and you will reap the financial benefits in no time.

Contact Union Services to discuss our affordable monthly payment plans. We have one that will fit your needs.



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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 10/02/2022 and is subject to change. For current information, call us at 1-800-431-5921. Offer expires 2/28/2023.

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: Castleford Dr, Dartford Ln, Helena Circle, Lawyers Rd, Rothwell Dr, Thompson Rd, Via Siena Dr, Waltham Pl, Yarmouth Rd

Stanly County: Bay Dr, Big Lick Rd, Carriker Rd, Crisco Dr, Greene Rd, Griffin-Greene Blvd, Hatley-Burris Rd, Hollybrook Dr, Oak Grove Rd, Office Rd, Saddle Club Rd, Sides Rd, St Martin Rd

Union County: Army Rd, Banyan Way, Bonds Grove Church Rd, Cedar Knoll Dr, Crane Rd, Fish Rd, Gray Byrum Rd, Hwy 205, Laurelwood Ln, Linden Ct, Mary Elizabeth Church Rd, McCain Mill Rd, Old Highway Rd, Old Kennedy Ford Rd, Prince Valiant Dr, Rainbow Dr, Red Bud Tr, S Potter Rd, Sandalwood Dr, Stacy Howie Rd, Tom Starnes Rd, Viking Dr, Waxhaw Marvin 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 and information on our programs.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month:

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy-efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.

**UnionPower
Cooperative**

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

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