

Cooperative Review

APRIL 2023



National Lineman Appreciation Day

Let's All **#ThankALineworker** on April 18

Tuesday, April 18, is National Lineman Appreciation day. Electric cooperatives across the nation will recognize the many linemen who contribute their life to their cooperative by ensuring their members' power is on, no matter what the weather conditions are outside. Of course, linemen deserve all the recognition throughout the year, but on April 18, we set aside a day to thank them and give them all the well-deserved recognition.

Our Linemen are first responders in our community, working around the clock in difficult and dangerous conditions to keep power flowing through our homes and the community. Whether restoring power after a major storm or maintaining a critical infrastructure to our electric system, our linemen are the heart of our co-op. Electricity is delivered through a series of connected wires and poles. When that connection is interrupted by something like a falling tree branch, an animal, or faulty equipment, our men have all the knowledge, skill, and muscles to conquer.

While caring for our cooperative, often, our linemen are called to travel across the state and nation to help other cooperatives and electric companies in a storm.

At Union Power, we are honored to have a great group of men who give their all in the field. It takes a unique individual to do the work of a lineman, and we see them as true heroes.



To show your appreciation, please use **#ThankALineworker** on social media to show your support in thanking our lineworkers for their outstanding efforts to keep the power on.



Five Ways to Save This Summer!

Spring and summer are excellent times for home upgrades and DIY projects. When planning to make home improvements, consider upgrades that promote better efficiency. Here are a few projects that can help you save energy and money to increase the comfort of your home.

- Install a smart thermostat to manage your home energy use and keep summer bills in check. Smart thermostats are easy to install and control your heating and cooling system from your phone. Purchasing an ENERGY STAR®-certified smart thermostat helps with savings on annual heating and cooling costs. This upgrade will quickly pay for itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home.
- LED bulbs offer convenient control and help boost energy savings throughout the home. In addition, smart lights used outside illuminates your home at night and when you're out of town for better security. Finally, smart lighting allows you to create a schedule to turn lights on or off.
- Sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills. Applying new (or replacing old) weather stripping around doors



and windows can instantly make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste. Using caulk to fill gaps in various areas, including windows, doors, bathtubs, and sinks, can also improve the seal of your home.

- Insulation is another efficiency upgrade that can significantly impact energy use and costs. The cost of new insulation depends on various factors, like materials, the size of the home, and whether you use a contractor. With this project, your home

will immediately feel more comfortable.

- Replacing old appliances with ENERGY-STAR® models or replacing old, leaky windows with new, energy-efficient ones can help improve the home's efficiency.

If you want to make your home more energy efficient, but need help figuring out where to start, visit union-power.com/auditmyhome, or contact one of our energy specialists at 704-289-3145.

A hand is holding a white envelope over a blue background. The background features a large QR code and text promoting convenient payment options. The QR code is circular with a blue border and contains the Union Power Cooperative logo.

CONVENIENT WAYS TO PAY.

With recent delays in payment deliveries through the mail, consider alternative payment options like enrolling in auto pay, paying online, or paying by phone.

SCAN THE QR CODE or go to:
union-power.com/paymentoptions

Union Power Cooperative

EVs Are Gaining in Popularity

More Electric Vehicles (EVs) are on the roads, and companies are changing to accommodate the new EV industry. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation industry is moving into the progression of EVs. At Union Power, we regularly receive inquiries from our members about EVs. Here are the most frequently asked questions.

Q: Why is Union Power communicating about electric vehicles? It's no secret that consumers are interested in EVs. Union Power is dedicated to providing as much information as possible about EVs so our members can make informed decisions when considering an EV.

Q: Does Union Power have an EV? In 2020, Union Power purchased a Chevrolet Bolt. Our EV and charging stations helped us access key data and gain insights into how EVs operate and what infrastructure is needed to support them. In addition, our Chevrolet Bolt helps raise awareness at our community events, so folks can ask questions and form their own opinions about EVs.

Q: Can I charge my EV using an existing outlet? All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit, which the charger can plug into any standard household outlet. An eight-hour overnight charge enables travel around 36 to 40 miles a day. However, if you typically drive long distances or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides



about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A licensed electrician must install a Level 2 charger.

Q: Do outside temperatures affect the range of an EV?

Notably, in colder weather, outdoor temperatures can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle where the heat comes from the engine, an EV produces cabin heat to manage battery temperature, which can reduce battery range.

Q: Should I let my co-op know if I purchase an EV? Yes. Please let us know so we can better serve you. Also, as more Union Power members purchase EVs, it's helpful to know their location in our area to ensure we have the infrastructure to meet your charging needs.

Union Power Cooperative We Support Our Teachers! 2022 - 2023

Pay to the order of: Hydroponics System \$ 1,867

One thousand eight hundred sixty-seven dollars

To Benefit our Teachers and Students

Greg Andress, General Manager
Lee Roy Kirk, Jr., President, Board of Directors

SCAN HERE
APPLICATION PERIOD
BEGINS APRIL 1

Bright Ideas
EDUCATION GRANTS

"I highly recommend teachers apply for the Union Power Bright Ideas grant—the process was easy and very beneficial for my students."

Lacy McIntyre
Bright Ideas Winner 2022



Fleet Maintenance is Crucial to Our Co-op

Union Power members and employees are familiar with the hard work of those who serve on the front lines to power homes and ensure our members have reliable power. But, as much as their hard work and dedication stand out, our front-line workers depend on others in the cooperative to ensure they have reliable vehicles and equipment—that is where Union Power’s Fleet Maintenance Department comes in.

Fleet technicians may not always be visible to our members, but their efforts are essential in maintaining the cooperative’s fleet of vehicles, including trucks, cars, and heavy equipment.

Our fleet technicians ensure that the fleet is well-maintained and in good condition to operate safely on the roads. In addition, they perform repairs and maintenance as needed, routine inspections, diagnose problems, and ensure compliance with safety standards and regulations. Regular maintenance and repairs can help prevent breakdowns, which can be costly in terms of time and money. Our fleet technicians help the cooperative avoid delays by keeping vehicles in good condition and making sure that essential tasks are completed on time.

Moreover, electric cooperatives often operate in harsh weather conditions, such as severe storms, which can increase vehicle wear and tear. Technician Jacob Small states, “We must be able to quickly identify and repair any issue to keep the fleet running smoothly.” Their work ensures that the cooperative can provide

essential services to our members, even in challenging conditions. Although our fleet technicians may not be visible to our members, they play a crucial role in Union Power’s success.

Thank you to our Fleet Maintenance team for your dedication and the behind-the-scenes work you do!



Diving into the History of Union Power

In the mid-1930s, the investor-owned utilities (IOUs), municipalities, and cities would not extend power to rural areas due to cost. However, President Franklin D. Roosevelt saw it differently when he said, “It is the obvious duty of the Government to call the attention of farmers to the growing monopolization of water power. The farmers above all should have that power, on reasonable terms, for cheap transportation, for lighting in their homes, and for innumerable uses in the daily tasks on the farm.”



On May 11, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 7037, formally creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA), allowing farmers and ranchers across America to receive modern electric service. With Roosevelt’s Executive Order, he provided light and power to the homes, and farmers began to realize the potential for electricity in their daily work. Electricity gave them the ability to grind feed, shell corn, pump water, and saw wood. With bright lights in the barn, farmers could work extra hours.

Cooperatives added opportunities to the rural communities who were determined to pull themselves out of the Great Depression. By 1940, electric co-ops had already hooked up one million members and farms.

Have You Claimed Your Capital Credit Check?

Union Power Cooperative is searching for members and former members who have outstanding capital credit checks. In September 2022, the co-op retired \$3.7 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/capitalcredits, 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 last known address, if different.



Is Your HVAC Ready for Warmer Weather?

Warmer weather is right around the corner, which calls for spring cleaning—don't forget to include the preparation and maintenance of your HVAC unit. Knowing what type of unit you own, the brand, and the year of installation, are substantial contributing factors to having a reliable and efficient unit to maintain a healthy and comfortable home. Here are some energy-efficient ways to ensure your HVAC is ready for the spring and summer seasons.

- **Change the Air Filters.** Installing a new filter is one of the top ways to improve your HVAC performance and simultaneously lower your cost. A clogged or dirty filter causes the unit to have longer run times and costs you more money. We recommend changing the filter at least every three months and marking the new filter with the installation date, so you know how long a filter has been in place.
- **Clean Return Vents.** Walk through your home and examine each return vent. Clear out any dust or debris, and ensure the vents are open to provide an even amount of airflow throughout the square footage of your home.
- **Clean Outdoor Areas.** You want to make sure the area around your outdoor unit is debris-free. Clearing the area of any plants, branches, pine needles, or other items around your HVAC will help the system perform efficiently. There should be about two feet of clearance on all sides.
- **Clear any Blockages in the Condensation Drain Line.** Every HVAC has a condensation drain line (a white PVC pipe) that runs from the indoor air handler to the outside of the home. Verify that the drain line isn't clogged. If the line is clogged, the overflow pan could possibly overflow into your attic or crawl space, which can cause extensive home damage.



Proper seasonal maintenance and repairs can help protect against any risk of your HVAC unit breaking down and high energy bills. Following these five easy steps can help keep the designated temperature flowing through the home efficiently and feel comfortable that your HVAC unit is running correctly. We recommend seeking professional help yearly or bi-yearly as they have the right tools and equipment to ensure the unit is running efficiently through the eyes of a trusted professional.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Update Your Contact Information

Having updated information in our system allows us to update you on services, outages, energy consumption, service programs, events, and offerings that are important to you, our members.



Visit union-power.com/member-information-update and fill out the form from your mobile device or call our Customer Service Department at 704-289-3145.

Think SPRING

and Learn How You Can Save!

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

DON'T WAIT!
Spring Offer Ending Soon!



*Offer valid for purchases between
April 1, 2023, and May 31, 2023.*

*Restrictions may apply.
Contact us for more details.*



savewithunion.com
704-283-9047



TRANE®

It's Hard To Stop A Trane.®

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

Union County: Army Rd, Aspen Ln, Bonds Grove Church Rd, Colchester Ln, Crane Rd, Deepwood Pl, Derbyshire Ln, Emerald Woods Dr, Fish Rd, Goldcrest Dr, Greentree Ln, Hawthorne Dr, Hemlock Dr, Hwy 205, Leicester Dr, Mill Grove Rd, N Rocky River Rd, Old Kennedy Ford Rd, Prince Valiant Dr, Rainbow Dr, Redwood Dr, Rock Hill Rd, Shaftwood Dr, Stacy Howie Rd, Viking Dr, W Lawyers Rd, Waxhaw Marvin Rd, Westminster Ln

Stanly County: Bost Rd, Briarstone Ln, Burleson Rd, Canton Rd, Carriker Rd, Cedar Ln, Cedar Ridge Ln, Countryside Ln, Crisco Dr, Crystal Rd, Dellan Ln, Doc Rd, Fink Rd, Hallie Ln, Hedge Rd, Herman Rd, Hobert Rd, Hollybrook Dr, Imperial Way, Isenhour Ln, John Deere Dr, Little Bear Rd, Maggie Frick Rd, NC Hwy 24-27, Odell Dr, Offie Rd, Parker Rd, Ridenhour Rd, Rutherford Rd, Scenic View Dr, Sides Rd, Snickers Ln, St Martin Rd, Thompson Rd, Village Dr, Von Rd, Wyatt Rd

Rowan County: Fontana Dr, Goodman Rd, High Rock Rd, Parker Memorial Rd, Rider Rd, Willie Rd



For more information about Union Power's vegetation management program or tree pruning practices, please call Wil Ortiz at 704-289-3145 (ext. 3323) or Carrie Lorenz-Efird (ext. 3291). Also, visit union-power.com/vegetation-management/crew-locations for monthly right-of-way clearing updates and information on our programs.



As a Union Power Cooperative member, you agree to: Comply with all aspects of the service agreement and agree to be bound by the Cooperative's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws; and Furnish, without cost to the Cooperative, all necessary distribution easements, and rights-of-way.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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