

Cooperative Review

MAY 2023



Move Over. It's the Law!

Every year, workers along the side of the road are injured or killed when cars crash into authorized emergency vehicles, public service vehicles, and crew sites.

North Carolina, like most states, has a "Move Over" law to protect police, firefighters, first responders, and utility workers. Utility workers are required to have a flashing amber-colored light.

The "Move Over" law in North Carolina requires motorists approaching or passing any public service or utility vehicle to pull over and move their vehicles into a nearby lane, if possible. If the roadway has only one lane

for proceeding traffic or the approaching vehicle may not change lanes safely, the motorist must slow the vehicle and proceed at a reduced speed. Failure to do so can create a safety hazard for the workers and result in a \$500 fine for the vehicle's driver.

Remember, slowing down and moving over shows common courtesy and respect for their hard work, but most importantly, it saves lives.



The Starting Point to Reliable Electric Power

You may see these individuals in the field with their iPad, tremble GPS unit, and a measuring wheel. They are essential to our co-op and, most importantly, our members. Our Distribution System Design Technicians (DSDT) do a lot in the field to care for our members' needs. Whether investing in a new home, adding to your property, or adding a street light to your property, our DSDTs are the team to call!

Distribution system design (DSD) isn't just placing a wooden stake in the ground to mark the location of a power pole. DSD goes much deeper than that. Not only do they assist our members, but they also help our linemen during storm outages. The DSDTs go to the outage location ahead of our linemen to assess the situation and determine equipment and material needs.



Union Power DSD Technician
Keith Baker

The DSDTs rely on the assistance of our internal E&O Customer Support Specialist, who streamlines the communication between the DSDT and the member. With the information they receive from our customer support specialist, they check the property for meters, lines, and transformers to prepare and obtain easements, placement of other equipment, etc. Once they inspect the property, they meet with the members and developers to design new lines or relocate existing lines in our system. Once that process is complete, the job is sent to one of our construction crews to ensure its completion and deliverance to our promise of providing safe, reliable electric power and energy services with exceptional value.

DSDT Keith Baker states, "As it is our duty to serve our members and provide efficient power, we are here to support and negotiate to meet our members' needs and build new relationships with our members and contractors." As a result, Union Power provides our members with reliable and efficient electricity at competitive costs.

We thank our distribution system design crew for providing our members with efficient power, building relationships, and the support they need.

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour 2023

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) hosts the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., each June. Union Power and co-ops nationwide promote this program to their local high school juniors. Going through the application and interview process is well worth it because, once selected, these students have an opportunity to experience the sites of D.C., meet elected officials, and learn more about how they can make a difference as young leaders. These outstanding juniors will represent Union Power Cooperative at this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Meet Our Youth Tourists

Ryan Porter is a rising senior at Forest Hills High School and is the son of Candie and Fred Porter of Monroe. Ryan is a part of the National English Honors Society and is a swimmer for a competitive swim team. In his free time, he likes to show off his skills in video editing and studying computers.

Naomi Udenze is a rising senior at Central Academy of Technology and Arts (CATA) and is the daughter of Constance and Roland Udenze of Waxhaw. Naomi is a member of the National Honors Society, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), and the BETA Club. She spends her free time teaching kids how to program and design games.

Gabriella Gagnon is a rising senior at Marvin Ridge High School and is the daughter of Willow Gagnon of Waxhaw. She is very involved in her school community. With her many accomplishments, she is on the Principal's Honor Roll, co-president of her school's environmental club, and a volunteer at Red Cross.

Congratulations to these three outstanding students who were selected to represent Union Power Cooperative at this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.



Left to right: Youth Tourists Ryan Porter, Naomi Udenze, and Gabriella Gagnon

Energy Education at Your Finger Tips

Parents, has your child checked out Kids Korner on the Union Power website? Kids Korner is a great tool to educate children about energy and safety in a fun and educational way. The colorful graphics, puzzles, science experiments, house projects, and coloring pages help kids explore everything from power generation sources, solar, transmission, and distribution to electrical safety, energy efficiency, and more.

“Learning about energy through Kids Korner makes the experience more fun and encourages children to want to learn more,” said Jake Thomas, manager of marketing and energy services for Union Power. Not only is Kids Korner just for children, but it is also educational for teachers and adults. The site offers opportunities for teachers to educate children in the classroom about energy through instructor guides and downloadable worksheets about energy.

Union Power has learned you don’t have to be a kid to enjoy “Kid’s Korner,” just a kid at heart.



Visit [union-power.com/kidskorner](https://www.union-power.com/kidskorner) and explore the amazing resources and tools to help educate children and adults about energy.

PLUG IN TO SAFETY:
MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

- ✔ Avoid overloaded outlets - use power strips with built-in overload protection to distribute power evenly.
- ✔ Check electrical cords - regularly inspect cords and replace them immediately if any damage is found.

By following these easy tips, you can help prevent electrical accidents and keep yourself and your loved ones safe. #ElectricalSafetyMonth #UnionPowerCoop

Sustaining a Reliable Electric System

Recent innovations and advances in renewable energy technologies have led to lower costs, making renewables more feasible, accessible, and scalable. Nationally, there is increasing reliance on renewable energy sources while fossil fuel plants are taken offline, often ahead of schedule. Additionally, we see more pressure on the electric grid due to the increasing frequency and intensity of severe weather events and rising electricity demand.

Competing Pressures

So how do we reconcile these challenges of grid pressure and a changing fuel mix? Solar and wind energy are limited resources that benefit the environment. The sun does not always shine, and the wind does not always blow, but our primary responsibility is to provide electricity 24/7 to you, our members. To sustain reliable, cost-competitive electric power for our members, we need reliable sources of power that will meet all the peaks and valleys of on-demand energy in our connected world.

While the utilization of renewables is increasing, we still need to incorporate other forms of energy into the mix to ensure reliable service. Remember, solar and wind are intermittent power sources. Therefore, there is great value in maintaining a diverse mix of fuel sources—fossil fuels and renewables to ensure reliability and resiliency and meet the growing electricity demand.



Reliability also means repairing and replacing utility equipment to prevent wear and tear, ensuring our equipment can withstand severe weather. We are laser-focused on providing our members with reliable, affordable energy. That's why fuel diversity is essential to reliability.

The Bottom Line

Lowering the overall carbon footprint in this country means we're going to electrify more and more of our economy. As solar and wind power are an important part of a broader energy portfolio, they are not available 24/7. In today's connected world, people need power around the clock.

As our nation depends on electricity, Union Power is working to anticipate, plan and respond to market trends and policy shifts. That's how we can power your home and our economy while continuing to serve as your local energy provider.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



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AND ELECTRICAL EXPERTS SERVING
UNION POWER MEMBERS.**

Choosing the Best Lighting Option

Switching to LED lighting is more energy efficient and can light up your home more than less-efficient incandescent lights. However, the cost of switching to LEDs may prevent some people from making the switch.

LED bulbs use only a fraction of the electricity consumed by traditional incandescent bulbs. Even though traditional incandescent bulbs are cheaper, they are not as efficient as LED bulbs and don't last as long.

To help make smart decisions, access our lighting calculator to guide you in comparing the potential savings of using energy-efficient bulbs vs. incandescent bulbs.



To learn more, use the QR code above or visit union-power.com/energysavingscalculators to access our Lighting Calculator to discover your home's energy and savings potential today!

Forging Our Way

In 1932, as the country struggled to recover from the Great Depression, Americans had hope in the newly elected President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his promise of the New Deal. The New Deal initiatives for economic recovery had the ability to bring about big changes for the people of this country, and they did.



With the establishment of the Rural Electrification Authority (REA), residents and farmers band together to create their own electric cooperatives and bring electricity to their homes, farms, and businesses. Union Electric Membership Corporation was incorporated on Feb. 22, 1939, and received its first REA loan on April 1, 1939, for \$460,000.

The first office was located on East Jefferson Street in downtown Monroe, and the first section of line served members in rural Union and Mecklenburg counties. Members paid 8.4 cents per kWh and used an average of 28 kilowatts per month.

Union Electric Membership Corporation's first annual meeting was held at the Union County Courthouse on June 5, 1939, with 39 members attending. At that time, the co-op had grown to serve over 1,000 families and had 512 miles of line.

Project Engineer C. Oliver Howard, Jr. ran the cooperative during the first year. In 1940, the cooperative's board of directors chose H. W. Cunningham to serve as the first General Manager from 1940-1942.

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

Rowan County: Avent Ferry Rd, Aviation Ln, Daybreak Ridge Dr, DuckPond Rd, Fraley Acres Ln, New London Rd, Old Beatty Ford Rd, River Rd, Rowan Cabarrus Rd, Stokes Ferry Rd, Wiles Rd

Stanly County: Hallie Ln, Maggie-Frick Rd, NC Hwy 49, NC Hwy 8-49, Pineview Rd, Russell Rd, Spivey Rd, Stokesferry Rd, Willie Rd

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



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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