

# Cooperative Review

JUNE 2023

**UnionPower  
Cooperative**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## A Race to the Top!

**E**lectric cooperatives play a vital role in providing electricity to communities across North Carolina. The linemen who work for these cooperatives are responsible for maintaining and repairing the electrical infrastructure that powers homes, businesses, and essential services. While their job is essential, it can also be dangerous. That's why electric cooperative linemen undergo extensive safety training each year to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to work safely.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) each year requires our linemen to perform Pole Top Rescue drills. The rescue is a simulated emergency scenario where a lineman is injured while working at the top of a power pole. The co-op linemen, recognizing a victim in trouble on a power pole, must act quickly and lower the injured lineman to the ground.

Linemen must complete the following steps in less than five minutes to rescue a fellow lineman:

- Report an emergency radio call
- Gear up in their climbing gear
- Scale the pole
- Rig a rope to lower the victim to the ground safely
- Perform CPR and first aid

Pole Top Rescue drills are important in helping linemen develop the skills and confidence needed to act quickly and effectively in an emergency. Congratulations to this year's quickest Pole Top Rescue finishers, Crew Supervisor Josh Morrison, who completed with the fastest time of 1:55; Journeyman Jacob Gordon, with a time of 2:05; and Crew Supervisor Colton Helms finished with a time of 2:10.

On Oct. 26, Morrison will compete against other North Carolina cooperative linemen at Nash Community College in Rocky Mount.



Anthony Thurmond, line technician 5, races to the pole to save "Kool."

# Energy-Saving Projects for the Weekend

If you are considering home improvement upgrades that can save energy and money, below are three energy-saving projects that can be completed in a day or less!

## Get smart about home cooling and heating.

Much of your energy bill comes from cooling and heating your home. Using Smart thermostats can help keep these costs in check, with ENERGY STAR®-certified models saving about 8% on annual energy costs.

Now that smart thermostats are more affordable—as little as \$70—this simple upgrade makes for a fun, efficient weekend project. Smart thermostats offer a variety of features compared to the average model. For example, the thermostat allows you to set custom temperature schedules, adjust the settings from anywhere (from your phone), and learn your cooling and heating preferences over time.

If you are ready to tackle this project, remember to play it safe and read the installation instructions for your new smart thermostat. This project typically involves shutting off your HVAC at the breaker panel, disconnecting/removing the old thermostat, installing the new smart thermostat, and connecting it to your home Wi-Fi.

## Go green with a rain barrel



If you've got a green thumb, you already know that rainwater is the best water for outdoor plants. Rainwater is free of minerals, salts, and treatment chemicals found in tap water or groundwater. It also contains helpful macronutrients to foster healthy plant growth.

Installing a rain barrel is an easy way to harvest large amounts of rainwater and reduce home water usage, which is a win-win. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, one rain barrel can save a homeowner 1,300 gallons of water annually. Most residential rain barrels range in size from 50 to 90 gallons, so the size you purchase will depend on your watering needs.

The simplest way to install a rain barrel is to position the plastic or wooden barrel directly under your gutter

downspout. To gather more water, install a pipe from the gutter to the barrel to receive all the rainwater. If you are worried about insects and debris entering the barrel, consider a cover for the top of the rain barrel.

## Create fresh savings with a DIY clothesline.



If you have enough outdoor space, installing a clothesline is a great way to save energy. Not only will you save on dryer costs—in the summer, you can also save on cooling costs since unwanted heat from the clothes dryer won't be added to your home, which makes your air conditioner work harder. Additionally, air drying is much gentler on fabrics and will keep your clothes and linens looking fresh longer.

To create your own clothesline, you will need two T-posts, wire, and two hook-and-eye turnbuckles. Depending on your soil, you may need a bag of concrete to set the poles. If you do not want to put concrete in the ground, you can install the clothesline between two trees. When setting up your clothesline, a typical load of laundry requires about 35 feet of line, so keep this in mind as you determine the best location. If an outdoor clothesline isn't an option, no sweat! You can easily create or purchase an indoor drying rack that folds to save space.

These are just a few simple ideas to help you save energy and money. So, get out there, roll up those sleeves, and tackle a few projects.



For additional energy-saving ideas and tips, visit [union-power.com](https://www.union-power.com), or contact one of our energy specialists at 704-289-3145.



# Providing Information at Employees' Fingertips

At Union Power Cooperative, we are constantly seeking ways to improve our operations and better serve our members. One critical tool that has been essential to achieving these goals is Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

GIS is a digital mapping technology that allows us to visualize and analyze data related to our electric distribution system. By integrating data on everything from power lines to member locations to weather patterns, GIS enables our employees to make more informed decisions about where and how to allocate resources and respond more quickly and effectively to outages and other service interruptions. All field workers including linemen, field service representatives, and distribution system design technicians can conveniently access maps through their iPads while out working in the field.

One of the key benefits of GIS is its ability to help us identify areas of the distribution system that may be at higher risk of outages or other problems. By analyzing factors such as weather patterns, tree trimming cycles, and the age and condition of equipment, we can proactively address potential issues before they become a bigger problem.

Another major advantage of GIS is its ability to help us quickly and accurately locate and respond to outages. By overlaying real-time data on the status of our distribution system with information on member locations, our distribution system operators, commonly known as dispatchers, can pinpoint the location of an outage and dispatch crews to fix the problem as quickly as possible.

In short, GIS is an essential tool for our co-op as we work to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable electric service to our members. We are proud to be at the forefront of this technology, and look forward to continuing to leverage GIS to better serve our members.



Engineering & Operations Systems Administrator Brian Wilson and GIS Technician Steve Ramsey

# AND THE WINNERS ARE...



CAROLINA BASKETBALL SCHOOL  
UNC-CHAPEL HILL



WOLFPACK WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CAMP  
NC STATE UNIVERSITY



**Rahiem Davis**  
Porter Ridge Middle School



**Sophie Hodes**  
Holy Trinity Middle School



**Delaney Jordan**  
Weddington Middle School



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. First, wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier kinds of cotton. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier types of cotton, like linens and towels, from your lightweight clothing.





## Learning Your Appliances

**D**id you know the combined use of large appliances like dishwashers, stoves, clothes dryers, and washing machines accounts for the largest percentage of electricity in an average U.S. home? Most U.S. homes use up to 4,100 watts of energy. But did you also know that small appliances like toasters, microwaves, and blenders also use a good amount of energy? Start taking small steps to save energy by checking out our appliance calculator on [union-power.com](https://www.union-power.com) to determine how to save money and energy.

### Refrigerators

Try to avoid using automatic ice makers and drink dispensers. This handy feature can cause wear and tear on the motor, causing more breakdowns and leaks, which could increase your energy usage. If you have an extra refrigerator or freezer, try consolidating all your items into one. Multiple refrigerators or freezers may be handy, but additional storage can significantly increase energy costs.

### Stoves

Selecting an efficient stove is very important. Today, induction stoves are becoming more reliable and efficient than traditional electric or gas. Induction stoves provide automatic shut-off, hot burner warning lights, and faster cooking times. Even though induction stoves are more expensive, they will save you money and energy in the future.

If you are content with your appliances and do not plan on buying new ones, you can still practice energy-saving behaviors that cut your energy usage:

- Match the size of the pan to the heating element while cooking on the stovetop.
- Set the refrigerator and freezer to recommended temperatures. The refrigerator recommends 35° – 38°F for fresh food and 0°F for the separated freezer for long-term storage.
- Reduce the number of times opening the refrigerator door.
- Always keep the top-range burners and reflectors clean.
- Cooking small meals? Cooking meals on smaller appliances rather than a large stove or oven can help with energy usage. For example, a toaster oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

Investing in your home's energy is rewarding in the long run. Purchasing new appliances or taking small steps to improve your energy use can help you save money and energy in the future.



Check out our appliance calculator to learn more about energy cost savings from [union-power.com/energysavingscalculators](https://www.union-power.com/energysavingscalculators).





**Bright Ideas**  
EDUCATION GRANTS

**UnionPower Cooperative**

**EDUCATORS:  
EARLY BIRD**  
ENTER BY AUG 15.  
for a chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card

## Are your septic lines in our right-of-way zone?

At Union Power Cooperative, we prioritize the safety and well-being of our members and the reliability of our electric service. We kindly urge you to contact Wil Ortiz, manager of vegetation management, at 704-220-0717 if you suspect, or you are unsure if your septic system may be located within our right-of-way zone.

This zone extends 15 feet on either side of our power lines, and is crucial to maintaining accessibility for our crews, especially during outage response efforts. By working together, we can ensure a safe environment and uninterrupted power supply for our community. Your vigilance and cooperation are invaluable in helping us provide top-notch service to all our members.





# Diving into the History of Union Power



R. Earl Hayworth,  
General Manager 1942-1978

In 1942, R. Earl Hayworth became the second general manager of Union Electric Membership Corporation (UEMC). During the next five years, the system grew from 512 to 959 miles of line, servicing more than 3,300 rural members. At this time, the cooperative had 18 employees—

the general manager, an electrical advisor, 10 field employees for maintenance and operations, and six office employees.

The first issue of the *Cooperative Review* newsletter was published in April of 1947 and mailed to the members' homes. The monthly issue consisted of four pages filled with content, such as a message from the general manager and articles on how electricity benefited our members, since electricity was still new to the rural areas. The newsletter also introduced new members by listing those who recently signed up for electrical service. Below is

TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CALL IN CASE OF TROUBLE	
If you live in Union, Mecklenburg, or south of Midland in Cabarrus County, call:	
Office.....	Tel. No. 460 Monroe
R. E. Hayworth.....	Tel. No. 875-J Monroe
Craig Richardson.....	Tel. No. 1170-J Monroe
J. W. Stevens.....	Tel. No. 392-M Monroe
W. N. Gusler.....	Tel. No. 141-J Monroe
Jimmy Richardson.....	Tel. No. 838-M Monroe
If you live in Stanly, Rowan, or north of Midland in Cabarrus County, call:	
M. L. Whitley.....	Tel. No. 267 Oakboro
Joe Rushing.....	Tel. No. 471 Oakboro

an example of another resource for members, which included a listing of employees' home phone numbers to call during an outage or, as stated, "in case of trouble." The newsletter became a source of communication for our members to stay connected with the co-op.

In November 1948, UEMC began billing by machine for its 4,691 members. The members were responsible for reading their meters and mailing their billing cards each month. Members were asked to mail their cards between the 1st and 15th of each month to avoid a penalty. The average monthly bill was \$3.16 per member. By the end of the decade, the average monthly kWh usage increased, resulting in an average monthly bill per member of \$3.86.

**WE ARE YOUR  
HEATING, COOLING,  
AND ELECTRICAL  
EXPERTS SERVING  
UNION POWER  
MEMBERS.**

704-283-9047 | [savewithunion.com](http://savewithunion.com)

Scan the QR code or visit  
[savewithunion.com/financing](http://savewithunion.com/financing)  
to explore our financing options



**Union  
Services**  
A Union Power Company

**TRANE**  
It's Hard To Stop A Trane.

## You Deserve Peace of Mind This Summer.

The last thing you need this summer is a broken cooling system. That's why Union Services is here to help keep you comfortably cool and save you money with a new Trane high-efficiency system for your home.





# 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.

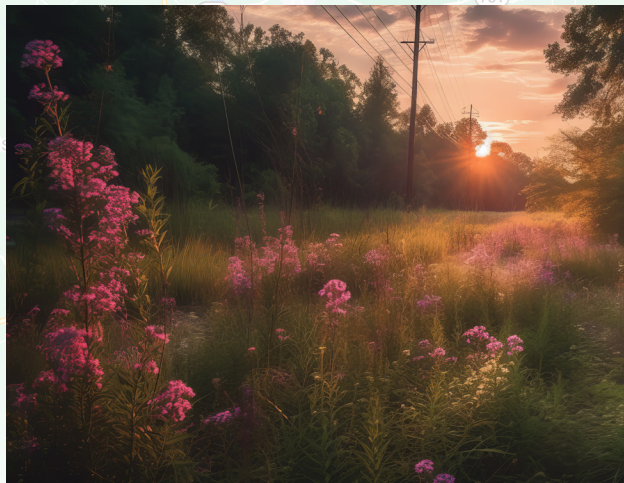
**Cabarrus County:** Glenmore Rd, Gold Hill Rd, Hwy 52, Short Cut Rd, Thee Promised Way, Wagoner Rd

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

**Rowan County:** Duck Pond Rd, Hwy 52, New London Rd, Old Beatty Ford Rd, River Rd, Stokes Ferry Rd

**Stanly County:** April Ln, Baldwin Rd, Bethlehem Church Rd, Bost Rd, Brenda Rd, Brownhill Rd, Campground Rd, Canton Rd, Chapel Rd, Coley Store Rd, Cross Rd, Edwards Rd, Endy Rd, Fish Camp Rd, Five Point Rd, Frog Pond Rd, George Rd, Glenmore Rd, Griffin Hill Dr, Hazard Rd, Helms Rd, Herlocker Rd, Ingold School Rd, Luther Rd, Matton Grove Church Rd, McLeister Rd, Mission Church Rd, Nance Rd, NC Hwy 138, NC Hwy 8, NC Hwy 8-49, Northern Rd, Oscar Rd, Pine Bluff Rd, Pineview Rd, Ramsey Rd, Russell Rd, Rutherford Rd, Sam Rd, Spivey Rd, St Martin Rd, Stokesferry Rd, Stony Run Village Rd, Tyson Rd, Union Grove Rd, Wesley Chapel Rd, Western Rd, Willie Rd

**Union County:** Army Rd, Aspen Ln, Bonds Grove Church Rd, Colchester Ln, Crane Rd, Deepwood Pl, Derbyshire Ln, E Hwy 218, Morgan Academy Rd, Prince Valiant Dr, Rainbow Dr, Stacy Howie Rd, Sugar and Wine Rd, Viking Dr, Waxhaw Marvin 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](https://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.

Greg Andress  
**Exec. Vice President & General Manager**

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