

Cooperative Review

NOVEMBER 2023



Union Power has scholarship opportunities for both Juniors and Seniors of the 2023/2024 class. Looking to pave the way to a brighter future? Check out these options and see what lies ahead for you.

Youth Tour

Juniors, join the state's future leaders from June 15-21, 2024, for a week-long tour of exploration, learning, and leadership opportunities. Union Power is seeking applications from current high school juniors who are inquisitive to learn about their nation's capital and understand government roles.

While exploring the nation's capital, our young leaders will learn about the cooperative business model and values. They will also visit places like the Smithsonian, Capitol Hill, Washington Mall—MLK Jr., the Korean War, Lincoln, Vietnam, WWII, Washington Memorial, and more.

December 31, 2023 is the deadline for the Youth Tour, an all-expense-paid, week-long tour hosted by electric cooperatives nationwide. Juniors, if you are ready for a lifetime opportunity, visit union-power.com/youthtour and apply to learn more about this incredible journey.

College Scholarships

Seniors, are you looking for something to do during the Thanksgiving break? Union Power is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to ten students from our five-county service area. If you are planning to attend a North Carolina-accredited college or university, what are you waiting for?

Guidelines to Apply:

- Must reside in the home of a Union Power Cooperative member.
- Must be a senior of the current graduating class.
- Must attend a four-year institution or community college in North Carolina.
- Judging is based on the following criteria: 40% need, 30% academic achievement, and 30% extracurricular activities in school, civic, and community functions.

Applications submitted by March 1, 2024, will be judged by an independent committee not affiliated with the Cooperative. Winners representing Union Power Cooperative will be notified in May.



Visit union-power.com/educational-programs to apply and check out our other educational programs.

Five Ways to Safeguard Your Home This Winter

As the temperatures drop and the days get shorter, it's a natural feeling to create a warm and cozy home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles, and electrical items, home fires tend to increase during winter. Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

1. Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.

If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and dust them well to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.

2. Inspect electrical cords. We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords, or portable heaters. Before using any corded items:

- Double-check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items.
- Use models that include an auto shut-off and overheat protection.
- Remember that space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills, so make sure you use them safely and efficiently (to heat smaller spaces).
- Never plug a space heater into a power strip.

3. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips. When overloading a power strip with electrical items, outlets, and power strips can

overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.

4. Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency.

There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote builds up and becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned yearly to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves airflow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.

5. Practice safety in the kitchen. Be mindful of potential fire hazards as we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces, and be careful where you place flammable items like dish towels.



POWER BUCKS

Call 704-289-3145 to speak with a customer service representative who will apply the Power Bucks credit to the member's account of your choice.

This Holiday Season,



Give the gift of Power.

A \$25 minimum purchase is required.



Remember to
FALL BACK
turn your clocks back one hour
11.05.23

Keep Food Safe When the Power Goes Out

Severe winds, lightning, and even animals can temporarily cause the power to go out. Extended power outages are rare, but when they occur, it's important to understand food safety measures to avoid illness.

Before an outage

- Keep an emergency supply kit on hand. Be sure to include nonperishable food items like bottled water, powdered milk, canned goods, cereal, and protein bars in your emergency kit.
- If you have a warning that an outage is possible, fill a cooler with ice in case the outage spans several hours. Having a cooler ready to go can buy extra time for your refrigerated and perishable items.

During an outage

- Call or Text 1-800-794-4423.
- If an outage occurs, do not open the refrigerator or freezer unless absolutely necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for about 24 hours, and a full freezer for about 48 hours.
- If it looks like the power outage will last longer than four hours, move your important perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

After an outage

- If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours, the American Red Cross recommends discarding the items. In addition, food with an unusual color, odor, or texture should be thrown away.
- When there is an extended outage, throw out any perishable food.

Items safe to consume after a two-hour exposure to 40+ degrees:


- Hard cheeses that are adequately wrapped
 - Butter or margarine that is adequately wrapped
 - Taco, barbecue, and soy sauces
 - Peanut butter, jelly, mustard, ketchup, and relish
- The best way to avoid illness from spoiled food during or after an outage is to follow the four-hour rule. After an outage, always smell and inspect foods before consuming, and remember: when in doubt, throw it out.

Keep Food Safe

During and After a Power Outage

Food Safety Tips

1. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
2. Throw out any food with an unusual odor, color, or texture.
3. Refrigerated food will last four hours. After four hours, place refrigerated foods in a cooler with ice.
4. Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after
- four hours without power or a cold source, like a cooler with ice.
5. Food in a half-full freezer will last 24 hours. Food in a full freezer will last 48 hours.
6. When in doubt, throw it out!



To learn more about food safety after an emergency, visit [ready.gov/food](https://www.ready.gov/food).

Light Up Your Holiday Season Safely

With the holiday season approaching and lots of shopping and decorating to do, Union Power's Holiday Lighting Calculator is a great resource to help assist you this holiday season. Our calculator helps determine monthly energy savings by converting your traditional incandescent Christmas lights to LED bulbs—calculating savings based on the number of lights and strands used and the total hours the lights are on per day. With the guidance of this tool, members can make smart energy decisions while shopping for Christmas Lights and being mindful of cost.

In addition to using our Holiday Lighting Calculator, here are five tips to consider for a safe and energy-efficient holiday season:

1 Inspect your seasonal items
Each year, we all bring out some sort of treasured holiday memento that has either been passed down from generation to generation or is beginning to start a new tradition of our own. As valuable as it is to display those holiday treasures, it's important to take a few moments to carefully inspect your holiday items and make sure everything is working correctly. Here are a few tips to look out for—brittle insulation on wire, damage to the wires and plug, chafed or frayed wires, especially at stress points, and corroded metal parts.

2 Shorten the Season
As much as we love to decorate for the holidays early, it can also affect your power bill. Many people keep their lights up longer than necessary, but each household is different. If you want to start a budget and save money on your energy bill, decide what time frame works for you. We recommend enjoying your lights during the holiday season but shorten the amount of time before and after the holiday season that your lights are being used.

3 Limit Light Time
Plugging your lights into a programmable timer can help save energy and costs! If you plan to use a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it is weatherproof and rated for outdoor use.

4 Choose Energy Efficient Lights
Making the switch to LED is a smart choice! They use 80-90% less energy than incandescent bulbs and have a longer lifespan. Although they may be a bit more pricey than traditional Christmas lights, they will save you money in the long run.

5 Broken Bulb
If you see a broken bulb, don't worry! Just remember to always unplug the source from the outlet before replacing any bulbs or fuses.

At Union Power, safety is a top priority, and we encourage our members to practice safety while celebrating this holiday season. Visit union-power.com/energysavingscalculators to discover our energy saving calculators.



Feast For Savings This Thanksgiving

As the leaves turn and the air turns crisp, families across the country gather for an American traditional Thanksgiving feast. As this holiday is a time to show gratitude and blessings, it's also an opportunity to be mindful of your energy consumption in the kitchen. As you prepare to host or attend a Thanksgiving gathering, consider these five energy-saving tips from Union Power to make your celebration delightful and sufficient in savings.

1 Keep your Oven Clean

A clean oven is ideal because it transfers heat evenly and saves energy. Regularly cleaning your oven will save your physical energy since it's much easier to clean a slightly dirty oven than a filthy one. If you have a self-cleaning oven, turn it on immediately after baking. With your oven already heated, you'll use less energy to heat the oven to the cleaning temperature.

2 Choose the Right Appliances

Consider using smaller appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens, and convection ovens, which are more energy-efficient than a large stove or oven. Microwaves are also a great source for cooking side dishes and quick tasks.

3 Thaw and Plan Ahead

For any frozen item for Thanksgiving, plan ahead and thaw it out in the refrigerator in advance, which is energy-efficient and safer than thawing frozen food at room temperature.

4 Store Smartly

Prepare those delicious meals in a glass dish since they can go from the fridge to the microwave, reducing the need for extra dishes. Allow leftovers to cool before putting them in the refrigerator. Hot foods make your fridge work harder.

By incorporating these energy-saving tips into your Thanksgiving cooking routine, you'll do your part to make the holiday a little greener and potentially put some money back in your pocket.



In observance of
THANKSGIVING
our offices will be closed
11.23.23 & 11.24.23

PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE 24/7 BY PHONE OR ONLINE AT [UNION-POWER.COM](https://union-power.com).

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE, CALL OR TEXT 1-800-794-4423.

Veterans, We Salute You!

Every year, on Nov. 11, Americans honor the millions of active-duty and former service members nationwide. With their inspirational stories of courage, resilience, and sacrifice, we thank all Veterans who have given their all.

At Union Power, we recognize that our daily operations, sense of security, and freedoms are built by the sacrifices these remarkable men and women make. It's one thing to hear tales of bravery but quite another to understand the depth of commitment our veterans have shown. They have faced external adversaries and the internal struggles that come with the weight of service.

From the biting cold of winter trenches to the scorching heat of desert battlegrounds, they have faced the harshest conditions imaginable but always faced them with courage and determination. Not only have they faced physical challenges, but they have carried the emotional burden of being away from their families, seeing comrades fall, and facing the uncertainties of conflict.

Expressing gratitude is an understatement when we think of the immeasurable contributions our veterans have made. Words might fall short, but our hearts

overflow with respect and appreciation. Every time we enjoy a moment of peace and celebrate our liberties, we are reminded of the sacrifices made on our behalf.

While only one day of the year is dedicated solely to honoring veterans, we must never forget their dedication and sacrifices in defending and protecting our country's freedom every day.

**In observance of Veterans Day, our
offices will be closed on Friday, Nov. 10.**



Right-of-Way Clearing

During the next month, you may see our tree-trimming crews in your neighborhood: Vendors: Lewis Tree Service, Lucas Tree Experts, and Xylem Inc.

Stanly County: Austin Rd, Canton Rd, Griffin-Greene Blvd, Half Mile Rd, Joes Rd, Joy Rd, McSwain Rd, Nichols Dr, Philadelphia Church Rd, Ramsey Rd, Rendee Rd, Rettie Ln, Running Creek Church Rd, Silver Rd, Smith Grove Rd, Stony Rd, Tucker Rd

Union County: AGR Nance Rd, Braswell-Rushing Rd, Clontz Long Rd, Country Wood Rd, Haigler Gin Rd, Haigler Rd, Hwy 200, Hwy 601, Indian Trail-Fairview Rd, Kate Rd, Love Mill Rd, Rushing Benton Rd, Sikes Mill Rd, Unionville Brief Rd, Unionville Rd, W Lawyers 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.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, which means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen! When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers, and Instant Pots consume less energy. When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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