

# The NEWS LINE

RUTHERFORD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

www.remcc.com

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Owned By Those We Serve

February 2021

## Cost of Service Study Underway

Rutherford EMC's goal is to provide safe and reliable electric service to all members at an affordable cost. The cooperative strives to diligently implement best management practices that provide quality service for all members. Here at Rutherford EMC we are doing everything possible to keep your electric rates affordable by automating operations where feasible, controlling load across our entire electric system and providing members with various tools and information to help them use electricity more efficiently in their homes and businesses.

Despite our best efforts to control costs and continue electric reliability across the system, the cooperative has begun the first step necessary to implement a rate adjustment. A third-party consultant has been contracted to perform a cost-of-service study. The purpose of this study is to identify present and future revenue requirements that are needed to maintain system reliability. The consultants will be evaluating revenue needed to operate each of our rate classes based upon the service, equipment, and overall infrastructure required to adequately serve them and evaluate the effectiveness of rates between each rate class.

Many factors must be considered when setting electric rates. The most important factor is to produce ample revenue to cover annual operating costs while investing in system reliability through maintenance and im-

provements and also meeting the financial requirements of our lenders. All of these factors are taken into consideration while balancing the needs of our members.

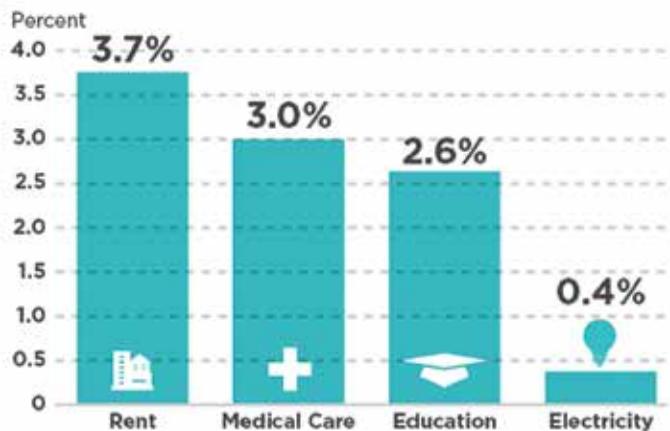
The difference between Rutherford EMC and the electric companies around us is simply the cooperative business model. As a not-for-profit business, our strategic and financial goals are not driven by the need to increase value to shareholders through higher dividends or soaring stock prices. Our entire focus is to provide safe and reliable electricity, focusing on value and providing quality service to our members while supporting our local communities. Simply stated – Rutherford EMC is member focused, not profit driven.

In an ideal world, expenses would never go up, but the reality is that costs sometimes do change and rarely go down. Just remember – at Rutherford EMC, we work each day to keep electricity a good value, even as the cost of other commodities continues to increase. As always, we strive to keep rates as low as possible through sound and accountable management of your cooperative's assets. Your cooperative is managed to ensure that our members get the best value for their dollar. We are committed to keeping your electric bill affordable and making sure you continue to enjoy the many conveniences and comforts that electricity brings to your daily life.

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

When you look at price increases of common expenses over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2014-2019



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

## SWAP SHOP

Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation provides Swap Shop ads as a free service to its members. Guidelines are as follows: Ads are published first-come, first-served. When the space allotted for ads each month is full, remaining ads will be held over for the next issue. Ads will not be run more than once unless re-submitted. Commercial ads will not be accepted. We reserve the right to edit, condense or deny publication of any advertisement. Rutherford Electric Membership Corp. assumes no responsibility for the content of any advertisement and does not endorse or warrant any of the goods so advertised. Please include your account number with your ad.

### Mail your ads to:

Newsletter Editor, Rutherford EMC, PO Box 1569,  
Forest City, NC, 28043-1569 or e-mail at [cbailey@remc.com](mailto:cbailey@remc.com).  
No phone calls, please.

## FOR SALE

**275** gallon oil drum w/stand, \$150 OBO; 42" round concrete table set w/3 benches, \$250 OBO. 828-433-5783.

**Manure** spreader – 4' wide, \$400; brand new whirlpool stainless steel under counter microwave, \$150; new Road Heat 20" red & black collector edition bicycle, \$150; Apollo Extreme 70cc motocross bike, blue, only ridden a couple of times, like new, \$400, Lincolnton. Can send pictures. 704-241-3734.

**1991** Allegro 26' motorhome, 41,000 miles, Chevrolet chassis, lots of new parts, completely restored, new paint, \$10,000 OBO; large space heater w/blower, K-1 or fuel oil, \$150; fertilizer spreader 3pt. for tractor, good shape, \$150. 828-244-4570 or 704-462-2105.

**Bassett** wooden crib set – complete, like new, \$75; Pack-N-Play, \$25; complete white toddler bed w/headboard & footboard, great shape, rarely used by grandchildren. 828-446-8501 or 704-462-2105.

**Schwinn** men's bike w/27.5" tires, new tires & tubes, like new cond., \$220. 704-931-9098.

**Barcelona** Red A.R.E. fitted hard tonneau cover for pickup, fits truck beds approximately 61" long, originally on a 2010 Toyota Tacoma, \$600. 828-803-7930.

**Maple** dining room set - 1959 Cochran, includes drop leaf table w/2 leaves, 8 chairs (2 are captain's chairs) & china hutch, \$550 OBO; Raider fiberglass tonneau LoRider truck bed cover w/keys, retails for

\$1,100, painted black, fits 2003 – 2012 Chevy Colorado crew cab style bed, \$450; Weather Tech floor mat set – includes front, back & cargo mats that fit a 2013 – 2016 Dodge Dart, \$200 OBO, also brand new set of AVS in channel Vent Visors for the same car, \$50. 828-442-5658.

**Hay** – Fescue grass, high quality, clean, barn stored, square bales, \$4.50 per bale, near Crowder's Mtn., Gastonia, delivery available. 704-854-8844 or 704-813-9031.

Fiberglass top for a 2001 Chevy Silverado, white in color, made by Century. 704-530-4243.

**Two** mint condition complete sets of: 6 full bottles of Coca-Cola from Panthers 1996 inaugural season into the NFL, in original cartons of 6 small 8 oz. bottles, rare find, \$450 ea.; One 1985 Duck Stamp poster in mint condition, never hung & still in original tube, rare, \$500 firm. 828-758-0870.

**California** King bedframe w/wide sideboards, basket design, \$100; new inversion table, \$300 NEG.; Vesta camper dishwasher, \$300 NEG. 828-604-0938.

**Shelled** Black Walnuts - \$3.50 per cup. 704-735-5030.

**Food** grade water totes – 275 gal., \$90 ea.; non-food grade totes, \$75; metal 55 gal. burning barrels, \$10 ea.; solid top plastic barrels, \$10 ea.; 15 gal. plastic barrels w/lids & rings, \$20 ea.; 55 gal. plastic drums, \$10 ea.; 35 gal. solid top, \$10 ea.; 15 gal. plastic jugs, \$20 ea., Hickory. 828-327-4782.

**Cyclone** Rake Pro leaf vacuum w/9 HP Briggs & Stratton engine, all accessories including 30 feet of pick-up hose & adapters for John Deere & Cub Cadet mowers, reduces leaves into fine mulch so you can dump them wherever you want, more details upon request, Polk County, \$1,500. 828-894-2562.

**Seasoned** hardwood \$35 per pickup load, cash only, have approx. 2 loads, near Moss Lake, willing to help load. 704-600-8744.

**Pomchi** puppies, \$300; Siberian Husky puppies, \$600. 704-473-4559.

**Self-contained** camper, \$2,000; solid pine 10 gun cabinet, \$300; solid oak full/queen headboard \$100; 2003 Nissan Altima w/blown head gasket, \$800; 2004 Honda Element, \$2,000. 704-473-4559.

**Brown** sectional couch, \$200; black adjustable bar stools, 3 available for \$35 ea., china cabinet, \$200. 704-473-4559.

**CKC** Yorki/Poos – 1 male, 3 females, D.O.B. 10/31/20, de-dew clawed, shots & worming, also have Yorkie/Maltese, but they are not registered. 828-433-1374 or 828-320-8282.

**Set** of 24" ventless gas logs w/74 lb. tank and propane, \$160 for all. 704-735-5900.

**Two** cemetery plots at Rosehill in Fallston, NC, \$500 ea. OBO. 828-461-6555.

**1996** Fender acoustic 12 string guitar w/hard-shell case, Burswood 6 string guitar & a small Harmony 6 string acoustic guitar, all 3 in very nice condition, \$375 for all; antique heavy duty bumper jack, stands 2 1/2' tall w/crank handle, \$75; new & in original box – red Schwinn Sting Ray Orange County Choppers 20" bicycle w/racing slick, extended fork, never assembled, rare, \$500; vintage lighted electric plastic "Like Cola" advertising wall clock, 19" tall x 12" wide, on/off pull chain for light, works great & keeps correct time, \$75. 828-448-0338.

**Min-Pin** puppies – born July 4, 2020, 1 female & 3 males, parents registered, \$450 OBO. 828-289-3905.

**Large** 72" L-shaped desk w/buffet style windowed doors on top, \$150 OBO; 1950 style full size bedroom suite, includes dresser & chest of drawers, \$200. Catawba, Co.; 704-308-2225.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Free:** mint stamps from Russia – I will send them to you. 828-894-6182.

## WANTED

**Retired** couple willing to adopt or buy reasonable Toy Poodle, Westie or other toy/small hypoallergenic dog. 828-221-6672.

**Good** used tractor for bush hogging & pulling. 704-460-5717.

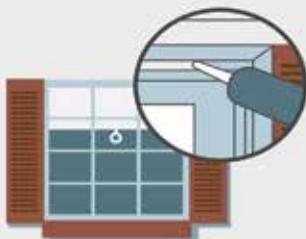
**1974** – 1978 Mustang II bodies or parts. 704-538-3630.

**NASCAR** ticket stubs and brochures and old programs. 704-685-7251.

# EASY WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY

## WEATHERIZE

Seal doors and windows with caulk, weather stripping and/or plastic film.



## SEAL IN WARMTH

Close blinds and curtains during the night to keep cold air out. Open them during the day to let sunlight in.



## COOK UP SAVINGS

Use smaller appliances, like microwaves, toaster ovens and slow cookers when possible.





## Space Heaters Don't Always Fulfill Their Energy Efficiency Promise

Some space heater manufacturer advertisements promise to cut your energy bill by up to half, yet the small print often reveals an unusual expectation. In many cases, the manufacturer bases the claim on the assumption that you'll turn down the thermostat in the rest of the house, while the space heater is on in one room only. But many homeowners never lower the thermostat, and wind up surprised to find that the space heater has led them to use more energy on heating. The "infrared" space heaters, the ones with the fancy wooden covers that cost hundreds of dollars, are also very expensive to operate. They use just as much electricity as the space heaters that can be purchased for \$20 to \$50. The typical space heater operates at around 1,500 watts and consumes around 1.5 kW per hour. This puts their

operating costs at a little under .20 cents per hour. I agree, that doesn't sound like much, but multiply that by 12 hours of run time each day for 30 days and you have added approximately \$72 to your monthly electric bill, by using only the one heater. Before you make a purchase, be skeptical of the energy efficient advertising on the front of the space heater's box and be sure to read the fine print. This fine print may save you from an unwanted surprise at the end of your bill cycle. If you do choose to heat specific areas with a portable space heater always keep safety in mind!

Experts suggest that if you truly want to save money on heating costs, the best way is through energy efficiency. Sealing air leaks in your home, adding insulation, caulking around windows and maintaining your heating system will go a long way toward achieving this goal.

## NC Youth Tour Going Virtual in Summer 2021

Each year, Rutherford EMC joins with other electric cooperatives across the state and nation to sponsor the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This annual trip gives exceptional high school students the opportunity to experience the sites of Washington, D.C., meet with elected officials and learn more about how they can make a difference as young leaders.

The 2020 Youth Tour was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns, and the 2021 tour will be held virtually this June to ensure the safety of all involved. This will allow youth tourists to participate in a rewarding experience that brings them together with other young leaders from across the country to learn more about their government, electric cooperatives and network with peers and strengthen their leadership skills.

Rutherford EMC will reward the delegates chosen to represent the cooperative. A \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to the winning participant in each of our three operating districts – Rutherford/Polk, Lincoln/Gaston, and Burke/McDowell. Also, as in years past, the youth tourists will be eligible to apply for additional college scholarships through North Carolina Electric Membership Cooperatives (NCEMC) and the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA).

While 2021 will look a little different, Rutherford EMC is proud to continue supporting the long-standing cooperative tradition of the Rural Electric Youth Tour. Learn more at [remc.com](http://remc.com).



# Watch Out for Faulty Heat Pumps

With the temperatures dropping and many Rutherford EMC members spending more time at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more important than ever to keep a watchful eye on your home energy usage. The device to watch the closest is the one that uses the largest amount of power, your heating and air system, which is typically a heat pump.

I have gained a love-hate relationship with air source heat pumps through doing energy audits and field checks at the co-op. An air source heat pump, when functioning properly, is "the next best thing since sliced bread." However, when an air-source heat pump has malfunctioned, members can get blind-sided by a large power bill that is often easily avoidable. If I could offer one piece of advice, it would be to check to make sure that your heat pump is functioning during the months the unit is used for heating your home. A properly functioning heat pump is one in which the outside unit is running. The same device that cooled your home all summer must be running to efficiently heat your home in the winter. The fan on top of the unit should be turning, which indicates that the compressor beneath it is working. If you notice that heat is coming from your registers, but the heat pumps outside unit never turns on, you have a problem and I can almost guarantee you an electric bill that you will look at with disbelief.

To fully understand why malfunctioning heat pumps cause skyrocketing electric bills, we must fully understand how an air source heat pump is designed to work. A heat pump has two methods of providing heat. It has an outside unit that pumps whatever free heat is available in the outside air into the house. However, sometimes there is not enough outside heat in the air to heat a house. When this occurs, the heat pump automatically reverts to a backup heat system, called auxiliary or emergency heat. The backup heat is a series of metal strips that heat up much like a toaster oven. An air handler then blows air through the heat strips. The heated air comes out of the register at about 120 degrees. This backup system heats a house wonderfully, but the problem is this is *very expensive heat!* So if your heat pump ceases operating outside, your system will continue to function, but with very expensive heat. Another way to tell if your heat pump is inoperable is by looking at the thermostat. Depending on your thermostat, you may see the words *auxiliary heat*, *EM heat*, or an indicator light. However, some thermostats show none of these signs at all. The better approach, in my opinion, is simply to visibly inspect your outside heat pump unit weekly to make sure it is indeed, running.

The next step in making sure your heat pump doesn't consume unnecessary electricity is to keep check on the temperature of the air coming from the vents. This can be done with an inexpensive thermometer that can be purchased at most auto parts stores. A thermometer can be placed in a vent on the floor or taped to a vent in the ceiling. A properly functioning heat pump will produce air from about 95 degrees to possibly over 100 degrees. If the air coming from the unit is in the 80s or even lower your unit

needs to be serviced or you have significantly leaky ductwork. As discussed earlier, if the heat coming from the vents is around 120 degrees that is a clear indication that your unit is using the backup heat source, or the *very expensive heat*, because the strips are running. This may be normal or abnormal, depending on the outside temperature. If the air temperature is in the mid 30's or lower, there is not enough heat in the outside air for your heat pump to bring into the house. As such, it will use backup heat to make up the difference. However, if the outside temperature is in the upper 30s or higher, your heat pump is not operating correctly and should be checked by a qualified technician.

Rutherford EMC is committed to helping our members use electricity as efficiently as possible. We advocate low-cost methods to save energy for the simple reason that high-cost methods are rarely cost effective over a reasonable amount of time. One of the most valuable things that we give members is the knowledge of where their energy dollars are going. Armed with this information, members can then decide which trade-offs they are willing to make in order to keep their electric bills manageable.

*Original Article by Chris Powell of Albemarle EMC*



*Knowing how to spot a faulty heat pump could save you considerable money on heating this winter.*



## IF YOUR POWER GOES OFF



1. Check your fuses or circuit breakers. If you live in a mobile home, be sure to check your switch box outside (if you have one).
2. Look around and see if you can spot the trouble (for example: fallen trees, broken poles, etc.). Try to find out if any of your neighbors are out of power also.
3. Then call any REMC office listed at right. Phones are answered 24 hours a day.

## REMC OFFICES & PHONE NUMBERS

FOREST CITY  
(828) 245-1621 or  
1-800-521-0920  
(Toll Free)

MARION  
(828) 652-2136

GASTONIA  
(704) 629-6226

CHERRYVILLE  
(704) 435-5401 or  
1-800-228-5331

LINCOLNTON  
(704) 735-5381

MORGANTON  
(828) 584-1410 or  
1-800-228-9756  
(Toll Free)

