

The NEWS LINE

RUTHERFORD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

www.remccom

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Owned By Those We Serve

January 2022

Notice The Large WPCA Credit on Your December Electric Bill

Beginning December 1st your electric bill reflected an even larger credit for the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA). The WPCA reflects increases or decreases in the cost of electricity that Rutherford EMC purchases from its wholesale power suppliers for distribution. The co-op's board of directors evaluates this line item as needed, based upon management's recommendations. Beginning August 1, 2021 this charge became a credit and was set at a return of \$4.00 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity used. The credit was then increased to \$8.00 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours beginning with the November bill cycle.

In late November, the board approved a 1 month credit of \$25.00 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity used, which began on December 1, 2021 billings! "This credit is a huge win for our members and has temporarily increased as a result of the cooperative's portion of funds received from Duke Energy's coal ash settlement that was approved by the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) for Duke's retail customers," said General Manager S. Dirk Burleson. To put this into perspective, the average Rutherford EMC member uses 1,166 kWh per month; this kWh usage would reflect a credit of \$29.15. That's \$29.15 that you don't have to pay!

All of this great news is a result of the Duke Energy Coal Ash Settlement in 2020. The settlement with the NC Attorney General, NCUC, and the Sierra Club resolves how Duke will pay to clean up its coal ash. Last year, Duke Energy announced the largest coal ash cleanup in national history. Duke Energy has been working to excavate the majority of its remaining coal ash at 14 coal plants. That effort encompasses the removal of 124 million tons of coal ash.

The retail settlement reduces Duke's ability to recover the full cost associated with coal ash cleanup from its customers. A provision in Rutherford EMC's wholesale power contract with Duke Energies provides our cooperative with the same benefits as a retail customer regarding coal ash costs and this settlement agreement. Since Rutherford EMC is a wholesale customer of Duke Energy Carolinas we are able to pass these savings onto you. While Rutherford EMC doesn't own any coal plants, environmental regulations related to the management of coal ash and its clean-up, impact the price all North Carolina utilities pay for wholesale power. We were very pleased to be able to offer you this notable credit on the WPCA line item of your December statement due to this settlement.



Middle Schoolers, Apply Now for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship to Attend Basketball Camp for Free this Summer!



Rutherford EMC is now accepting applications for full scholarships to basketball camps at two North Carolina universities this summer. Middle school boys can apply for a scholarship to attend the Carolina Basketball School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and middle school girls can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp held at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. These camps will take place in June of 2022.

To apply, students must be either a rising sixth or seventh grade student. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay. The application period begins in January and applications must be submitted by March 31. To learn more and apply, visit ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps or remccom.



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.
No phone calls, please.

FOR SALE

1975 VW Beetle, red in color, 150,000 miles, runs good & in good cond., \$6,000 or trade for an older truck in good cond. 980-429-2014.

Feed barrels w/lids & rings, \$20; #2 totes, \$75; burning barrels, \$10; solid top plastic barrels, \$10 ea., have 200 of them. Hickory, NC. 828-327-4782.

Freedom train, \$150; Matchbox cars; king sized handmade quilt; Max Lucado books, have 7 of them for \$5 ea. All in good cond. Lincolnton, NC. 704-735-9935.

Flea market dealer items - approximately five tables of household items, some new & used, laid out in garage for viewing, can send pictures, downsizing since move and will sell all for \$100. Call or text 704-689-8258.

Farm equipment - horse & cattle hay rings, \$120 ea.; Rubbermaid hard rubber watering tubs, \$140 ea.; 12' and 16' cattle gates, \$100 ea.; Delta wood lathe, never used, \$600; also have other various farm items available. 828-756-7067.

TaoTao 50 moped, red & black, has 3,986 miles on it, \$500. Call 704-735-1593 after 4 pm.

Oak firewood - \$50 per truck load, delivered in the Kings Mtn. area. 704-860-1151.

Fire place dog irons; motorcycle jack, new in box; tree stand, new in box; high top style truck camper top that measures 6' wide x 83" long; extension ladders: 24', 28' & 32' lengths, also have a fold-up ladder. 704-483-5616.

Yorkie/Poo's: D.O.B. May 12, 2021, 1 female & 3 males; D.O.B. June 17, 2021, 3 females & 2 males. Shih/Poos: D.O.B. August 24, 2021, 1 male & 2 females, tails docked, de-dew clawed, shots & worming's to date. 828-433-1374 or 828-320-8282.

Barcelona Red A.R.E. fitted hard Tonneau cover for

pick up, fits beds approximately 61" long, originally fitted for a 2010 Toyota Tacoma, \$600 negotiable. 828-803-7930.

Brake lathe for drums & rotors, with cabinet & all adaptors, good cond. \$2,500. 704-538-8221.

Embroidery sewing machine in good working cond. 828-289-3905.

Private collection of large group of comic books: Bronze Age - some late 1970's, 1980's & early 1990's; Marvel, DC & large assortment of independent publishers: Eclipse, First, Epic Eternity, Darkhorse & many more. Total collection is over 2,000 books, all in excellent cond., only read once & some not at all, they are bagged & boxed, ready to go, can be sold in small or large groups, prices are negotiable. Text 315-246-8091, no phone calls please.

Tools: 10" radial saw, 10" table saw, bench grinder, Reliant 15" planer, drill press, Shop Smith & more woodworking & cabinet making equipment. 828-437-6682.

Miniature Pinschers - 1 male 16 months old, \$300; 1 male 10 months old, \$400, both are up to date on shots. 828-289-3905.

Kenmore dishwasher, \$50; Kenmore electric oven, \$75. 828-289-3905.

1980's vintage 26" Sony Trinitron TV inside an oak wood console, 36" wide x 30" tall x 20" deep, \$25. 704-860-4505.

ONN 43" class 4K UHD DLED Roku Smart TV, new & fully warranted, \$245 obo, HDR 2160p wireless streaming. 704-860-4505.

(2) custom made window valances - pleated & lined on board, ready to hang, 7' wide x 2 1/2' drop, multi-colored, can text pictures. 704-813-6013.

2018 Kodiak Ultra-Lite camper, 3,000 lbs., 18' closed & 24' opened up, ex. cond., sleeps 7, 2 queen size beds on each end, kitchen with refrigerator/freezer, gas stove/oven, built-in microwave, double sink w/hot & cold water, dining table drops to make a bed, couch that pulls out into a bed, color TV w/DVD player, cable hook up, built in Am/FM radio, private bath w/sink & vanity, toilet, hot & cold shower, heat & AC, outside it has the electric awning w/lights. Blue Book value lists at \$22,300, will sell for \$15,000. 828-397-2644.

Firewood - hardwood seasoned about 8 months, already split, \$38 a truck load, will help you load, north part of Moss Lake. 704-600-8744.

Shelled Black walnuts, \$3.50 per measuring cup. 704-735-5030.

(2) Kerosene heaters, 23,800 BTU, \$75 ea.; "A" frame

swing, measures 47" long, frame is 6' tall, \$100 obo; ladies Guess jeans & shorts, size 12, \$10 ea., shirts \$6 - \$8 obo; ladies Tommy Hilfiger shirts, \$6 ea., jeans & shorts \$10 ea., ex. cond.; men's MLB & NFL apparel: t-shirts, jackets & watches (2) Dallas & (1) New York, new in box; (2) sets of Ping Golf clubs w/bags, \$500 obo for both sets. 980-888-7247 after 10 a.m.

Craftsman weed eater - 25cc, only used a couple of times, runs and works good, includes booklet and a roll of string, \$65.00. 828-455-3541

Canon MP250 all in one printer - prints, scans, and copies, includes cables, disk, booklet, 2 double packs of ink, very good cond. & works good, \$75.00 980-429-5319

Michael Kors Sklyer slip-on shoes, new & still in the box, size 10 in rose gold metallic color, never worn, \$90.00. 980-429-5319

MISCELLANEOUS

For Free: Air hockey table, does need a little work. 704-483-5616.

For Sale or Rent: 1 week at The Christie Lodge - All Suite Property/Beaver Creek, located in Avon, CO., 1 BR condo for rent, \$695 obo, sleeps 4, on site & close by amenities, just minutes from Vale, CO. w/easy transportation to the Denver Airport. Condo is also For Sale as a deeded property with annual use during Red Winter floating weeks, (mid-December to mid-April). 704-860-4505.

WANTED

Looking for a 10-40 gallon fish aquarium. Text 704-460-7029.

George Hildebran (Connelly Springs area) Yearbooks from 1951 - 1963, willing to pay a fair price. 828-443-9226.


Collector buying old comic books & old toys. 704-616-6567.



Annual NC Renewable Energy Fee Established For 2022

In 2007, North Carolina passed Senate Bill 3 with overwhelming bipartisan support authorizing the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) to promote the development of clean energy resources in our state. A critical step to expanding North Carolina's energy mix for a secure, affordable long-term energy future, the REPS law requires electric utilities to generate a portion of their electricity from renewable energy and energy efficient resources. The NC Renewable Energy Fee line item on your monthly bill increased on December 1, 2021. North Carolina is one of 29 states with similar portfolio standards.

Members will see the following changes: the residential fee will move from 62 cents to \$1.06; the commercial fee will move from \$3.45 to \$5.90 and the industrial fee will move from \$22.98 to \$39.31. Rutherford EMC has coordinated with its wholesale power supplier to meet the NC REPS fee in the most efficient manner possible. The expenses to comply with the NC REPS laws fluctuate annually based on the cost of renewable and energy efficiency projects determined by the wholesale power provider.



Rutherford EMC Awards

Bright Ideas Grants to Local Teachers

Rutherford EMC recently awarded 20 teachers with over \$16,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to fund innovative classroom learning projects. More than 4,350 students at schools in Burke, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, McDowell, Polk and Rutherford counties will participate in Bright Ideas projects funded by Rutherford EMC this year.

“These Bright Ideas grants make a tremendous difference for the teachers and classrooms who receive them,” said Dirk Burleson, General Manager of Rutherford EMC. “Educators always seem to have so many innovative and creative ideas, and we’re honored to support them, their students and our community through this program that makes learning fun and more engaging”. Rutherford EMC is committed to bettering the communities we serve, and we truly believe there is no better way than through the education of our youth.”

During the month of November, North Carolina’s Touchstone Energy cooperatives awarded Bright Ideas education grants to teachers statewide. Since the Bright Ideas grant program began in 1994, Rutherford EMC has contributed more than \$439,500 to local teachers. North Carolina’s 26 electric cooperatives collectively have awarded more than \$13.6 million to teachers across the state. The Bright Ideas program has reached well over 2.7 million North Carolina students and sponsored a total of 12,922 projects in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, history, music and the arts.

Bright Ideas grant applications are collected each year through mid-September, and winning proposals are selected in a competitive evaluation process by a panel of judges. The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2022.

To find out more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit remc.com or the Bright Ideas website at ncbrightideas.com. Become a fan of “Bright Ideas Education” on Facebook to receive regularly updated news about the program.

This year’s local winners, including the names of individual and/or team project winners, their respective schools, and the names of the winning projects are as follows:

Burke County

- Caryl Herrick of Valdese Elementary, Valdese: “Reset...Be My Best”
- Susan Higdon, Stacy Silvers, Stephanie Lytle & Kathleen Copley of West McDowell Middle, Marion: “Seeing is Believing”

Catawba County

- Kara Taylor of Northview Middle, Hickory: “Building Understanding With Brick Math”

Cleveland County

- Amy Bailey of North Elementary, Kings Mountain: “Tigers Create - Maker-space”
- Jennifer Bridges of Grover Elementary School, Grover: “Kick-Start Literacy”

Gaston County

- Allison Harbin of Brookside Elementary, Gastonia: “Maker Madness”
- Sarah Putnam of Bessemer City Primary, Bessemer City: “Primary Maker-space”

Lincoln County

- Megan Ezell of Lincolnton High, Lincolnton: “Scopa’s Fancy Plants”
- Rachel Masters of Pumpkin Center Intermediate, Lincolnton: “Creating the Next Future Steve Erwin”
- Carrie Munday of Catawba Springs Elementary, Denver: “Critical Thinking + Problem Solving + Standards = Breakout Boxes”
- Brooke Heafner of Norris S. Childers Elementary, Lincolnton: “Sensory Learning in Mrs. Brooke’s Classroom”

McDowell County

- Renata Crawley of West Marion Elementary, Marion: “Full STEM Ahead”
- Michael Caparaso of West McDowell Middle, Marion: “Get Out and Play”
- Kasey Gardin of Foothills Community School, Marion: “GooGoo Over GaGa”

Polk County

- Kellie Bradley of Sunny View Elementary, Mill Spring: “EC Writing”
- Dale Rush of Polk County Middle, Mill Spring: “Snap to Learning”
- Eric Eaton of Polk County Middle, Mill Spring: “Garden of Three Cultures”

Rutherford County

- Olivia Caldwell of R-S Central High, Rutherfordton: “Sew On and Sew forth”
- Gabrielle Francis of Spindale Elementary, Spindale: “Mathematicians of the Future”
- Annie McEntire of East Rutherford High, : Forest City, “ Getting Hands on in Physical Science”

Rutherford EMC congratulates all of these Bright Ideas grant winners and thanks all the educators who submitted an application this school year. The co-op commends you for the level of interest you have in making your classrooms unique for increased learning opportunities. Keep up the good work!

2021 Awards Total 360 Years of Service

Rutherford EMC recently recognized 2 directors and 24 employees for their service, which totals 360 years. Each one received a certificate based upon their five-year interval.

LINCOLN-GASTON DISTRICT

Kevin Sigmon, 35
Timothy Hawkins, 30
Lorra Howell, Sandy Swafford, 20

David Bourquardez, Sandra Hefner,
Michael Little, Jennifer Randall, 15
Director Timothy Stowe, 10
Deanna Lail, Leslie Williams, 5

BURKE-MCDOWELL DISTRICT

Jimmy Buckner, 20
Kristen Denton, Ann Powell,
John Mull, 10
Jennifer Pearson, Nicholas Philyaw,
Erik Rose, 5

RUTHERFORD-POLK DISTRICT

Mike Cudd, 40
Les Fleming, 30
Kyle Daves, 15
Director Amy Torvinen, India Jones,
Kari Putnam, Matthew Harshman,
Noah Van Dyke, 5

Watch Out for Faulty Heat Pumps

With the temperatures dropping and many Rutherford EMC members spending more time working from home, 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 de-

grees. If the air coming from the unit is in the 80's 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 30's 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
(Toll Free)

LINCOLNTON
(704) 735-5381

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