

The NEWS LINE

RUTHERFORD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

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Owned by Those We Serve

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Rutherford EMC Awards Bright Ideas Grants to Local Teachers

Rutherford EMC recently awarded 18 teachers with over \$16,800 in Bright Ideas education grants to fund innovative classroom learning projects. More than 3,700 students at schools in Burke, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, McDowell 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 \$455,600 to local teachers by awarding 589 grants that have involved more than 126,000 students. 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 2.8 million North Carolina students and sponsored more than 13,500 projects totaling more than \$14.3 million. Grants have awarded to 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 2023.

To find out more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit remccom 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 awards locally, 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

- Meghan Welly & Kristan Powell of Freedom High, Morganton: "Classroom-Based Enterprise!"
- Jamie Dale & Melissa Cook of Drexel Elementary, Drexel: "Science Pals"
- Lisa Summey & Monte Absher of North Liberty, Morganton: "Living Your Best Life – Learning Through Task Boxes"

Cleveland County

- Barbara McNeilly & Laura Shuford, Union Elementary: "The Terrier's Think Tank"

- LaRae Moyer of Fallston Elementary School, Fallston: "Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead"

Gaston County

- Jennifer Melton of Brookside Elementary, Gastonia: "Striving to Thrive – Let's Bring Reading ALIVE!"
- Tamara Houchard of Belmont Middle, Belmont: "Readers Are Writers Are Readers..."
- Jenny Bumgarner, David Malinovshy & Sydney Owens of W.C. Friday Middle, Dallas: "School and Community Nature Trail"

Lincoln County

- Heather Spicola of East Lincolnton Middle, Iron Station: "Hands-On Renewable Energy"
- Claire Simpson of West Lincoln High, Lincolnton: "Theatre for Young Audiences Initiative"
- James Satchwill of Asbury Alternative School, Lincolnton: "Disc Golf Course Project"
- Danielle Pearson of Union Elementary, Vale: "Again, and Again, and Again"

McDowell County

- Ashley Greene of West Marion Elementary, Marion: "AeroGardens in the Library"
- Susan Higdon of West McDowell Middle, Marion: "FOCUS and DISCUSS"
- Elizabeth Lampe of West McDowell Middle, Marion: "Place-Based Education to Enhance Reading and Science Skills"

Rutherford County

- Blakeney Oliver of Rutherford Elementary, Rutherfordton: "RES News Team"
- Robin Smith & Randy Neyer of Sunshine Elementary, Bostic: "DISCOVER*E"
- Annie McEntire of East Rutherford High: Forest City, "Cross Curricular Interactive Data Collection Devices"

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 and remember the application period for Bright Ideas will reopen in April of 2023!



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 resubmitted. 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

1989 Ford F250 Custom, 4x4, regular cab, long wheelbase, 5 speed manual trans., 302 fuel injected Jasper engine that needs work or replaced, 143,426 miles, Dana 60 rear end, new windshield, rear sliding glass, factory no A/C truck, straight body, Reese hitch, wired for trailer lights, \$3,000. 828-433-8337.

Snapper rear engine riding mower, 28" cut, 12 HP Briggs & Stratton engine that runs, mower is repairable or can be used for parts, also comes with a Bag-N-Wagon Leaf 1 grass catcher, \$400 for both; camper cover for long wheel base truck, fits 80's to early 90's model Ford trucks, has dent on top right, but still a dry cover, has side windows w/screens & 4 clamps, \$100. 828-433-8337.

McDowell High School yearbook (Odyssey) 1983 & 84, \$40, 1973 & 1991, \$50; Appalachian State Teacher College yearbook (Rhododendron), Anniversary Edition (1903-1953), \$35, 1954, 1955 & 1956, \$20. Marion, NC. 828-442-6322.

Comfort-Glow portable propane heater, heats up to 450 sq. ft., 6,000 – 18,000 Btu's, ex. cond. \$50. 828-606-5648.

Beautiful full length mink coat, asking half price at \$2,000. 828-324-9340.

Monitor heater – MPI 2400, like new w/tank & stand, \$700; E-Z Go golf cart, gas engine, older model, needs work, \$550; metal barrels – open or solid top, \$10 ea.; totes – \$60 ea. if you buy 2 or more. Hickory, NC, 828-327-4872.

Firewood - \$75 per truck load, bring your truck; local honey & pecans. 704-748-3258.

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

Shelled Black Walnuts – 6 oz. for \$4. 704-735-5030.

Boxes of baby doll parts including: arms, legs, heads, dresses & voice boxes, make offer; The Catwabs book series, volumes 1 & 2, \$100 ea. 828-324-2808, before 8 pm.

Band saw & furniture blocks, haul your own, call 828-324-2808 for prices.

Registered German Shepard puppies – black & tan, shots & dewormed, health warranty, \$700; Registered Golden Retriever puppies – shots & dewormed, health warranty, \$500. 828-432-7412.

2007 Toyota Yaris - very good cond., looks good & runs good, have maintenance records, \$2,600 firm. 684-441-7921.

Firewood – mixed hardwood and oak, hickory, maple, wild cherry & black walnut, \$20 per pallet, approx. 48"x 42"x 42". Polkville, NC. 336-932-1165.

Old Hoosier cabinet w/flour bin & sifter, bread drawer & spice rack, \$375; space heater, \$25; wine barrel custom bar, \$1,000. 828-659-3168.

Two Singer foot pedal sewing machines, both antique, approx. 100 years old. 704-750-6102.

2015 Forest River Salem Cruise Lite 262BXHL travel trailer, 32' in length, sleeps 8, weighs 5,800 lb., sofa & dinette slide out w/new slide motors, remote power package that includes: awning, jack & stabilizers, new tires, roof sealed, always kept under metal shed, in very good cond., many extras included, \$14,500. Pictures available upon request. 704-460-6365.

Old Gibson guitar; 2 room dividers w/rose designs; old Dobro. 843-670-9727.

Pulse 6 Quickie electric wheelchair w/all accessories, good cond., \$800; Coleman side x side, 4x4 w/winch, low hours, \$7,500; 828-403-2896.

1987 Well Craft Aruba 23' boat - sleeps 4, kitchenette, stove, sink & bathroom, no motor, but also comes with a Runabout. The Runabout motor is to replace the motor on the Well Craft, no trailers, both boats \$1,000 obo. 828-403-2896.

Metal desk w/3 drawers, \$30; wooden desk w/3 drawers, \$30. 828-403-2896.

Nice couch & chair; 1 dining room table w/4 matching chairs. 828-652-4214 or 828-430-0127.

New Coleman Airxcel Mach 3 Plus E-Z, 13,500 Btu RV air conditioner w/heat assembly, Model 48203C969, 120v, 1,600 watt package, black in color, \$650 firm, still in boxes, can send pictures. 561-602-0780.

Lot #232 at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Lincoln, NC, at the Old Rugged Cross, 2 spaces for two vaults. Valued at \$6,000, but will take \$4,000, buyer to pay \$100 deed transfer fee. 704-483-5804.

Lot #50 at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Lincoln, NC, near the fountain, 2 spaces w/one vault, \$4,500. 980-241-1311.

Phillips Roku TV – Model 43PFL5766, like new & still in original box, \$200 or will trade for camper shell to fit 94 Dodge Dakota p/u. 704-675-1590.

1991 Harley Davidson Sportster 883, bored out to 1200 ci, 30,600 miles, raked & lowered, new front tire, all fluids changed & recent inspection, Fat Bob tank, Mini Buckhorn handlebars, straight pipes, S&S carburetor, custom Corbin single seat, custom maroon paint, custom wheels, Karyikan turn signals, red under lighting, detachable windshield, wired for heated gloves & gloves are included, helmet w/faceshield, \$4,000 obo. Pictures & video available. Call or text 440-622-7112, Rutherford-ton, NC.

MISCELLANEOUS

FREE: Several walnut tree saplings ranging from 12" – 18" tall. 828-625-9260.

WANTED

Would like to buy a used Martin or Gibson guitar. 704-538-8741 or 828-429-4794.

Belt lacer in any cond.; also need lacing cards for a 3/16 belt. 704-473-4002.

Both door mirrors to fit a 1996 Ford Thunderbird LX, color not important. 704-922-5485.



And the Winners Are...

Following the 2022 Annual Meeting the prize drawings were held. These 3 lucky ladies were the top prize winners. Congratulations to our Grand Prize winner of \$1,000, Lydia H. Neal of Vale and our two \$750 prize winners, Lora N. Malone of Hickory and Mary M. McNeilly of Casar. Congratulations ladies and thanks again for supporting your electric cooperative during the Virtual 85th Annual Membership Meeting.



Annual NC Renewable Energy Fee Established For 2023

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, and the REPS law requires electric utilities to generate a portion of their electricity from renewable energy and energy efficiency resources. The NC Renewable Energy Fee line item on your monthly bill increased on Dec. 1, 2022. North Carolina is one of 29 states with similar portfolio standards.

Members will see the following changes: the residential fee will move from \$1.06 TO \$1.26; the commercial fee will move from \$5.90 TO \$6.98 and the industrial fee will move from \$39.31 TO \$46.56. 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.

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



Rutherford EMC is now accepting applications for full scholarships to attend basketball camps at two North Carolina universities this summer. Young men can apply for a scholarship to attend the Carolina Basketball School which will be held June 17-21 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Young women can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp in June at NC State University in Raleigh.

The scholarships cover all expenses at the overnight camps, which provide a glimpse into life on a college campus. Campers stay overnight in dorms, learn fundamental skills that will help them excel on and off the court and receive individual and group instruction

from Division 1 coaches to enhance their basketball and team-building abilities.

To apply, students must be a sixth or seventh grade student during the 2023-2024 school year. The application opens this month, and it must be submitted by March 31. To learn more and apply, visit remc.com or ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps.



2022 Awards Total 435 Years of Service

Rutherford EMC recently recognized 2 directors and 23 employees for their service, which totals 435 years. Each one received a certificate based upon their five-year interval.



LINCOLN-GASTON DISTRICT

Johnny Bridges, 35

Jonathan Pitman, 30

Kenneth Parker, 25

Brad Crawford, 20

Director Jill Lovell, Brad Bridges,
Joshua Kiser, Aaron Mays, 15

Matthew Brooks, Jessica Miller,
Skyler Spake, Robert Tucker, 5

BURKE-MCDOWELL DISTRICT

Patrick Welch, 20

April Blankenship, 15

RUTHERFORD-POLK DISTRICT

Robert Dobbins, Ricky Miller,
Scott Sams, 35

Scott Owens, 30

Anita Harris, Jeremy McDaniel,
Phillip Rhodes, 15

Director Robyn Houser,
Lindsay Roddy, 10

Nikki Dobbins,
Ryan Price, 5

*Congratulations to
all of our service award
recipients!*



Watch Out for Faulty Heat Pumps

With the temperatures dropping, 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 30s 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)

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

MARION
(828) 652-2136

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

GASTONIA
(704) 629-6226

LINCOLNTON
(704) 735-5381