

# The NEWS LINE

RUTHERFORD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

www.remccom

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Owned By Those We Serve

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## The Season of Reflection and Thanksgiving

As the holiday season approaches and the air turns crisp, we're reminded that this truly is the season of giving. It's a time for gratitude, generosity and looking out for one another—and at Rutherford EMC, that's something we take to heart year-round.

You've probably heard us talk about our concern for community. It's not just a nice phrase—it's one of the core principles that makes electric cooperatives like ours different from other utilities. We're not just here to keep the lights on (though of course, we're always working hard to do that).

We're here to make life better for the people we serve—our members, our neighbors and our friends.

Over the years, we've faced challenges together, such as COVID-19 and Hurricane Helene, and every time, our co-op family has stepped up. We've come together to support those in need, to keep our community strong and to build something better for the future. That spirit of generosity is never more evident than during the holiday season.

We're proud to support local students through the Youth Tour program, where we send some of our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., to see democracy in action and dream big about their futures. We invest annually in local teachers and their students by awarding Bright Ideas Grants that create endless opportunities for teachers to put their ideas to action in their own classrooms. That's giving in the most meaningful way—by investing in tomorrow's leaders.

And because we care deeply about safety, we also spend time visiting

schools throughout the communities we serve, holding demonstrations and teaching folks of all ages how to recognize hazards and stay safe around electricity. We believe knowledge is a gift too—and we love sharing it.

You'll also find our team alongside you out in the community beyond working hours—coaching youth sports, volunteering at local events, serving on non-profit boards, and in local places of worship. Because when you're part of a co-op, were not all just connected by utility poles and power lines, were a part of the community and giving back is just what you do.

While the holiday season is a festive time, we understand these can also be tough times for many. If you need advice on saving energy to reduce your energy bills, want to explore payment plan options, or you simply have questions—please don't hesitate to reach out. Rutherford EMC offers options to monitor your individual daily usage; and we offer pre-paid metering. This allows you to simply pay for electricity before you use it, just like a prepaid phone service.

We're here to help you, not just during the holiday season, but all year long.

At Rutherford EMC, we believe concern for community is more than a value—it's the heart of who we are. And during this season of thankfulness and giving, we're especially grateful to be part of such a caring, generous community.

From all of us at Rutherford EMC, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful, safe and bright holiday season.



# 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

**Summitt** Viper SD climbing tree stand, \$100. 828-803-7930.

**Full size bedroom suite**, \$300; full size bedframe, \$50; full size bedframe w/mattress, \$80; also have lots of dolls, ruby red glassware, and crystal glassware. 828-817-9037.

**Workx** Jaw Saw for cordless limbing & trimming, plus a chainsaw, they have a 20-volt power share battery system, never used & have paperwork, \$130. 704-732-4250.

**1992** rare Harley Davidson FXLR custom, red in color, 13,200 miles, only modifications are Screaming Eagle breather, performance exhaust and added chrome, excellent condition, \$6,500, Kings Mtn., NC. 704-974-6131.

**Snow** Joe cordless snow shovel – Model 2UV-5510, have papers & been used only once. \$100; Snow Joe cordless hedge trimmer – Model 24V-HT18-LTE 24, never used, have paperwork, \$50. 704-732-4520.

(2) 5-month-old female pups out of a registered Griffon Wire Haired Pointer and UKC Redbone coonhound, Redbone dame on premises, great versatile prospects, \$175 each or \$300 for both. 828-288-2664.

**Dry** horse hay, \$35, have an overabundance; 4x5 bales are 4 for \$120. 704-241-3734 and leave a message.

**Grave** plot with vault at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Lincolnton, asking \$1,500 obo. 704-530-7070.

**2000** Harley Davidson Electra-Glide Ultra Classic motorcycle, one owner, 33,500 miles, red & black in color, only modifications are Samson exhaust, Screaming Eagle air filter, Power Commander, and added chrome parts, \$6,000. Kings Mtn., NC. 704-974-6131.

**Quarts** of Honey - \$15, have dark wildflower and spring clover that's a light amber color. Lincolnton, NC. 704-748-3258.

**Beef** - grass fed, grain finished, USDA inspected, no hormones or steroids. Fall bundle includes 2 lb. roast, 2 lb. beef stew, 2 lb. cube steak, 1 lb. of ground beef patties, and 3 lbs. of ground beef, \$80. Call for Christmas bundles! Great gifts – 50 lb. bundle for \$425. 704-472-2761.

**4' x 8'** tilt utility trailer, needs new wood floor, no title, \$450; water totes, \$100; burning barrels, \$10; feed barrels, \$20, barrels to make stoves or grills, \$25. 828-327-4782.

**Ladies** vintage Harley Davidson black leather jacket, unique, studded stand-up collar, side panels, dolman style dropped sleeves, back hem zippers, excellent condition, only worn a few times, size medium, pd. \$350; also have new, never worn/still in box, G-Max naked half helmet, flat black, size x-small with quick change retractable inner sunshield, DOT certified, set of chaps and vest, pd. \$350 for the jacket, will sell it for \$180 or \$225 for all, can send pictures. 704-678-8538.

**Like** new large black dog crate w/ several mats and a liner, 28" wide x 30 1/2" tall x 42 1/2" long, only used a few times by a puppy, mostly used to store puppy toys, \$40. Dallas, NC. 704-678-8538.

**2002** Fleetwood motorhome – only 28,000 miles, Challenger Class A w/one slide-out, called the workhorse of all Fleetwood motorhomes, \$30,000. Call for an appointment to see. 828-429-8135.

**Cemetery** plot in Gaston Memorial Cemetery, Gastonia, NC., located in the Honors Section, \$3,000. Leave a voicemail and I will get back with you. 980-250-2955.

**Kubota** wheels & tires from a Model B7610 Kubota tractor, wheels alone are worth \$1,400, the tires are the typical chevron style standard tractor style, used condition, asking \$250. 828-803-2151.

Two grave plots plus vaults at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Lincolnton, NC. 704-472-7308.

**Beagles** – have (3) two-year-old black & tans, (2) females and (1) male, (3) eight-month-old male Blueticks. 828-437-5654.

**Two** saddle rack cart, like new, \$100; 7' Christmas tree w/stand, lights & storage bag w/wheels, \$75; 4' indoor/outdoor Christmas wreath, \$50. 864-706-5229.

**Large** two-piece custom built oak China cabinet, bottom measures 68" long x 36" high x 19" deep with shelves, top piece measures 66" long x 53" high x 15" deep with glass shelves and interior lights, \$500, Crouse, NC. 980-429-2201.

**Red-tailed** African Grey parrot, 12 years old, needs to be in a multiple family member environment so she has plenty of attention, serious inquiries only, call or text 704-689-8258.

**Firewood** - \$60 per truck load delivered, Kings Mtn. area. 704-860-1151.

**Dining** room table set w/4 chairs, pecan color, measures 47" x 35", \$40; white rectangle dining table, tile top, a few are cracked, comes w/2 chairs, measures 60" x 36", \$30; heavy wooden rectangle table, 3' x 5', green & pecan in color, \$50; cedar backyard playground w/swings, treehouse, and 8 other components, has been pressure washed, \$500 & you move; 20" x 25" cabin size white stove, \$20. 828-320-4574.

**1972** Harley Davidson Sportster – one owner, original paint, foot crank, \$2,500, Gastonia, NC. 704-772-8186.

**Utility** trailer – 4' x 8' w/tie down latches on each side, two feet tall side boards all the way around, \$550 neg., pictures available upon request. 704-435-9167 or 704-898-9977.

Craftsman 16" scroll saw, lie new. \$75.

**Formal** dining room table w/4 chairs that are

padded on front & back, have extra leaf that is still in the box, table is new with tags attached, bought it from Ashley Furniture to fill a room, selling at reduced price, \$1,000. 704-689-8258.

**2016** Honda ATV Model TRX250TEG, red in color, has winch, light bar, low mileage and is in good condition. 704-692-7131.

**Pat** Ward Pepsi cartoon glasses from the 1970's, \$15 ea. 828-894-6182.

**1960's** Old Crow porcelain lamp, red vest with gold buttons and spats. \$195 obo. 828-894-6182.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Free** Firewood – will need a medium sized chainsaw to cut it to your desired length and have a truck to haul it to your destination. Call or text 704-740-5516.

**For** Rent: House in Vale, NC. 704-276-2085 and leave a message.

**Collector** buying old comic books, toys and World War II military relics. 704-616-6567.

## WANTED

**5-10** acres for deer hunting in Burke or McDowell County, NC. The more remote the better. 828-584-8173.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.





# SEEKING HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS:

## “ APPLY NOW:

For the Summer Leadership Experience of a Lifetime on the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. ”

Rutherford EMC is seeking applications from current high school juniors for the leadership opportunity of a lifetime: The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Join the state's future leaders for a week of exploration, education, and leadership training that's taking place in June 2026.

The Youth Tour allows students to experience Washington, D.C., and learn more about how they can make a difference as young adults. Youth Tourists will learn about the cooperative business model and values, visit historic monuments and memorials, pay their respects at The Arlington National Cemetery, meet elected officials, and tour a variety of Smithsonian museums, all while building a peer network with young leaders from across the country.

Rutherford EMC will sponsor three local students to join North Carolina's delegation on the 2026 trip. A winner will be chosen from each of Rutherford EMC's operating districts in January to represent the cooperative on the NC Youth Tour.

The all-expense-paid, weeklong tour is hosted by electric cooperatives nationwide and is a tradition almost 60 years strong. About 1,800 students from more than 43 states are expected to participate in 2026, and North Carolina's electric cooperatives will send a delegation of more than 45 students.

Co-op officials and past Youth Tour participants agree: this is the perfect way for students to see democracy up close and in action. "The Youth Tour is an opportunity for students to have an eye-opening backstage pass to our nation's capital," said Jeff Brittain, General Manager of Rutherford EMC.

"Our student delegates will meet with members of North Carolina's congressional delegation, connect with a network of talented peers, and grow their leadership skills and ambitions. Take a step out of your comfort zone and apply for this tremendous opportunity."

If you're a high school junior who wants to grow as a leader, NC Youth Tour is the perfect opportunity to build your skills, gain new experiences, and form valuable relationships with others. The Youth Tour has something to offer everyone and can help prepare you for future success on any path you pursue.

Not only will this opportunity look great on your college application, but as a Youth Tourist you will also have the opportunity to be eligible for one of three annual scholarships: the \$2,500 Gwen B. Price Youth Tour Scholarship, the \$2,000 Katie Bunch Memorial Scholarship, and the \$2,000 Youth Leadership Council Scholarship. That's at least three good reasons to apply!

In 2025 Rutherford EMC sponsored Leah Dotson, a student at Polk County High School; Mary Ellen Bridges, a student at Lincoln High School; and Eli Wise, a student at Wise Academy. Ask any of these now high school seniors about their summer of 2025 Youth Tour trip and I feel confident they will tell you it was a week they will never forget!

For more information, complete the sign-up card enclosed with your November billing statement and return to: Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation, Attn: Youth Tour Coordinator, PO Box 1569, Forest City, NC, 28043-1569. You may also submit your request online by going to Rutherford EMC's website at [remc.com](http://remc.com). Please submit your request for more information on applying to be a NC Youth Tour candidate by December 5, 2025.

The Youth Tour is an annual event coordinated by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC). For additional information about The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour visit [ncelectriccooperatives.com](http://ncelectriccooperatives.com) or [youthtour.coop](http://youthtour.coop), you can also find it on Facebook by searching NC Youth Tour.

## NC Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour

# Is a Ductless Mini-Split System Right for Your Home?

How would you like a personalized comfort zone within your home? One where the temperature is customized to your liking and may be different than the temperature in the shared living areas or other rooms in the house. This flexibility and customization are precisely why mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, and their energy efficiency aspects are so popular.

Let's unpack some mini-split basics and explore whether this type of system is a good choice for your home heating and cooling needs.

A mini-split system is a type of HVAC equipment used for heating and cooling, allowing you to control the temperature in individual rooms or spaces. Similar to central heating and cooling, mini-split systems have two main components—an outdoor compressor and an indoor air-handling unit(s). A narrow conduit links the indoor unit(s) to the outdoor compressor.

While central heating and cooling systems feature an indoor unit connected by long lengths of ductwork, mini-splits are typically ductless. This means energy is not lost traveling through long stretches of ductwork. Installing the air-handling unit in a desired room or area enables you to control the temperature more precisely, reducing energy consumption. That's because you're adjusting the temperature to a single room or space rather than the whole home.

## Is a mini-split system right for you?

Mini-split systems are a popular option in home additions, or to supplement heating and cooling in a space that may be furthest away from the main living area, such as a finished attic or basement. In these instances, it may not be feasible to install or extend the ductwork required in traditional central cooling and heating systems. In contrast, mini-splits are relatively easy to install requiring a small hole for the conduit connecting the indoor and

outdoor units. Most systems can handle up to four indoor rooms or zones connected to one outdoor unit. Each of the zones can be customized because each includes a thermostat that enables you to heat or cool the space as needed, saving energy and money over time.

## Cool solutions

Mini-split systems bring additional benefits. They are quiet, improve indoor air quality and are typically easy to install. Many come with remotes to make temperature control even easier, and because of their smaller size, mini-split systems have many placement options for indoor and outdoor units.

One of the greatest benefits of mini-splits is that they typically have a higher SEER (seasonal energy efficiency ratio) rating than traditional central heating and cooling systems. The higher the unit's SEER rating, the more energy efficient it is.

## Additional considerations

However, according to the Department of Energy, "mini-splits cost about \$1,500 to \$2,000 per ton of cooling capacity. That's about 30% more than central systems (not including ductwork) and may cost twice as much as window units of similar capacity."

While the technology is improving and evolving, those in particularly colder climates may need a fuel backup to run a mini-split system. Aesthetics are another factor to consider, as some homeowners don't like the appearance of the indoor units, which are more visible than central air conditioning vents.

If you're considering an upgrade or additional heating and cooling equipment, talk to a qualified technician to learn if a ductless mini-split system could work for your home.

*Source: Anne Prince of NCREA*

## MINI-SPLITS AT A GLANCE

Mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, heat/cool a home through an outdoor unit that connects to one or more individual indoor air handlers, which are typically mounted on a wall. Depending on the size of your home and personal preferences, a mini-split system is worth considering when you need to replace or upgrade your heating/cooling system.

### Mini-Split System Benefits:

- Zone-controlled heating/cooling
- Higher energy efficiency ratings
- Easy to install
- Good for heating/cooling home additions

### Mini-Split System Considerations:

- Potentially higher upfront cost
- Appearance
- May require electrical upgrades
- Not as effective in large spaces

