

Electric Reliability Requires Investment

As your local power provider, Rutherford EMC's mission has always been simple: keep the lights on and support the communities we serve. But behind every switch, every warm home and every business that opens its doors is a complex system that requires constant care. Reliable electricity doesn't happen by accident. It requires ongoing investment in our local grid—through system repairs, maintenance, upgrades and the integration of new technologies that help us operate smarter and more efficiently.

Much of the energy system we rely on today was built decades ago. While it continues to serve us well, age alone means that components must be repaired or replaced to maintain performance and safety. From poles and wires to transformers and substations, every part of the grid has a lifespan. Routine maintenance helps extend that lifespan, but eventually equipment must be updated to meet modern standards. These proactive investments reduce the likelihood of outages, shorten restoration times when disruptions occur and create a stronger backbone for our growing community.



The demands on the electric grid are also evolving. Homes and businesses today use more electricity than ever, and that trend will only continue. Electric vehicles, advanced HVAC systems, smart appliances and new commercial facilities add load to the local distribution system. As these technologies take hold, the grid must be able to support increased demand while maintaining the reliability our members expect. Strategic upgrades, such as the newly constructed substation in the Denver area, are essential to ensuring we can meet these needs both today and in the decades ahead.

At the same time, new technologies are reshaping how we operate. Tools such as automated metering and real-time power monitoring systems allow us to detect problems faster and respond more effectively. These technologies can isolate problems, reroute power to minimize outages and provide real-time data that helps us plan and maintain equipment more efficiently.

Implementing innovative technologies into the grid is not just a convenience—it is a necessity for ensuring reliability in an increasingly complex energy landscape.

While these improvements require thoughtful planning and financial investment, the return is significant. A stronger grid supports economic growth, improves service quality and enhances safety for our crews and community. Most importantly, it ensures that the essential power you rely on is available whenever you need it.

Whether it be something simple as performing annual utility pole inspections or something as complex as the engineered electrical grid that handles momentary variations in energy consumption, our commitment to reliability runs deeper than infrastructure alone. It reflects our responsibility to the people and communities we serve. Every upgrade, every repair and every technology we deploy is an investment in your daily life—from the comfort of your home to the success of local businesses and schools.

We know that powering our community means preparing for the future, not just maintaining the present. By investing in our local grid today, we are building the foundation for a brighter, more resilient tomorrow.



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

Snapper 15 1/2 HP RE210 riding lawn mower, has 33" cut, \$700. 704-538-3327

Weaving loom – Purrington folding/traveling solid wood loom, 22" weaving width, four shaft, six treadle, two reeds (6 and 15 dent), crank, open dimensions are 30" wide x 29" deep x 38" high, complete and ready to weave, \$625. Union, Mills, NC. 832-515-3151.

Four pieces of antique furniture – marble top dresser w/ mirror, three antique dressers w/mirrors. Lincolnton, NC. 704-735-9935.

White Whirlpool refrigerator w/freezer section on top, \$75. 828-430-0968.

Wagon wheel taken from wagon on our farm, re-finished and used as western décor, always kept dry since, would make a nice coffee table project or just a conversation piece. Pictures available on request, serious inquiries only, \$400. Call or text 704-689-8258.

Regular size bed, chest of drawers, and nightstand, items are not a matching set, \$100; also have a bookcase, antique server, stereo, corner shelf and a sofa table, make offer. 704-530-8077.

2017 Jayco Precept 32' Class A motorhome, asking current payoff, very good condition, too many features to list, Pictures and more information available by calling or texting 704-813-2763.

AKC Registered Beagle puppies, all males, one tricolor and two lemons, came from field trial champions, \$700 with paperwork. Text for pictures at 704-813-2763.

2023 Aliner Camper, hard side pop up, set up time only takes a few minutes, one owner, bought new, sleeps 3 adults easily or 2 adults and 2 children, has an interior heat pump, AC/DC, water hookup, 20/30-amp service w/battery backup, like new and in very good condition, towable with smaller vehicles. 828-443-9310.

1992 Ranger 681c boat w/2014 model 50 hp 4 stroke Mercury outboard engine and Minn Kota power drive trolling motor w/remote control, the trailer is a new galvanized Yacht Club drive on w/spare tire, runs good and in very good condition, \$6,000. 828-443-9310.

Craftsman 10" table saw, like new, \$175; Craftsman 16" scroll saw, like new, \$100; Craftsman miter saw with work stand, \$150; Craftsman 10" sliding compound miter saw, \$150; Craftsman router table

with router, \$100; saddle rack cart, like new; solid core door 32" x 80" with legs, used for a work table, \$150. 864-706-5229.

Over 50 pieces of Superior Hall Autumn Leaf dishes, excellent condition, \$350 obo; antique fireplace screen with logs, log irons, and a set of fireplace tools with stand, gold and iron in color, \$100 obo. 828-430-0269, please leave a message.

4'x8' utility trailer, no title, \$400; burning barrels, \$10; plastic feed barrels with lids and rings, \$20; water totes, \$100; John Deere D170 riding mower, only 193 hours, \$2,000. 828-327-4782.

Grass fed and grain finished beef: winter bundle includes (2) roast, (2) beef stews, (2) cube steak, and 5 lbs. of 80/20 ground beef for \$100. Also selling whole, halves and quarters. 704-472-2761.

MISCELLANEOUS

For Rent: February 7-14, 2026 The Christie Lodge – an All-Suite Property at Beaver Creek, located in Avon, CO., dates can be changed, if space is available; this is a 1BR timeshare condo, \$995/week or \$150/daily, sleeps 4, on site & close by amenities, just minutes to Vail, CO., w/easy transportation to/from the Denver Airport. Condo is also For Sale as a deeded property with annual use during Red Winter weeks, (mid-December to mid-April). 704-732-8678. A commission will be paid for assistance with rental or sale.

WANTED

Fred T. Foard yearbooks; wheat pennies and Indian head pennies reasonably priced. 828-327-4782.

Space Heater Safety Tips

Space heaters are a great way to warm specific rooms in your home without having to crank up the thermostat, but using space heaters doesn't come without risk! Use the tips below to keep your home safe.

DO: Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.

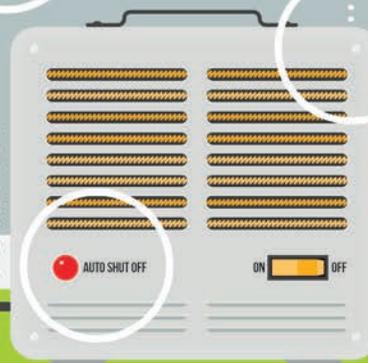


DO: Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.

DO: Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.



DO: Buy a unit with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.



DO: Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.



DON'T: Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.



DON'T: Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to over-heat, and can be a tripping hazard.

DON'T: Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.



DON'T: Try to repair a broken space heater yourself.



DON'T: Put your space heater in your bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.



Rising 6th & 7th Graders, Apply for a Cooperative All-Stars Sports Camp Scholarship to Attend Basketball Camp this Summer!

Rutherford EMC is now accepting applications for 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 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on June 27-30, and young women can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp, to be held at NC State University in Raleigh on June 14-17.

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 2026-2027 school year. The on-line application period opened Jan. 1, and applications must be submitted online by March 31. To learn more and apply, visit ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps.



COOPERATIVE
ALL-STARS
Sports Camp Scholarships



**DID YOU
KNOW ?**

**ONE SPACE HEATER
CAN ADD UP TO
\$140 TO YOUR
MONTHLY BILL?**

Is My Portable Space Heater Really Costing Me That Much?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The typical space heater operates at around 1,500 watts, so consumes around 1.5 kW per hour. This puts their operating cost at a little under 20 cents per hour. I agree, that sounds rather inexpensive for a little warmth, but multiply that by 24 hours of run time each day for 30 days and you have added approximately \$140 to your monthly electric bill. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency, energy needs and the added costs you're willing to pay for a warm spot in your home.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a very efficient investment. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space

heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from any type of space heater.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns they pose, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills! Be sure to always read the small print on the manufacturer's box so that you don't have unusual expectations. **These heaters can get costly quick!**

If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, visit our website at remc.com for more ideas. As always, Rutherford EMC is here to help you manage your energy use year round.

Source: Abby Berry of NRECA

Fire Extinguishers: A Little Preparation Can Go a Long Way

Cooking and home heating are the two leading causes of house fires. A house fire can happen in just seconds: in one instant, you could go from preparing dinner to watching flames spring up from the stovetop. According to the National Fire Protection Association, approximately 78% of all reported structure fires occur in homes. In the right hands, a household fire extinguisher can save lives and protect property should a small fire start.

Fire extinguishers should be placed in easily-accessible areas of the home, close to where they might be needed (such as in a kitchen, garage, or bedroom). Some basic rules to keep in mind when using household fire extinguishers:



1. If the fire is not spreading and remains confined to a small area, use the appropriate type of extinguisher. Select a multi-purpose extinguisher (rated A, B, or C) with the UL mark that can be used on all types fires such as wood, cloth, paper, flammable liquids (gasoline, oil, grease, oil-based paint), and energized electrical equipment including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers and appliances.
2. Know both your limits and that of the fire extinguisher.
3. Periodically inspect your extinguishers to determine if they need to be recharged or replaced. Extinguishers need to be recharged or replaced after each use—even if you haven't used the entire extinguishing agent. Check the gauge on the fire extinguisher for this information.
4. When operating a fire extinguisher, stand at least 6 feet away from the fire and keep your back to a door so you can escape easily, if necessary.

Remember the word PASS:

- **P**ull the pin, hold the extinguisher away from you and release the locking mechanism.
- **A**im low, pointing the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **S**queeze the lever slowly and evenly.
- **S**weep the nozzle from side to side.

When making the decision to use a fire extinguisher, always keep in mind that fire extinguishers for home use are not designed to fight large or spreading fires. In these situations getting out safely is your number one priority.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories & National Safety Council

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

Enrolling in autodraft payments with your utility provider can help prevent certain types of utility bill scams. If a scammer contacts you with fake disconnection threats, you can rest easy knowing your bill is paid automatically through a pre-arranged, secure channel. Autodraft payments also eliminate the risk of exposing checks and personal banking info through the mail. If your utility offers autodraft payments, consider enrolling to stay on track and avoid certain scams.

Source: AARP



Why is the Demand for Electricity Rising?

Demand for electricity in the U.S. is booming. Recent data shows that power consumption nationwide is set to increase by at least 38 gigawatts (enough electricity to power 3,600 homes for one year) between now and 2028. Meeting this new demand will require a combination of new power plants, grid upgrades and energy storage technology advancements. Here are the key factors that are driving increased demand.

- 1 **Increased Electrification:** Electric vehicle adoption, electrification of home heating and industrial electrification are increasing overall U.S. energy consumption.
- 2 **Data Centers:** Driven by explosions in AI, cryptocurrency and cloud computing, total U.S. data center load is projected to increase by 65% by 2050.
- 3 **Economic Growth:** Residential power consumption is expected to increase by 14% to 22% through 2050 due to increases in population and steady economic growth.
- 4 **Manufacturing Growth/Onshoring:** New, expanding and "onshored/reshored" manufacturing capacity driven by federal incentives is expected to increase industrial demand by 13,000 GWh per year.