

# CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER STORMS







From humble beginnings, EnergyUnited has grown into the largest not-for-profit electric cooperative in North Carolina. And we got where we are today not by staying the same, but by driving innovation and operating on the cutting edge for the good of our members. Our launch of **Energy Advisor** in 2018 put the power in our co-op members' hands to better manage energy and money, and it's continuing to gain traction.

If you don't know already, **Energy Advisor** is designed to help you manage the full gamut of your energy consumption and save on your monthly energy bill. *Savings Tips*, for example, awards your home an efficiency rating and offers professional advice, energy-saving products and more to help you improve that rating. *Energy Forecast* takes your local weather into account and lets you adjust a "visual thermostat" to predict the impact of usage adjustments. And *Interactive Energy Home* covers an entire housing blueprint to identify opportunities for energy savings, from the garage to the attic. The best part? These features are only scratching the surface of Energy Advisor's capabilities.

And now in 2020, we've launched even more efforts to help our members better manage and save energy.

**Beat the Peak** is a free and voluntary program that notifies members via text message and/or email when there are forecasts for extreme temperatures, or what we call "peak times." Peaks occur when the demand (and cost) for electricity is the highest—typically during cold winter mornings or hot summer afternoons. When you receive a text or email alert, you'll be encouraged to adjust your thermostat and lighting and shift the time you use large appliances in an effort to hold down the cost of power. In turn, you'll save money by decreasing your power usage.

To take things a step further, **Peak Time Perks** is a program where members' thermostats adjust automatically during peak times. Notifications for these events will be sent via text and/or email as well. Members can sign up on our website or register with their smart thermostat (Google Nest or Honeywell). Receive a \$50 one-time bill credit for participating as well as \$20 each year moving forward!

As you ease into the Carolina summer, I strongly encourage you to explore Energy Advisor and all it has to offer and to sign up for one or both of our new programs. These tools are intuitive, and the savings speak for themselves. Energy Advisor is easily accessible by logging in to My Account on our website and adding your email address and phone number. Once inside, you'll discover an Energy Advisor dashboard customized to you and your home. Visit [EnergyUnited.com/demand-response](https://EnergyUnited.com/demand-response) to sign up or learn more about Beat the Peak and Peak Time Perks. Then let the summer savings begin!

H. Wayne Wilkins

## STAYING SAFE IN A PANDEMIC

As businesses across the area continue to reopen to full operational status, it's important to keep the **three W's** in mind:

**WAIT** six feet away from people in public areas. Make sure to maintain as much social distancing as possible.

**WASH** your hands thoroughly with hot water and soap, or use a hand sanitizer if you're on the go.

**WEAR** a face mask to protect the spread of your germs as well as the germs of others.



## SUMMER SAVINGS

KEEP YOUR HOME AND YOUR WALLET COOL WITH THESE TIPS.

- 1 Reduce air conditioning energy use by 20-50% by switching to a high-efficiency air conditioner.
- 2 The quickest way to save energy on home cooling is to regularly clean and replace your cooling unit's filters.
- 3 Fans are a great way to chill out, but remember to turn them off when you leave the room. Fans cool people, not rooms.
- 4 Nice enough outside to open the windows? Create a cross-breeze to enjoy the best cooling ventilation.
- 5 While more labor-intensive, insulating your attic and sealing ducts is a great way to see a big difference in energy spending.

Source: [energy.gov/energysaver](https://energy.gov/energysaver)



# YOUR CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY

## A SPOTLIGHT ON ONE OF ENERGYUNITED'S MEMBERS

Though these are strange times, there are several things we know for certain: that members' power will stay on, that customers' propane tanks will stay filled, and that thanks to one of our local energy users, businesses both big and small will have access to hand sanitizer.

Meet **Southern Distilling Company**, a Statesville-based liquor producer that has since changed its formulas from award-winning whiskeys and bourbons to life-saving hand sanitizer. Owner and co-founder Pete Barger explains: "We saw there was a shortage in hand sanitizer and saw an opportunity to help. Over the course of three days, we halted all liquor production and were able to create FDA- and WHO-compliant hand sanitizer to be purchased at any volume."

In fact, they're currently producing 15,000 gallons of hand sanitizer a day with the capacity to do 50,000 gallons. And it's in this business shift that Pete's need for reliable energy was greater than ever.

"We run a huge steam boiler that requires steady-state equilibrium and without constant reliable energy we have to halt all production and the rest of the sanitizer assembly follows suit. We have had very few outage issues and feel lucky to have an energy provider as reliable as EnergyUnited as our supplier."

Pete, along with his wife and co-founder Vienna, are also creating jobs in a time of furloughs and layoffs—hiring 30 new employees who've been displaced by the service industry.

He explains, "The sense of community has been an unexpected silver lining during this time. It's phenomenal to see the better side of humanity. We try to make

an environment that's enjoyable, so we're bringing in lunches from fellow local businesses for our employees and supporting those who've been supporting us too. As bad as it has been, I feel very positive about how people are responding."

As their energy services provider, we're incredibly proud to support a local business that is working to make a difference during this time. When asked what the future holds, Pete is quick to reassure that "Right now, there's a great need and when that need goes away, we'll go back to filling bourbon." We'll drink to that.

For businesses and individuals looking to order a case of hand sanitizer or set up a recurring supply, visit [southerndistillingcompany.com](https://southerndistillingcompany.com).



## EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

EnergyUnited is pleased to announce its **2020 Empowering the Future scholarship winners**: Sophia Leeman of Mecklenburg County and Madison Mascorro of Forsyth County. Both students will receive \$5,000 college scholarships from EnergyUnited to cover their educational expenses.

**Leeman**, a senior at William A. Hough High School, plans to attend Duke University this fall to study biomedical engineering. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, Tri-M Honor Society, Hispanic Honor Society and the Science National Honor Society.

**Mascorro**, a senior at the Early College of Forsyth, plans to attend Appalachian State University this fall to study hospitality and tourism management. She is a Crosby Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society.

2020 marked the third year in which EnergyUnited offered two \$5,000 *Empowering the Future* scholarships. The cooperative received nearly 100 applications from students throughout its 19-county service area. All seniors who live in a residence or attend a high school served by EnergyUnited are eligible to apply each year. EnergyUnited will begin accepting 2021 *Empowering the Future* scholarship applications on January 1, 2021.



SOPHIA LEEMAN



MADISON MASCORRO



## HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

We will have limited availability to member-customers on July 3 in observation of our nation's Independence Day. As usual, we will remain available for emergency response, and all calls will go to dispatch as normal. Have a healthy and safe July 4!



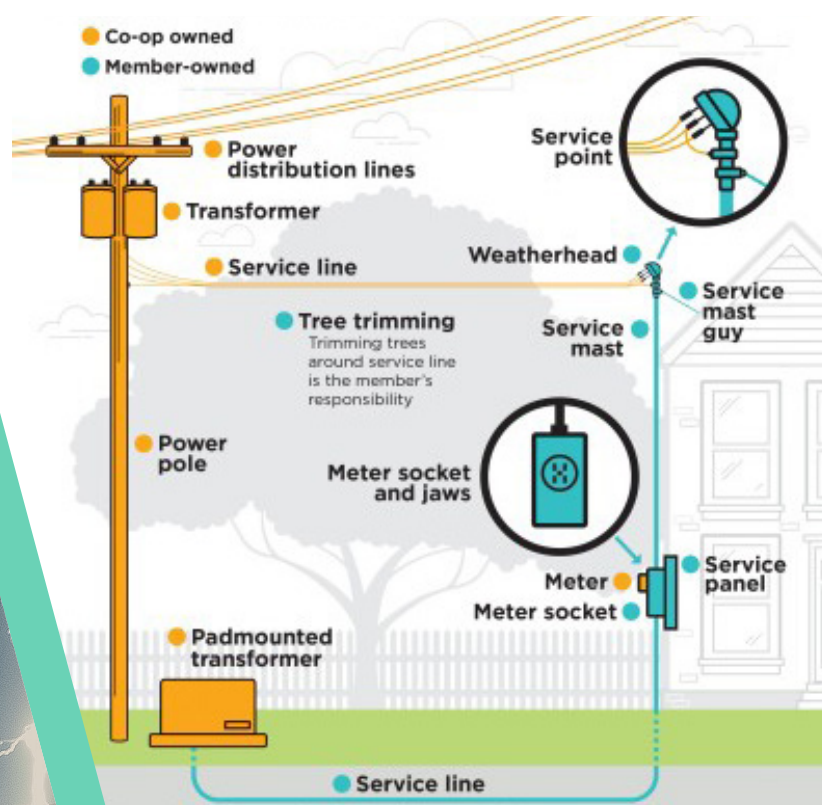
## E-BILLING WINNING

Three lucky winners will enjoy a \$100 Visa® gift card when they sign up for e-billing in the month of July! Enter by updating your billing preferences under My Account. Help save paper and postage!

Congrats to the April winner, **Ronald Barrs!**

## WHO OWNS WHAT?

### ELECTRIC CO-OP OWNED VS MEMBER-OWNED EQUIPMENT



This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.

*Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.*

## YOUR STORM SAFETY TIPS

Thunderstorms are part of the American summer but they are also a dangerous part. Lightning results in 55–60 deaths and 300 injuries every year. Extreme weather can be harmful to both yourself and your home. So make sure to stay on top of all storm safety tips to keep safe.

### BEWARE OF LIGHTNING

If you're outside and ever feel "tingly" hair or hear a buzzing sound, this means lightning is imminent. The safest thing to do here is crouch down on the balls of your feet, making sure your shoes touch with your head down and ears covered. This will reduce your risk of being hit and will minimize injury if the worst happens. Although this will help protect you, you are still at high risk. Once the sensation passes, go inside as soon as you can. You are still in danger so do not go out unnecessarily and rely on this method to stay safe.

### BE PREPARED

Having nonperishable food items, a first aid kit, waterproof containers, flashlights, battery-powered radio, bottled water and a whistle are essentials for any emergency kit. Make sure you and your family also have a game plan for when severe weather hits.

### EXTERIOR MAINTENANCE

Part of having a storm safety plan in the home is removing the dangers that sit outside your home. Keep on top of yard maintenance (e.g., trim tree branches to limit breakages). Secure or remove any loose items from the yard. After the storm has passed, please stay away from downed power lines as they may still be live and can cause serious injury or even death when touched. If there's a line down in your neighborhood, call us and we'll take care of it as quickly and safely as possible.

## FIRE UP YOUR SUMMER!

Summer is upon us, which means you're going to be spending plenty of time outside soaking up the sun's rays. And lucky for you, we've got the perfect outdoor living products powered by propane to complete your outdoor living space.

**GET CONNECTED AT [ENERGYUNITED.COM/PROPANE](https://www.energyunited.com/PROPANE)  
OR BY CALLING 1-800-522-3793**



# BRIGHT IDEAS EDUCATION GRANTS

For more than 25 years, EnergyUnited has partnered with local educators to bring learning to life through the Bright Ideas education grant program. Last year we funded grants to teachers in over 40 schools throughout our 19-county service area! Right now educators can apply for Bright Ideas grants of up to \$2,000 for innovative, hands-on classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded. Educators can learn more and apply online at [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com).

EnergyUnited expects to award more than \$40,000 in Bright Ideas grants this year to teachers throughout our service territory. The grants are available to K-12 teachers for projects in any subject, and educators can apply individually or as a team.

Applications will be accepted now through Sept. 15, 2020. Teachers who submit their applications by the early-bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.

To apply, teachers must include a budget and explain the implementation, goals, creative elements and evaluation of the project. Applications will be judged through a competitive evaluation process, with judges looking for projects that feature innovative and creative approaches to learning. Apply today and let EnergyUnited support the Bright Ideas of its local educators.



## 2020 CREDENTIALS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

At EnergyUnited, you're so much more than a customer, you're a valued member who has a say in our direction and leadership. Since 1998, EnergyUnited has been owned and governed by members like you. Your vote in the EnergyUnited Board of Directors Election is your voice in your cooperative, a chance to weigh in on leaders who will represent you and your interests.

### DISTRICT 1

#### KENNETH A. MASON

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### DISTRICT 2

#### JAMES H. GROGAN

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#### KENNETH D. MEREDITH

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#### JANE EVERHART

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### DISTRICT 3

#### ROBERT GATES

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#### ARLENE ARCIERO

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