

**OCTOBER 2020**

# CONNECT

**ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER**

**CELEBRATING NATIONAL  
CO-OP MONTH**

**#PowerOn**

## **IN THIS ISSUE**

GIVING BACK WITH THE EU FOUNDATION

MEET ELEVATED WAKE PARK

SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE SEASON



National Co-op Month brings many things to mind. Like power from an energy cooperative that's truly powered by the people, for the people; communities of individuals that are here to help one another; and growing opportunities both for your energy and for the future. Under the lens of 2020 however, National Co-op Month means coming together as a community, giving back where we can and *Powering On* with progress in mind.

One such way we're building an even stronger co-op is our community assistance page, to direct members to helpful resources. We've seen impressive donations coming in to assist fellow co-op members through Operation Round-Up participation as well as donations made outright to the EnergyUnited Foundation. We are also offering nine-month repayment plans for members with past due balances. You can find all of this information and more on our community assistance page.

Actions like these are fantastic reminders of our network of energy cooperatives. This network operates with the Seven Cooperative Principles of:

- Open and Voluntary Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

It's what ensures an active member base, community involvement, and that we have a neighboring co-op to rely on in the wake of disaster or unusual circumstances like we find ourselves in now.

*Power On* is more than just our monthly theme, after all-it's cooperatives in action, helping out and persevering even when it feels hard to do so. As many of us find ourselves working from home, or perhaps even in between jobs, we must *Power On*.

**H. Wayne Wilkins**

# NOW RECRUITING

As your energy service provider, we value the opinions of our members and customers. That's why EnergyUnited is now looking for volunteers for our **Member Advisory Committees (MACs)**. Join us for brief virtual meetings and act as a valued sounding board for your cooperative.

**CONTACT: [MAUREEN.MOORE@ENERGYUNITED.COM](mailto:MAUREEN.MOORE@ENERGYUNITED.COM)**



## HELPING OUR MEMBERS WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST

Have you recently experienced financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic? EnergyUnited is more than an electric cooperative—we are a local connection to energy services and resources designed to help individuals navigate these uncharted waters.

In addition to offering grants through the EnergyUnited Foundation, we also help direct our members to many other resources available through the Department of Social Services and local nonprofit agencies.

The Crisis Intervention Program (CIP), which is managed through your local Department of Social Services office, received additional funding for the 2020-2021 fiscal year at the beginning of July. In addition to CIP, you may also be eligible to receive assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) when the program receives 2021 FY funding in November. The first application window for this program typically opens in December for Social Security Disability, and then to all eligible applicants in January. To learn more about this program and other community assistance programs offered in your county, visit [energyunited.com/assistance](https://energyunited.com/assistance) or dial 211 for a third-party utility bill assistance program referral.

**VISIT OUR SITE: [ENERGYUNITED.COM/CORONAVIRUS](https://energyunited.com/coronavirus)**

# ENERGYUNITED BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

## MEET ELEVATED WAKE PARK

Investment decisions always carry varying levels of risk, but some ideas are so good that you feel as if it could be riskier not to invest in them. Enter Elevated Wake Park, owned by Daniel and Morgan Batchelor of Davidson County.

The 30-acre park, which is served by EnergyUnited, opened on June 1 after two years of development and has been booming ever since. Just a few years ago, Morgan had the idea to open a wakeboarding park and convinced his dad that his unique vision would attract visitors from all over the state in search of new and exciting outdoor activities.

Elevated Wake Park visitors are pulled by an elevated cable centered within a doughnut-shaped lake, not by a boat. It's proven to be a great way for first-time and beginning wakeboarders to practice, but also offers a really fun opportunity for experienced wakeboarders too.

"The park is for your entire family. I think that's what makes this such a destination spot you can bring your kids, parents and grandparents," Morgan said. We've had a 4-year-old riding and we've had a 78-year-old riding. If wakeboarding isn't for you, there's still plenty to do: swim, bring a float, tie-dye,

grill out, enjoy a nice lunch, pet some cute goats or just sit and watch all the wipeouts."

Morgan's vision for this unique destination spot did not happen overnight. It required a lot of hard work and effort behind the scenes to turn his vision into a reality. Although the timing of the park's opening was less than ideal during the pandemic, he knows he made the right decision to open based on the feedback he has received.

"We've received a lot of positive responses from both riders and spectators about the park. It's something completely new to this area that has brought a lot of people in. We've been doing well and we love to see how excited everyone is."

Morgan added that the park would remain open beyond Labor Day this year—at least until cooler temperatures arrive. He's excited to see the future unfold, as he discussed plans to open a restaurant on the second level of their building and an Aquapark.

There is a bright future in store for the Batchelors and their new business and EnergyUnited is proud to offer our support as Elevated Wake Park's energy services provider.

***Elevated Wake Park is open  
11 a.m. – 7 p.m. seven days a week.***

### ***Pass options include:***

*Two hours for \$33*

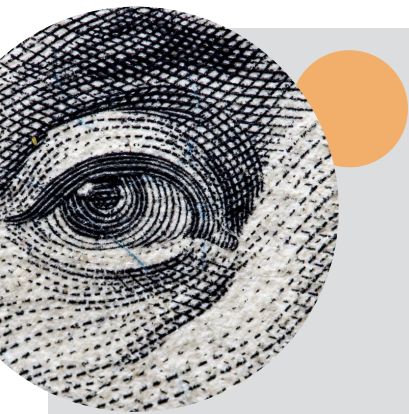
*Four hours \$40*

*All-day pass \$50*

**VISIT OUR SITE: [ELEVATEDWAKEPARK.COM](https://www.elevatedwakepark.com)**







**BEAT  
THE PEAK**

**PEAK TIME  
PERKS**

## **AN UPDATE ON OUR NEWEST PROGRAMS**

Beat the Peak and Peak Time Perks are already helping hundreds of members save money and energy on their bills. So far, over 1,100 members have signed up for these programs and are seeing the benefit! You can, too. Apply today-go to the Save Money tab and click Demand Response Programs on our home page.

## **SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE SEASON**

As cooler weather arrives, we're reminded once more that keeping the heat on at full blast is simply not sustainable. And we mean both for your wallet and the environment. Here's how you can save some green this season.

- Every degree of temperature change influences the energy use in your home by about 8%—which means if you were setting your thermostat at 72°F but can stand to have it at 69°F, you can reduce your heating costs by around 24%.
- Try to remember to lower your thermostat when you leave the house for several hours. A smart thermostat like Nest can do that for you.
- Leaving a computer on overnight for a year creates enough CO<sub>2</sub> to fill a double-decker bus. Make sure you unplug and power down your electronics when you're not using them.
- Set up a profile on EnergyUnited's Energy Advisor, our state-of-the-art tool that helps you understand where you could be saving more energy.
- This may sound counterintuitive: Turn on your ceiling fan. Since heat rises, turning a fan on low speed can push the warm air down toward your living spaces. This is especially true if you have tall ceilings.
- Shut the window: A typical window left open overnight in winter will waste enough energy to drive a small car over 35 miles.

**THESE SIMPLE TIPS CAN MAKE FOR BIG SAVINGS—  
FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT AND YOUR FINANCES ALIKE.**

**SOURCE: EPA.GOV**



## IT'S ELECTRIC

National Drive Electric Week, Sept. 26—Oct. 4, 2020, is a nationwide celebration to raise awareness of the many benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid cars, trucks, motorcycles and more. They are fun to drive, are less expensive and more convenient to fuel than gasoline vehicles, are better for the environment, promote local jobs and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Interested in driving electric?



**CHECK OUT [DRIVEELECTRICWEEK.ORG](https://driveelectricweek.org)**

### YOU CAN WIN \$250

How does enjoying a \$250 bill credit or Visa® gift card sound? Pretty good, right? Well, good news, you could win just by ***signing up for e-billing.***

**Log in to “My Account” and update Billing Preferences for your chance to win!**

## WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all in a variety of ways. For most of us we've had to learn how to adapt to new structures and sacrifice many of the things we may have previously taken for granted. For others it's meant financial strain. We are offering several repayment plan options to those of you struggling to get caught up on payments. Contact your customer care representative today at **800-522-3793** to find the plan that's right for you.

## GIVING BACK WITH THE ENERGYUNITED FOUNDATION

In times like these it's important to give back in the ways that you can. Our Foundation can help. With Operation Round-Up you can opt in to round up your bills to help fellow members in need.

**Sign up by calling 800-522-3793.**



# UNDERSTANDING THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance.

These principles are a key reason why America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of our members first.



## VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.



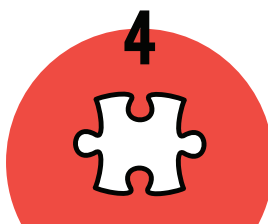
## DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Representatives (directors/trustees) are elected among members and are accountable to them. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.



## MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.



## AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.



## EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, help boost cooperative understanding.



## COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

By working together through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



## CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

THESE ARE  
THE WORDS  
WE LIVE BY.



The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric cooperatives and public power districts providing retail electric service to more than 42 million consumers in 48 states and whose retail sales account for approximately 12 percent of total electricity sales in the United States. Learn more at [electric.coop](http://electric.coop).



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1-800-522-3793