

CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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ENERGY WASTE.





A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

H. WAYNE WILKINS

As an energy services provider, we have an innate responsibility to provide our members with reliable electricity at a sustainable cost, with the future of our planet and our co-op ever at heart. That is why we continue to invest in renewable and low-carbon energy initiatives to diversify our energy portfolio while keeping our planet, and your pocketbook, green. One great example of this is through our community solar initiative, which provides locally sourced solar energy to those who are looking to go a little bit greener.

We first launched this program with a fairly conservative amount of panels—not knowing what the interest would be. To our surprise, the number of people interested far surpassed the panels that we had to produce solar energy. Excited to learn this, we launched our Solar Work Plan, which included a detailed analysis of our electric distribution system, so that we could learn where we could add sustainable value at the least possible cost for you, our members.

As a result, we will be breaking ground on a brand-new solar farm in Davie County. This solar farm will produce 36,000 kWh of electricity daily and fully power 1,100 homes across our service area. The farm is expected to be completed in 2022, and we're excited to provide this opportunity to you and contribute to a brighter future, together.

To learn more about this program, I urge you to take a look at the community solar page on our website, as well as at some of the helpful bits of information regarding solar energy within the pages of this month's *Connect*. And to those who have already taken steps to be eco-friendly stewards of our community, thank you. Your commitment to helping us preserve the environmental health of our communities is truly inspiring.

Sincerely,

H. Wayne Wilkins

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE **GOING SOLAR**

We regularly speak with and answer questions from members regarding home solar panel installation. Here are some common questions regarding solar PV.



If I install a solar PV system, can I completely eliminate my power bill?

Attempting to generate enough energy to offset your entire usage often involves installing a system much larger and more expensive than may be needed. EnergyUnited recommends that members install a system sized such that they can use as much of their own generation as possible. Members with this type of setup tend to be the most pleased with the performance and economics of their system.



But if I did happen to generate enough energy to completely offset my usage, I wouldn't get an electric bill, right?

EnergyUnited's rate structure includes both charges for kWh used, and a Basic Facilities Charge which covers maintenance and improvements to the grid. In order to reduce your bill to zero, you would not only need to offset all of your usage, but also the Basic Facilities Charge. In most members' experience, this is hard to accomplish.



Why can't I just send energy to the grid and get it back when I need it?

This is often referred to as "using the grid as a battery." Unfortunately, the electric system does not work in this manner because energy and power usage are recorded on a real-time basis with each kW/kWh charged and credited as it is used.



I was told by a solar installer that EnergyUnited will not work with them?

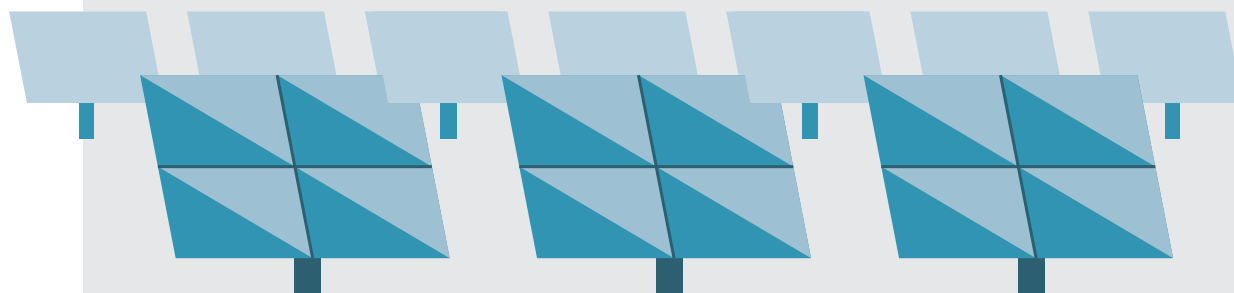
Because YOU are our member-owner, we work on your behalf with any installer you choose or will work with you directly if you are building the project yourself.



Can I just install a system and turn it on?

No, EnergyUnited requires that ALL generation systems go through our application process. We have designed the process to be as simple and easy as possible and will work with you and/or your installer to ensure successful completion of the process. Applications are available on our website.

For more information, visit EnergyUnited.com or you can email us at renewables@energyunited.com.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
**EMPOWERING
THE FUTURE**
SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS!

We are thrilled to announce that we've awarded \$5,000 in scholarship money to Amaya Hanley (left) and Sadie Essic (right). Amaya will be attending Duke University to study life sciences and Sadie will be heading to UNC-Chapel Hill to study biology. We're proud of these two individuals and wish them all the best with their future plans.



\$5,000
AWARDED

OUR YOUTH TOUR
DELEGATES

EnergyUnited has selected Connor Robinson (Lake Norman Charter), Sydney Lofflin (HOPE Academy), Alexandria Maynard (East Forsyth High), and Arianna Allen (William A. Hough High) as our four Virtual Youth Tour winners.



COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS



CALLING ALL **TEACHERS!**

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have funded 12,922 innovative classroom projects through the Bright Ideas education grant program, impacting over 2.5 million students.

To apply, teachers must explain their goals, creative elements, implementation, and the budget of the project. Grants up to \$2,000 are given to teachers who are accepted into the program.

Early bird applications are due: apply at EnergyUnited.com/bright-ideas.

Submit your application by August 16 to be entered to win one of five \$100 gift cards.

The final deadline for Bright Ideas is September 15, 2021.

CELEBRATING NC COOPERATIVE **LEADERSHIP CAMP!**

Last month we sent two students to participate in NC Cooperative Leadership Camp! This week-long camp allowed teens to form a worker/owner cooperative and work together to solve business challenges as they developed leadership and team-building skills. And though the facility had closed for the remainder of the year, the opportunity facilitated a robust, fun, and interactive at-home camp experience for all teens sponsored.

This included Zoom meetups, at-home challenges, small group get-togethers, and social activities. Teens even had a chance to win prizes, showcase talents, and be part of a virtual startup cooperative!

CONGRATULATIONS **SYDNEY!**

As part of this year's Youth Tour, EnergyUnited's very own Sydney Loflin took home first place in the Youth Leadership Council speech competition. Way to go, Sydney!



CONGRATULATIONS

We are happy to announce that Ann Eller – District 1 (top), Max Walser – District 2 (middle), and Brian Sisson – District 3 (bottom) have been reelected to three-year terms on EnergyUnited's Board of Directors.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SERVICE TO OUR COOPERATIVE.

LOOKING TO **SAVE MONEY?**

Looking to save energy and money this summer? We've got you covered! Check out our helpful tips below, or better yet, register for My EnergyHub to be automatically enrolled in Beat the Peak! Until then, check out these easy actions to save even more!

- Raise your thermostat a few degrees in the summer & lower it a few degrees in the winter.
- Use the outdoor grill instead of the stove.
- Turn off lights that are not necessary.
- Shift the time large appliances are used and wait until after the alert has passed.
- Reduce hot water usage.

To learn more about our demand response programs, visit [EnergyUnited.com/demand-response](https://www.energyunited.com/demand-response).



CAN YOU CLOSE THE DOOR ON **ENERGY WASTE?**

Heating and cooling costs can take up a lot of space within your energy budget, and with summer in full swing, many members are looking for quick and easy ways to save energy.

One common misconception is to close doors and vents in unused rooms. It sounds like a good idea, but in reality this will actually increase your energy use because cooling systems are designed for balance. So when doors are closed, room air pressure increases, which in turn pushes air out through any openings in walls or windows. Rooms with closed doors can actually leak air in increased amounts. Luckily, we've compiled a list to help improve home energy efficiency and comfort:



- *Hire a qualified professional to inspect and clean your heating and cooling system at least once a year.*
- *Make sure that all supply and return air vents are open and free of obstructions, such as rugs or furniture.*
- *Check exterior doors and windows for gaps or air leaks and seal with weatherstripping or caulk.*
- *Ensure that your walls and attic are properly insulated for your local climate. A qualified insulation contractor or energy auditor can inspect your home and tell you whether you need to add insulation.*
- *If your heating or cooling system is older or in need of repair, consider replacing it with a new ENERGY STAR® system. ENERGY STAR-certified units use less energy than standard models while still providing the same level of comfort and performance.*

Looking for more ways to stay cool and save money this summer?
Check out this video on how to install a ceiling fan!

Scan with your phone to learn more:



ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

Our Annual Meeting will air virtually on Thursday, September 16, at 4 p.m. The event can be streamed online through the EnergyUnited website, via social media as a “Live” event, or through our partnership with WSIC Radio!

GRILLIN' SUMMER!

Bring out your favorite grill recipes and submit them for our e-cookbook collection!

Please submit your grilling recipes no later than the 20th of the month by emailing **EU-communications@energyunited.com**.

If you don't have access to email, please send a typed version of your recipe with your first and last name to:

EnergyUnited: Cookbook Collection
P.O. Box 1831
Statesville, NC 28687

Please submit your recipes no later than August 20.

REMINDER

A reminder that EnergyUnited's offices will remain closed to the public.

In January of 2021 we adopted a new transactional service delivery model to improve member service and reduce costs.

We have many convenient payment options available for members. To learn more, **visit [EnergyUnited.com/pay-electric](https://www.energyunited.com/pay-electric)**.

WAYS TO PAY