

CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER

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A LETTER FROM
OUR CEO H. WAYNE WILKINS

The long, hot days of summer are far behind us and the season of giving has finally arrived. It's one of my favorite times of the year—not just because of the wonderful weather we enjoy here in North Carolina, but also because of the communal mentality that echoes the distinct tones of thankfulness and reflection.

For over 80 years, our cooperative has worked diligently to strengthen our expertise and grow into the largest not-for-profit energy services provider in the state. Through it all, we've remained true to our rural roots, and it's all thanks to you.

To each and every one of you who either donated to the EnergyUnited Foundation, joined our Member Advisory Committee, or helped us give back to our communities, thank you. I am constantly amazed by your active engagement, generosity, and participation as none of what we've accomplished, and will accomplish, would be possible without you. A cooperative is only as good as the member-owners who firm its ranks, and based on our history, I wouldn't have it any other way. I think I can speak for all of us when I say it truly is a privilege to serve you.

Additionally, I'd like to send a special "thank you" to the men and women who have served in our country's armed forces. We live in the home of the free because of noble souls like you who have put your lives on the line to protect our values. I look forward to honoring and celebrating your bravery this Veterans Day. We are grateful for your service.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Wayne Wilkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

H. Wayne Wilkins

COST-OF-SERVICE STUDY FINDINGS SUPPORT NEED FOR RETAIL RATE CHANGE

In last month's issue of our *Connect* newsletter, we announced that the cooperative was working with an independent firm to conduct a comprehensive cost-of-service study. This month, we received the results of the study, which included a projection of the cooperative's costs over the next several years. The study considered two different kinds of expenses that impact EnergyUnited members: distribution costs and wholesale power costs.

Distribution costs include any expense that is incurred in our efforts to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable power to our members, such as the costs to maintain, construct, and upgrade the grid. Wholesale power costs are often negotiated via long-term power purchase agreements, which offer rate stability for consumers. EnergyUnited's rates have historically been structured to recover wholesale power costs mostly through retail energy charges. However, these costs still fluctuate based on many different factors.

Price fluctuation hasn't been as favorable for consumers in 2021. This year, many people from both Main Street and Wall Street have been worried about the possibility of long-term inflation. To that end, we were not surprised to see that our study found distribution costs are projected to increase next year. On the other hand, our wholesale power costs are projected to decline.

Over the next month, we will study the impact of these projections on our existing rate structure to ensure our distribution and wholesale power costs are equitably recovered across all rate classes. A revised rate schedule will be necessary to reflect these projections and a summary of the new schedule will be announced in the December issue of our *Connect* newsletter.



ENERGYUNITED FOUNDATION SPOTLIGHT: APRIL JENKINS

This year, we are celebrating the 25-year anniversary of the EnergyUnited Foundation (EUF). The Foundation has positively impacted so many lives by supporting nonprofit organizations, individuals, and households in need across the cooperative's 19-county service area. We recently met with one EUF grant recipient, April Jenkins of Statesville, to discuss the impact of the grant.

Why did you apply for a grant from the EnergyUnited Foundation?

I applied for a grant so I could be independent again and be able to drive a vehicle. The Foundation provided a grant for \$10,000 to pay for driving training and to retrofit my vehicle with the equipment that I would need to be able to drive.

How has the EnergyUnited Foundation made a positive impact on your life?

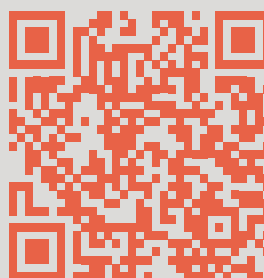
Before I received the grant from the EnergyUnited Foundation, I was very depressed because I was in the house pretty much 24/7. And that was before COVID. I was unable to get out of the house and do things independently. But because of EnergyUnited Foundation and their willingness to grant me the \$10,000 donation, I was able to get a job with the Statesville YMCA, working at the front desk. This job has meant so much to me. It's helped me get out of my shell and not be so introverted. I'm a lot happier now. I'm able to go to work now and put smiles on other people's faces, which has made a very positive impact on my own life.

Would you advise others to consider supporting the Foundation?

Yes, please give if you can by rounding up your bill or by making a one-time donation. Even \$1 can make a huge difference when all our change is added up.



Scan the QR code to watch now!



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HELPING OUT THROUGH **OPERATION ROUND-UP**

Looking to give back? Operation Round-Up is a powerful way for members to help others in their community by rounding up their monthly bills. The EnergyUnited Foundation is funded entirely by the generosity of the members who give through this program. To learn more about the EnergyUnited Foundation or to participate in Operation Round-Up, visit EnergyUnited.com/giving-back or call us at 1-800-522-3793.



\$25 FOR 25 years

We've launched a giving campaign in honor of the 25-year Anniversary of the EnergyUnited Foundation. Whether you'd like to donate \$2.50, \$25, or \$250, the Foundation will greatly appreciate any monetary amount.

Visit EnergyUnited.com/25-years-of-giving to make a donation!

LEARNING MORE ABOUT OUR SMART GRID

With a reliability rating of 99.9%, it's clear we are committed to keeping you empowered. But even we can't prevent all the outages caused by Mother Nature. However, we now have the technology to identify power outages in a matter of seconds when a downed line occurs, thanks to our Smart Grid. The result? We're able to restore your power sooner while simultaneously saving valuable time, energy, and resources.

Modern power grids no longer move electricity along a linear path from power plants to homes and businesses. The grid now includes a wide variety of distributed resources. Things like smart thermostats, backup generators, solar panels, and even electric vehicles all empower our members to take more control of their energy, but also require an even more sophisticated energy management system, which we are proud to provide.

By leveraging these technologies, we're also managing more data about electric grid performance, enabling quick and accurate reporting related to outages and restoration, and taking advantage of many other features made possible by today's improvements.

Our proactive maintenance programs also help ensure the system's equipment is in good working order, while our right-of-way initiatives allow us to mitigate risk to our power lines and prevent outages. All of these efforts are part of our ongoing commitment to being your local connection and providing a brighter energy future for all.



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ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

This year, EnergyUnited partnered with WSIC Radio in Statesville to successfully conduct our 23rd Annual Membership Meeting. The meeting was broadcasted via WSIC Radio on September 16 at 4:00 p.m. and streamed over Facebook Live. During the meeting, our CEO Wayne Wilkins, Board President Dr. Max Walsler, and Corporate Attorney Roy McDonald delivered their respective reports to EnergyUnited members to recap the events and highlights of the previous year. We also shared information on the EnergyUnited Foundation's 25-year anniversary, the installation of two new fast charging stations in Statesville and Mocksville, and lots more.

To watch a recording of the meeting, simply visit [EnergyUnited.com/2021-Annual-Meeting](https://www.energyunited.com/2021-Annual-Meeting).

SAVE MONEY & ENERGY



EAT THE PEAK



PEAK TIME PERKS

Looking to save money on your electric bills as the weather cools down? Check out these two programs that can help you save!

Find out more about these programs by visiting [EnergyUnited.com/Demand-Response](https://www.energyunited.com/Demand-Response).

PAPERLESS BILLING

Are you still receiving paper bills? Maybe you should consider paperless billing! Not only is it better for the environment, but as a member-owned cooperative, the money we save on paper, printing, and mailing is just one way we keep costs low. You can choose to go paperless in My EnergyHub, or call us at 1-800-522-3793 and request to switch.

GRATEFUL FOR... YUMMY RECIPES!

Whether you've got *the best pumpkin pie* recipe, a family-favorite treat, or a unique dish that is sure to surprise, we'd love to hear from you. Share your recipes with us at EU-communications@energyunited.com.

If you don't have access to email, please send 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 Nov. 20!**

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Thank you to all our veterans. We are forever grateful to you for all your sacrifices.

Happy Veterans Day to those who've served, continue to serve, or plan to in the future.

THERE'S STILL TIME! APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUTH TOUR

Each year, EnergyUnited seeks high school applicants to participate in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The program is open to sophomores and juniors and will take students on a historical journey to learn about electric cooperatives, American history, and the United States government while they visit the remarkable sites of the nation's capital.

Applications will be accepted until

DEC. 31, 2021

Delegates will tour Washington, D.C., in June 2022

To apply, visit EnergyUnited.com/Youth-Tour



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