

DECEMBER 2021

CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

BRIGHT IDEAS WINNERS

LAST CALL FOR YOUTH
TOUR APPLICATIONS

YOUR RECIPE FOR
ENERGY SAVINGS

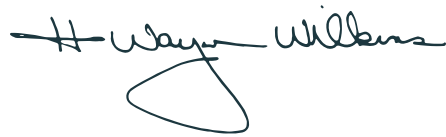
A LETTER FROM OUR CEO H. WAYNE WILKINS

This season stands for so many things to so many different people. For some, it's the chance to observe faith-based holidays like Christmas and Hanukkah, or cultural holidays like Kwanzaa — for others, it's a seasonal reminder to enjoy time with family and friends over good deeds, gift exchanges and great food. Whatever the celebration, one thing is consistent: this is the season of giving and that's no different at EnergyUnited.

As a member of this electric cooperative, you actually own a portion of EnergyUnited, and one of the benefits of being an owner is the reallocation of “margins” back to the consumer base they originated from. Said more simply, when EnergyUnited makes more money than it needs to ensure reliable service, we return that money to you.

This year we are returning \$3.5 million to members who received service from our cooperative in the years 1991, 2001, 2002, 2008 and 2019 via direct bill credit. Even those who have left the cooperative are still eligible for a check. As always, we hope you and yours enjoy this wonderful time of year and look forward to the many signs of progress, events, new members and energy updates to come in the new year.

Sincerely,

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



NEW RATES APPROVED FOR ENERGYUNITED MEMBERS

Article 3 of 4

In last month's issue of our *Connect* newsletter, we announced that a revised rate schedule would be necessary to ensure the cooperative continues to recover costs adequately and equitably. This month, we are proud to share that our new rate schedule, effective for all bills rendered on or after January 1, will result in a net reduction in energy bills for most EnergyUnited members.

Approximately 84% of EnergyUnited members are expected to experience this net reduction thanks to long-term pricing secured by EnergyUnited through Power Purchase Agreements (PPA).

While the cooperative's wholesale power costs are declining, its distribution costs have increased. Therefore, EnergyUnited's Basic Facilities Charge will be increased to reflect the change in the cooperative's distribution costs.

Members who typically use more energy each month will notice increased savings as a result of the new rate schedule, while those who use less energy may not notice any difference in the amount of their bill. Residential members who consume approximately 300 kWh or more per month will see a net reduction in their energy bills.

While consumers continue to observe increasing prices for basic goods and services, EnergyUnited is committed to providing safe, reliable power at the lowest possible cost. Our new rate schedule is a reflection of this commitment. Additionally, and perhaps more importantly, the cooperative's rate structure reflects our commitment to recover costs fairly and equitably. To learn more about the new rate schedule or to view a copy online, visit **EnergyUnited.com**.

“Approximately 84% of EnergyUnited members are expected to experience this net reduction thanks to long-term pricing secured by EnergyUnited through Power Purchase Agreements.”

ENERGYUNITED RECOGNIZES NEARLY 50 TEACHERS FOR THEIR **BRIGHT IDEAS!**

We are proud to provide \$45,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to nearly 50 teachers this year. Students at schools in Alexander, Cabarrus, Davie, Davidson, Forsyth, Guilford, Iredell, Rockingham and Rowan counties will enjoy these engaging interactive classroom projects.

This year's winning projects leverage investments in technology and tools that help facilitate social distancing while still achieving desired educational outcomes. Since 1994, EnergyUnited and the Bright Ideas program have funded nearly 13,000 projects for local teachers across 19 counties in North Carolina, impacting over 2.7 million students.

Bright Ideas grant applications are collected each year from April through mid-September, and winning proposals are selected in a competitive evaluation process by a panel of judges. The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2022. To find out more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit **EnergyUnited.com/Bright-Ideas-Program**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Alicia Driver
Amanda Coppley
Amanda Johanson
Amanda Reid
Angela Hines
Angela Raby
Austin Beasley
Bleasha Carroll
Brittney Bray
Christopher Jeffords
Dana Gillis
Dana Hardeman
Daniel Lough
Denise DiTondo
Doug Hathaway
Elaine Phelps
Elizabeth Potts
Elizabeth Smiley
Emily Ruebel
Genna Holt
Haley Quick
Heather Chenevey
Janna Stowe

The Brawley School
North Davidson Middle School
Midway Elementary School
West Alexander Middle School
East Alexander Middle School
Bandys High School
Whitaker Elementary School
Fair Grove Elementary School
Walkertown Elementary School
Carver High School
Brawley Middle School
Kannapolis Middle School
Central Davie Academy
Davidson Elementary School
The North Carolina Leadership Academy
WS/FCS Virtual Academy
Ashley Elementary School
Francis Bradley Middle School
Vienna Elementary School
Walnut Cove Elementary School
Tyro Elementary School
Union Grove Elementary School
Ledford High School

Jennifer York
Joann Thomas
Kacie Wilson
Kelly Gray
Kelly Hartzell
Kelly Kerr
Kristina Allred
Kristine Drum
Laura Caldwell
Melanie Sigmon
Melinda Glenn
Meridith Goldstein
Pamela Johnson
Paul Satenstein
Rachael Farah
Rachael Moyer
Risa Jarman
Ryne Cooper
Sara Nussman
Savannah Jackson
Shannon Pylant
Sonya Teague
Tamara Glover

Union Grove Elementary School
Lexington Middle School
North Davidson Middle School
Lakeshore Elementary School
The North Carolina Leadership Academy
The North Carolina Leadership Academy
North Davidson Middle School
Davie County High School
Celeste Henkel Elementary School
West Alexander Middle School
Taylorsville Elementary School
The Brawley School
North Iredell High School
East Davidson High School
Ashley Park Elementary School
West Iredell High School
Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy
West Iredell High School
Stoner-Thomas School
East Iredell Middle School
Reagan High School
Wittenburg Elementary School
West Charlotte High School



CELEBRATING #HOLIDAYGIVING

25
years

Did you miss the chance to donate on Giving Tuesday? No worries! Help us help those in need with our EnergyUnited Foundation Secret Santa, which will give \$10,000 to a nonprofit for the holiday season! Any member who makes a minimum donation of \$25, \$250 or even \$2,500 will be able to cast their vote for the nonprofit they would like the Secret Santa to give to. The more you give, the more votes you receive! (Example: \$25 = one vote, \$250 = 10 votes for nonprofit organization of your choice.) It's easy! Go online to make your donation by credit card, or you can send a check. All donations are welcome!

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

TIME'S RUNNING OUT! APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN **YOUTH TOUR**

EnergyUnited is accepting applications through December 31 for the 2022 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program. **EnergyUnited will be selecting two outstanding sophomore or junior high school students for the all-expenses-paid nationwide leadership program in Washington, D.C.** The week-long leadership experience is scheduled for June 2022. Students who attend the Youth Tour will join 1,500 high school students from across the U.S. to learn about electric cooperatives, American history and the United States government. They will also visit the historic sites of the nation's capital and meet with their congressional leaders.

Applications will be accepted until

DEC. 31, 2021

Delegates will tour Washington, D.C., in June 2022.
To apply, visit **EnergyUnited.com/Youth-Tour**

CONNECTIONS



YOUR RECIPE FOR **SAVING ENERGY** THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Holiday meals are an important part of the celebrations you share with family and friends. All that extra cooking and baking, however, can lead to a real post-season letdown after you see the added cost on your energy bill. These simple, cost-saving tips will help you enjoy the festivities while trimming your energy budget.

- Preheat the oven to the exact temperature required; preheating is not necessary for foods that cook for several hours.
- If you've got an oven window, take advantage of it! Opening the oven door wastes energy and lowers the temperature by as much as 25°F.
- Glass and ceramic baking dishes retain heat better than metal. If you cook with glass or ceramic dishes, you can reduce the oven temperature by 25°F.
- Conserve energy by baking several batches of cookies, or more than one pie, at a time.
- For stovetop cooking, match the size of the pan to the size of the burner; using a small pan on a large burner wastes energy.
- Keep pots and pans covered to prevent heat loss and reduce cooking time.
- Clean burners after every use. A clean burner heats more efficiently, using less energy.

Slow cookers, electric skillets and toaster ovens are great for heating leftovers and use a lot less energy than conventional ovens and stoves. Microwave ovens also use 50% less energy than conventional ovens. To save energy, reheat holiday leftovers in the microwave instead of on the stove or in the oven.





WIN SOME CASH FOR THE HOLIDAYS



We're giving away \$100 Visa gift cards to eight lucky winners who enroll in Peak Time Perks during the month of December. Plus, when you sign up, you'll be credited \$50 on your electric bill. For each year after that, an additional \$20 will be credited to your account!

Enroll today! Visit EnergyUnited.com/Demand-Response for more information!

UTILITY BILL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIEAP)

LIEAP is a federally funded program that provides for a one-time vendor payment to help eligible households pay their energy bills.

- The applicant must meet income criteria and be responsible for heating costs.
- Households including a person aged 60 or older or disabled persons receiving services through the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services are eligible to sign up for assistance from Dec. 1–31. All other households may apply from Jan. 1 – March 31 or until funds are exhausted.
- Contact your county's Department of Social Services to apply.

CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM (CIP)

CIP is a federally funded program that assists individuals and families who are experiencing a heating or cooling-related crisis.

- A household is considered to be in a crisis if it is currently experiencing or is in danger of experiencing a life-threatening or health-related emergency and sufficient, timely and appropriate assistance is not available from any other source.
- Applications are taken throughout the year.
- Contact your county's Department of Social Services to apply.

IT'S FINALLY HERE!

Last December we started a virtual cookbook full of recipes from you, our members and employees. Throughout the year we compiled recipes ranging from appetizers to holiday cookies and everything in between. We're excited to announce that it's finally finished! We hope you enjoy these incredible dishes this holiday season and throughout the years to come.

Scan the QR code below to view our full cookbook:



EnergyUnited
YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

COOKBOOK

RECIPE COLLECTIONS
FROM OUR MEMBERS
AND EMPLOYEES

UNITED WE COOK



SAVE SOME PAPER!

Not only does going paperless make receiving your bill easier & faster than ever, but it also helps save some money! Any dollar saved by the co-op is ultimately a dollar saved for you, our member. Join us in keeping our costs low by switching to paperless billing!

Sign up at EnergyUnited.com/MyEnergyHub

go paperless



EnergyUnited



@EnergyUnitedEMC



EnergyUnited Electric Cooperative



EnergyUnitedEMC

ENERGYUNITED.COM

1-800-522-3793