

CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER



NATIONAL
Co-op
MONTH

IN THIS ISSUE

A LETTER FROM
THE CEO

OUR COOPERATIVE
PRINCIPLES

COMMUNITY
SPOTLIGHT: MADISON

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO

THOMAS GOLDEN

NATIONAL
Co-op
MONTH



National Co-op Month finds us at an interesting and complex moment in our economic history.

It's no secret that we've all experienced the steady rise in costs over the past year. We've felt this pinch filling up at the pump, checking out our groceries and paying for standard goods and services. Unfortunately, EnergyUnited isn't immune to this. But as a member-owned cooperative we're always providing you energy at the cost we receive it. It's a significant part of what sets us apart as a cooperative and a difference we're proud to celebrate, especially during National Co-op Month.

Being a cooperative member is about more than just receiving reliable energy from your local connection. It's about having a neighbor to help when times are tough, a resource in energy and cost-saving practices, and a partner in shaping the future in sustainable ways. And recent economic circumstances provide us yet another opportunity to look out for your (and your wallet's) best interests.

Our Beat the Peak and Peak Time Perks programs can help you cut down on spending within an inflated economy. Both of these

demand response programs give you the freedom to keep energy spending under control and take the guesswork out of when and by how much you should adjust your thermostat to reduce spending. Plus, those who sign up for our Peak Time Perks program will receive a \$50 bill credit and a \$20 credit every year that follows. We also have a bank of rebate programs, saving tips and rate programs to help out with your monthly spending.

For those facing financial hardships, there is relief through our EnergyUnited Foundation. The foundation is funded through our Operation Round-Up program and relies on the generosity of our fellow members to help out those who need help throughout a rough time.

The reality is, we've seen price increases at a national level which will be reflected within our rates as well. It's a pressure that we're facing everywhere, and not news we're happy to share. But it is a time to remember that we are all in this together, that we will get through it and help one another out through it all. After all, that's the cooperative way.

Stay tuned for the November edition of Connect that will explain changing energy rates in more thorough detail

Sincerely,
Thomas Golden, CEO

VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

We do not discriminate who can receive power within our service area and we treat all our members equally and fairly.

DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in the cooperative. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights, that is, one vote per member.

Our members elect a board of directors to help steer the organization into the desired direction.

MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to the capital of their cooperative. Members receive no compensation on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Surpluses are allocated for the development of the cooperative.

When the cooperative has excess money collected throughout the year, that money is returned to the membership in the form of Capital Credits.

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous 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 by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

Decisions always pass through the appropriate member channels to ensure your priorities continually drive our decisions.

EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so that they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Our member newsletters, E-Connect, press releases and My EnergyHub portal are all valuable communication tools that we offer to ensure members stay informed and up to date.

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

In the wake of heavy storms and hurricanes, the EnergyUnited line crew will go to the aid of other cooperatives across the country. Cooperatives like EnergyUnited provide and receive mutual aid in the aftermath of major storms to assist with power restoration efforts.

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies adopted by the cooperative's duly elected board members.

Every initiative we pursue always supports our goal to look out for your best interest.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

MADISON



From festivals, brews, eats and treats to specialty shops, boutiques and outdoor adventures, the Town of Madison has something to offer everyone. Established in 1818 and located less than 20 miles north of the Piedmont Triad International Airport, Madison offers the perfect location for small-town living that's in close proximity to major markets and amenities minus the hustle and bustle of a big city. Read on to learn more about this vibrant town and all it has to offer!

The Madison River Park, a destination location along the Dan River, is an ecologically engineered park that secures the town's water supply, promotes wildlife habitation and creates an extraordinary recreation opportunity for everyone, whether they are a diehard enthusiast or amateur paddler. With plans to expand even further, the River Park will soon include beach volleyball, greenways, trails, overlooks, trailer and bus parking, beach development, bank enhancements, food truck plaza and more.

The Downtown Madison Social District officially opened on July 1, 2022, and allows for the consumption of alcoholic beverages on sidewalks, in municipal parking lots and some retail establishments within the district boundaries, Thursday & Friday from 5–11 p.m., Saturday from noon to 11 p.m. and Sunday from 1–8 p.m. This new designation allows you to sip, stroll and shop the Downtown District while enjoying a drink from your favorite permitted businesses.

From Downtown to Uptown, Madison's shopping districts are filled with numerous shops, restaurants and boutiques that are bound to tempt even the most frugal shopper. Downtown Madison offers a variety of, one-of-a-kind shops that are all locally owned and operated. You will find home goods, furniture, pharmacy, textiles, apparel, jewelry, food goods, restaurants and so much more!

During the spring and summer, Downtown offers festivals with artisans, crafters and live music, including Run for the Roses and famous Stick Horse Race Wine Extravaganza and the Dan River Boat Race. In the fall and winter, come out and enjoy the Fall for Madison Festival every October, bring your kids to Boo-Bash for trick or treating, costumes and good times on Halloween; Downtown Christmas stroll with specials, buggy rides, hot cider and of course Santa Clause; and don't forget the Annual Madison Mayodan Christmas Parade. Plus, local businesses host events such as food trucks, live bands, anniversary celebrations and more throughout the year.



FOOD, FAMILY AND FRIENDS

MADISON'S MAYFLOWER SEAFOOD



There are many reasons to visit Madison, but local residents particularly love its restaurants. One of the most popular dining locations in town is the Mayflower Seafood Restaurant. The restaurant has been a staple of the community for decades because of their great food and service. We recently met with Marcos Duarte, owner of Mayflower Seafood, to learn more about its connection to the community.

"I am glad to be a part of the town of Madison," Duarte said. I appreciate all of the help and support from all of the residents of the town."

Duarte said that residents visit the restaurant for many reasons, but they especially love its daily specials. Their specials include Baby Flounder and Popcorn Shrimp on Friday and Greek Baked Chicken on Sunday, which sells out very quickly.

Duarte has owned the restaurant for four years, previously with her father before he passed away. She has received a lot of support from her family and from the community during that time. Duarte is excited to continue serving some of the best food in Madison to the community. Make sure to visit Madison Seafood Restaurant during your next trip to Madison for great food and service with some of the most affordable prices in town!



*Scan the QR code to
watch an interview
with Marcos Duarte*



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MAC MEMBER

The Member Advisory Committee (MAC) is a group of members who collectively act as a sounding board to help shape service processes and cooperative programs. In addition, MAC members are briefed regularly on EnergyUnited activities and strategic initiatives. These meetings are held in three areas: Statesville, Lexington and Cornelius/Lake Norman at various locations.

Read on to get an insight from three current MAC members! Better yet, those looking to apply can do so at EnergyUnited.com/MAC-Application/.

GARY STEUBING: LEXINGTON MAC MEMBER

Why did you decide to join MAC?

I was looking for an opportunity to contribute to an organization dedicated to improving our community, living standards, values and future prospects.



What is/was the biggest benefit/value you found in serving on MAC?

Getting to know a little about the young people in our region through the EnergyUnited scholarship programs.

What would you say to other members considering joining MAC?

Join and get involved in all of the outreach programs that EnergyUnited engages in. Be part of making a positive difference in your community, now and for the future. It's well worth it!

STEVEN SOMLOI: LAKE NORMAN MAC MEMBER

Why did you decide to join MAC?

I was nominated by a friend who was on the EnergyUnited board. I didn't know much about my cooperative other than they provided my electricity. It seemed like an opportunity to get involved and learn about our electric company.



What is/was the biggest benefit/value you found in serving on MAC?

Learning about the history of EnergyUnited (why we have a co-op, and what a co-op is), gaining an understanding of how EnergyUnited works to provide our energy in an efficient and reliable manner, and getting previews of — and input into — upcoming changes.

What would you say to other members considering joining MAC?

Sign up! It provides insights into how EU works, a forum to ask questions and provide feedback to the EU executive leadership, and an opportunity to make an impact in the cooperative and the community!

BRETT ECKERMAN: STATESVILLE MAC MEMBER

Why did you decide to join MAC?

I valued the community partnership of EnergyUnited and wanted to learn more about all that they were doing to serve not only the electric needs but also the other needs of our communities.



What is/was the biggest benefit/value you found in serving on MAC?

There is so much to learn, and I soaked up a ton of information during my time on the MAC. Maybe the most interesting conversations were around the future of the electric vehicle and some of the infrastructure changes going on right now to support this growth.

What would you say to other members considering joining MAC?

It is well worth your investment of time. You will learn and feel more connected to the work EnergyUnited is doing to serve all of their local communities.

**APPLY TODAY
TO JOIN MAC!**

NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY MONTH



Our IT department is diligent about implementing extra security measures to ensure that your account information stays private and protected. Now it's time for you to do the same! Check out these tips to stay secure against potential cyberattacks!

Source: UC Berkley

1 KEEP SOFTWARE UP TO DATE

Installing software updates for your operating system and programs is critical. Always install the latest security updates for your devices.

2 AVOID PHISHING SCAMS

Phishing scams are a constant threat that use various manipulation tactics. Cybercriminals will attempt to trick you into divulging personal information such as your login ID and password, or banking or credit card information. Phishing scams can be carried out by phone, text or through social networking sites, but most are most commonly attempted by email.

3 MANAGE PASSWORDS WISELY

Try to keep a variety of passwords in rotation and avoid using obvious numbers that correlate to your birthday, address or anniversary.

4 BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU CLICK

Avoid visiting unknown websites or downloading software from untrusted sources. These sites often host malware that will automatically install (often silently) and compromise your computer.

5 NEVER LEAVE DEVICES UNATTENDED

This should be obvious, but the physical safety of your devices is just as important as the technical safety. Avoid staying logged into computers especially if they are public or on a shared device.



6 USE MOBILE DEVICES SAFELY

Considering how much we rely on our mobile devices and how susceptible they are to attack, you'll want to make sure you are protected. Lock your cell with a PIN and avoid clicking links from phishing texts or calls.

7 INSTALL ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE

Only install these programs from a known and trusted source. Keep virus definitions, engines and software up to date to ensure your programs remain effective.

8 BACK UP YOUR DATA

If you are a victim of a security incident, the only guaranteed way to repair your computer is to erase and reinstall the system.

DRIVING TIPS



As students begin to go back to school and holiday round-trips are planned, it's a great time to refresh your memory on some driving safety tips.

After all, driving is something many of us do every day, and we do a lot of it. The average American drives nearly 30 miles a day, according to the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. When you're behind the wheel, safety should be your first concern, whether you're heading to work, out for some errands or on a weekend trip. Scan the QR code to brush up on your driving skills.

The deadline to apply for a chance to represent EnergyUnited on the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is December 31, 2022. Applications for this special youth leadership opportunity should be submitted online at energyunited.com/youth-tour.

Applicants must currently be enrolled in their sophomore or junior year and either receive service from EnergyUnited at home or attend a school that is served by EnergyUnited. All high school sophomores and juniors attending the following schools that are served by EnergyUnited are automatically eligible to apply: **Central Davidson Sr. High, South Davidson High, Ledford High, Davie County High, Davie County Early College, North Iredell High, West Iredell High, Hopewell High or William Amos Hough High.**

For more information on eligibility or to apply, please contact Adam Martin, communications specialist, at 704-924-2139 or Adam.Martin@energyunited.com.

NOW ACCEPTING YOUTH TOUR APPLICATIONS!



Partnering with
 HomeServe

Important Announcement for EnergyUnited Members

At EnergyUnited, we value our members and are committed to providing you with safe and reliable electricity.

Many homeowners aren't aware the costs associated with the damage or breakdown of certain assets including your exterior electrical lines are your responsibility. Unexpected repairs can cost hundreds of dollars, and homeowners insurance typically does not cover repairs due to normal wear and tear. If a breakdown occurs, it is up to you to find a qualified contractor and pay the repair costs.

That is why EnergyUnited has selected HomeServe an independent administrator of protection plans, to offer *optional* protection plans to eligible EnergyUnited members. Look for more information in the mail about these plans in the coming weeks.



EnergyUnited



@EnergyUnitedEMC



EnergyUnited Electric Cooperative



EnergyUnitedEMC

ENERGYUNITED.COM

1-800-522-3793