

CONNECT

ENERGYUNITED'S MONTHLY MEMBER NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

RESOURCES TO
HELP YOU

EVERY DAY
EMPOWERED STORY

BRIGHT IDEAS
WINNERS

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO



THOMAS GOLDEN

EnergyUnited.com/we-are-here-to-help-you or simply scan the QR code on the next page using your smartphone's camera.

Though 2023 is beginning with a rate adjustment, there is still plenty to look forward to in the year ahead: community enrichment programs to help educators and students across our counties thrive, scholarship opportunities and more economic developments to ensure job growth and security within our neighborhoods.

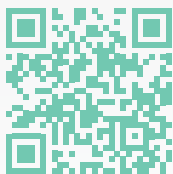
From a business standpoint, we continue to pave the way for a more sustainable energy future with our growing renewable footprint within Davie County. And in this new year we will keep up our search for reliable and sustainable energy that we can source right here in our state.

Our rates may have increased, but so have our dedication and commitment to delivering value to you each day. We will look for every way possible to provide you with the best possible service, whether it's keeping the power on, restoring power during an outage or answering your questions as quickly and correctly as we can on the phone. We value you and we care about you. After all, if we've learned anything from the past several years, it's that we can overcome a lot together. And this is no different. Here's to a solid 2023, and brighter days ahead.

Happy New Year all! I hope that each of you enjoyed a restorative, energizing and of course fun holiday season. 2022 was not without its challenges, and certainly 2023 will have a few as well — but it's nothing that we cannot endure and overcome together.

As many of you know or have read over the past several months, a rate change came into effect on January 1. This is a direct reflection of rising costs that we see around the globe, and as an at-cost energy provider unfortunately we have no choice but to pass that along to you, our members. The rates have increased for the foreseeable future, but please know that we are monitoring this closely and will always aim to decrease in better economic conditions.

Of course, we recognize that this shift may feel more difficult to endure for some more than others. If you need Heating Assistance, or simply want to learn more about the programs we have in place to help manage energy spending, please visit



Check out this video message from the CEO by scanning this QR code!

Sincerely,
Thomas Golden, CEO

RESOURCES TO **HELP YOU SAVE**

The holiday season has a tendency to stretch our finances a bit more than we might feel comfortable with. And with our rate change in January, we want to make sure you are saving the most that you can and have the tools you need to stay within budget. Our We're Here to Help You page is a great resource for those looking to watch their spending or apply for any financial assistance. Take a look at some of our top tips below:

1. Make sure appliances are in good shape

Scheduling regular maintenance can help make sure your heat and air systems are running optimally and efficiently. Replacing air filters regularly can also improve energy efficiency by 15%.*

2. Use sunlight to your advantage

Heat your home the old-fashioned way — with sunlight. Open the drapes or blinds to allow sunlight to warm your home.

3. Apply for Heating Assistance

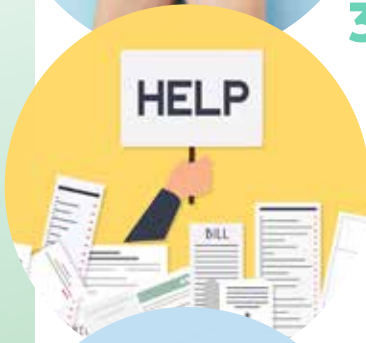
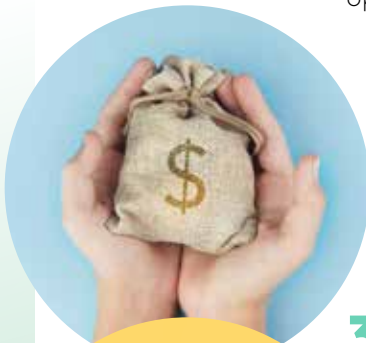
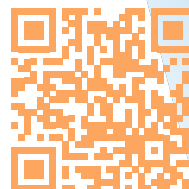
Certain individuals may be eligible for energy help through our Heating Assistance program. Check to see if you qualify by visiting: [EnergyUnited.com/giving-back](https://www.energy.gov/energy-saver/articles/10-energy-saving-tips).

4. Enroll in our demand response programs

Beat the Peak and Peak Time Perks can help you achieve energy savings by encouraging you to reduce energy spending during “peak times” when the demand is the highest. Learn more at [EnergyUnited.com/demand-response](https://www.energy.gov/energy-saver/articles/10-energy-saving-tips).

For more great tips, visit [EnergyUnited.com/we-are-here-to-help-you](https://www.energy.gov/we-are-here-to-help-you) or scan the QR code here.

*Source: [energy.gov/energysaver/articles/10-energy-saving-tips](https://www.energy.gov/energy-saver/articles/10-energy-saving-tips)



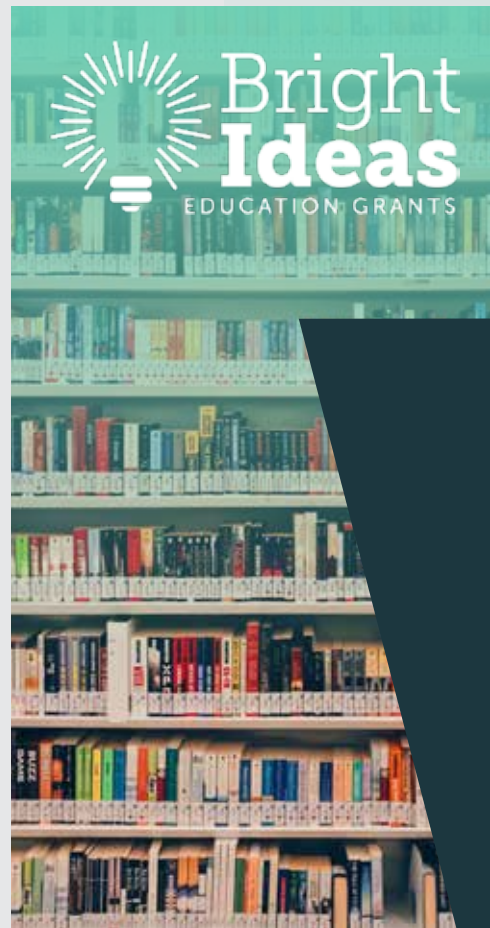
EU RECOGNIZES **43 TEACHERS** FOR THEIR BRIGHT IDEAS!

We are proud to award over \$46,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to 43 teachers this year. Students at schools in Alexander, Catawba, Davie, Davidson, Forsyth, Guilford, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Rockingham, Stokes and Wilkes 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 finding unique ways to achieve desired educational outcomes.

Since the Bright Ideas grant program began in 1994, EnergyUnited has contributed more than \$1 million to local teachers.

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 2023. To find out more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit **[EnergyUnited.com/bright-ideas-program](https://www.energyunited.com/bright-ideas-program)**.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Samantha Strathy	Designing to the Next Tablet	Danny Lough	From the Soil to the Seed: Growing Connections Through Environmental Science
Sara Nussman	Soft Sensory Environment	Tracy Skeens	Digital Story Telling
Beth Garver	Vernier Lab Quest STEM project	Nina Allen	Let's Rock!
Molly E. Maginnis	Project Nature Trail — An Outdoor Experience for All!	Christy Trapp	Get Learning on Track with the Discovery Depot
Ashley Miller	Our Steamers Need S.T.E.A.M.	Michelle	Swinging into Reading
Alicia Driver	Puzzling Science	Kelly M. Hartzell	Hands-On BioTech for Advanced Biology Investigations
Ashley Huss	Teachers in the Making Club for Aspiring Teachers	Samantha Crews	Weather Watchers
Sarah Bridges	OG Raised Bed Makeover	Genna Holt	STREAMS for Dreams Lab
Denise DiTondo	STEM Exploration Station!	April Michelle Hurlocker	Cultivating Culture with Community
Andria Roberson	Sizzling with STEM	CariAnn Kingston	LPCA Outdoor Learning Project
Gina Tucker	ROX: Ruling Our Experiences	Margaret Bond	Revamp Resource Classroom
Thomas Gray	Renewable Energy Rocks	Ryan Cosson	Bandys Math 3D Printer
Mary Tesh	Illuminate Students' Mouths for Effective Communication for Their Educational Success	Paula Farmer	Spellbinding Series to Stimulate Reading
McKenzie Dotson	Weather Stations for Students	Madelyn Hughes	Building a Makerspace
Taylor Gallyon	Middle Green Thumbs	Natalie Byerly	Take a Bite Out of Reading — Crocodile Cafe Cart
Bonnie M. Alexander	Hello, Universe! Let's Capture a Novel and a Micro-World in a Cookie Jar	Evelyn King Metcalf	Exploring Energy
John Spillman	Creating Impactful Shirt Designs Using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator	Justin Deal	Alexander Central Fire Academy
Marlyn Childers	Growing Minds, Gardens and Language!	Thomas Landon Hill	Pop Culture Club
Shannon Pylant	Let Us Grow and Be Green	Adrian Bustle	The Virtual History Classroom
Desirae Balsamo	Regenerate the Future: Engaging Students with Solutions for Climate Change		
Nicole Eskridge	S.C.A.L.E. (Supporting Creativity Around Literature Education)		
Toni Tricarico	On Your Mark, Get Set, PLAY!		
Patricia "Cheyenne" Swing	Film Class Equipment		
Michael Lauricella	iPads for Success		



EVERY DAY EMPOWERED

DAVIE COUNTY TEACHER **ENERGIZED TO INNOVATE**

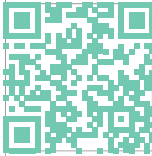
Danny Lough has been teaching for 22 years, impacting the lives of thousands of students over the course of his career. In fact, his unique role as the 4-H extension agent for youth development in Davie County has enabled him to interact with more students on a daily basis than most would expect in the profession.

In addition to teaching middle school and high school students at Central Davie Academy, an alternative school in Davie County, Lough also serves as a part-time instructor for second grade Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) classes across Davie County. His story perfectly represents the kind of values and achievements that we will be highlighting in our new series in 2023, Every Day Empowered.

Lough is a three-time Bright Ideas grant winner, a role model for young students and a great example of the ways in which education has evolved in the 21st century. Gone (mostly) are the days of 90-minute lectures and stationary, self-directed assignments in K-12 learning environments. Cross-curricular, team-oriented and hands-on projects offer clear connections that enable students to understand the real-world applications of each assignment as they learn.

As the ideal ambassador of this new model, Lough continues to discover new ways to effectively educate students using hands-on assignments. Whether he is using batteries and insulated metal wires to build magnets or perishable food to study and understand key principles of microbiology, Lough is committed to delivering innovative ideas that offer new opportunities for students in Davie County.





View the message in his words.



While school funding constraints often present the greatest barriers for teachers, Lough understands the value of sharing ideas with community partners like EnergyUnited. The local electric cooperative will continue to provide financial support for innovative classroom projects through the NC Bright Ideas education grant program. So, teachers, parents and students can rest assured knowing that even if their paths don't intersect with ours during the next academic year, their local electric cooperative is still quietly working behind the scenes to empower innovation and excellence in the classroom.

SCHOOL SAFETY **DEMONSTRATIONS**

We were delighted to visit Douglass Elementary recently to conduct a special Electrical Safety Demonstration. The lineworkers and EnergyUnited staff gave this presentation to educate and inform elementary school students about the proper precautions that must be followed when individuals encounter energized power lines and equipment. It's never too early to start understanding and respecting the power that keeps us empowered.



Our safety team conducted demonstrations at:

- Douglass Elementary
- Alexander County Virtual Academy
- Union Grove Elementary
- Lakeshore Elementary
- Cornatzer Elementary

EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

EnergyUnited is offering two \$5,000 scholarships to qualified students who are currently enrolled in their senior year of high school and who plan to attend a college, university or technical school. The scholarship is designed to recognize students who have exemplified academic success as well as demonstrated a commitment to bettering their community.

Since launching this scholarship program, we've helped sponsor some pretty incredible young folks who have since gone on to do great things.

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- Applicants should either live in a residence that receives electric service from EnergyUnited OR attend a school served by EnergyUnited.
- Respond to two essay questions and complete an application which can be found on our website.
- Applicants must have plans to attend an accredited college, university or technical school.

Applications will be accepted from January 1 through March 31, 2023.

We look forward to hearing your responses!

For more information on eligibility or to apply, please visit [EnergyUnited.com/scholarship-program](https://www.energyunited.com/scholarship-program). Contact Adam Martin, Communications Specialist, at 704-818-6928 or adam.martin@energyunited.com for more information.



SCHOLARSHIP

EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

SUMMER SPORTS CAMP

NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS!

EnergyUnited along with Touchstone Energy Cooperative is proud to sponsor two students to take advantage of the all-expenses-paid Summer Sports Camp scholarships. Each year, one girl and one boy are selected to attend basketball camp at two prestigious North Carolina college campuses.

Young women can apply to attend the Wolfpack Basketball Camp at North Carolina State University, and young men can apply to the Carolina Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina.

Students must be rising sixth or seventh graders at a qualifying North Carolina school within EnergyUnited's service area.

**The application deadline is March 31, 2023. Camps are held in June 2023.
Apply at [EnergyUnited.com/sports-camps](https://www.energyunited.com/sports-camps).**

