

in this issue

Power for the People:
Commitment to
Community **1**

2017 Board of Directors
Election and Annual
Meeting **2**

State Legislative
Update on Energy Bill **3**

Member Spotlight
on Generators **4**

Published for Member-Owners of **EnergyUnited**

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Power for the People: Commitment to Community

Our Power to the People series continues this month with a focus on how EnergyUnited is committed to strengthening the communities in which we serve. We believe that our cooperative has a responsibility to support the friends and neighbors in our community, and we are continually supporting efforts to help recruit business and jobs to these areas.

Economic Development

We believe in North Carolina, and for good reason, as our state has a lot to offer. According to the North Carolina Economic Development Partnership, our state has been ranked as the #1 Top Competitive State, the #2 Best State for Business and #1 for the Lowest State and Local Business Tax Burden.

However, it still takes collaborative efforts with Economic Development Commissions, Corporations and Councils (EDCs) to recruit and retain businesses in the state. EnergyUnited prioritizes this effort of growing our area by working closely with many of the EDCs in our 19-county service area.

We have a proven track record of bringing business to the communities we serve. Through our work with EDCs, we are able to recruit new businesses to our area, provide service and support to existing businesses, help small business owners and promote tourism to our communities.

Our partnerships promote sustainable job creation and investment. Dependence on public and private sector partners at the state, regional and local levels offer many opportunities for EnergyUnited to contribute. Across the state of North Carolina, electric cooperatives have helped to fund 86 projects and helped to create over 2,500 jobs. Those projects have led to additional community investments representing \$480 million total.

EnergyUnited works with EDCs at a high level on projects as a potential provider of electric service. As a cooperative, we can also leverage Economic Development Funding through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program

EnergyUnited helps cities and counties through the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG), which provides funding for projects through local cooperatives.

Through this program, the USDA provides access to zero-interest loans to cooperatives like EnergyUnited. USDA also provides a grant program for electric cooperatives to establish a revolving loan fund to foster additional economic development in their communities. These loans include a maximum term of 10 years and cover up to \$1 million of the total project cost.

A few examples of REDLG projects and their impacts over the last 20 years include:

- The yarn-spinning plant, Gildan, came to Mocksville thanks to a \$3 million loan between the town of Mocksville and Davie County. The funds were used to develop the site and provide necessary infrastructure enhancements for the company,

(continued on page 26)

which ultimately brought 300 new jobs to the area to spin locally-sourced cotton.

- The Davie County Business Park project in 2001 used the REDLG program for the construction of an elevated water tower in Mocksville and brought 462 jobs to the area.

Existing uses of EnergyUnited's revolving loan fund will contribute to bringing jobs, expanding and creating new

infrastructure, developing business parks and more in the communities in which we serve. We will have more updates on these types of projects in the coming months.

As your electric cooperative, EnergyUnited is committed to our members and the communities we serve. We understand that when working together, we can make a difference.

2017 ELECTION

vote

**for the future of
your cooperative**

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The annual board of directors election launched on August 1. If you shared your email address with us, your ballot came via email from Survey & Ballot Systems and can be completed electronically. Or, you should have received a hard copy ballot in the U.S. mail. All ballots must be completed online and/or postmarked by midnight on September 15.

NEWS & EVENTS

EnergyUnited Annual Meeting

Thursday, September 21 at 5:30 p.m.

ENERGYUNITED HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

567 Mocksville Highway, Statesville, NC 28625

EnergyUnited Youth Tourist Chosen as NC Youth Leadership Council Representative

We are proud to announce that one of EnergyUnited's 2017 Youth Tour participants, Chetan Singalreddy, of Mooresville, represented our state at the 2017 Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. The selection process was based on a vote by fellow youth tourists at the 2017 Youth Tour, an application, public speaking ability and interaction with fellow youth tourists and advisors. Chetan attended the conference from July 15-19, where he had the opportunity to give an additional speech. Congratulations, Chetan!

The EnergyUnited Foundation Gives Back to Local Non-Profits

Several times a year, The EnergyUnited Foundation gives back to non-profits in our community. The foundation recently approved a grant for \$10,000 to Rainbow Kidz of Iredell County, which provides group counseling to children experiencing grief, located in Statesville. The foundation has also recently given a \$10,000 grant to the Advocacy Center of Davie County, a non-profit that helps residents provide food and shelter for their families. Additionally, the foundation approved a grant for \$10,000 to Pastor's Pantry of Davidson County, located in Lexington. These funds will be used to help purchase healthy, well-balanced meals based on their senior clients' needs. The EnergyUnited Foundation has awarded over \$3 million since the program began in 1996.

Happy
Labor
Day

Our offices will be closed on September 4



State Legislative Update on Energy Bill

Another legislative session has come to an end, leaving EnergyUnited and other cooperatives across the state of North Carolina looking forward to this change of seasons along with an optimistic outlook for federal funding. After months of negotiations, the North Carolina General Assembly has reached a compromise on House Bill 589 entitled “Competitive Energy Solutions for NC.”

The “Competitive Energy Solutions for NC” bill provides substantial savings for our members over the next decade through the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA) reform.

Under this legislation, our members will pay less for renewables. When the stakeholder process began, the participating North Carolina electric cooperatives stated their goal to innovate at a pace that makes sense for their membership, avoid any new renewable mandates that may increase cost to our members and minimize cost shifting. Regardless of the outcome of the bill, we have worked as a cooperative to ensure that we are prepared.

However, on the federal level, there is still some concern about the future of the USDA’s Rural Utilities Service (RUS) funding which is our primary lending for work plans and could also impact our Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant (REDLG) program. REDLG is a national program that provides cooperatives with grants and zero-interest loans to directly fund local projects that create and retain jobs in the communities they serve.

Rest assured, our legislators are out there working every day to ensure that a solution can be found that allows us to maintain USDA/RUS funding. Additionally, EnergyUnited employees actively participate in Political Action Committees (PAC) such

as the Rural Electric Action Program (REAP) and the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) to make sure that our voice as a cooperative and the voices of our members are heard in federal and state legislatures.

As a Political Action Committee, REAP supports the election of legislative and Council of State candidates in North Carolina. Our participation in programs like REAP and ACRE helps to ensure that elected officials understand the needs of electric cooperatives, like EnergyUnited. When our elected officials are familiar with the needs of our cooperative, it is easier for them to help create and pass legislation that focuses on keeping our cooperative’s costs as low as possible for you, our valued members.

As your electric cooperative, we will continue to keep our members informed of changing legislation, especially on USDA/RUS funding. We understand the importance in maintaining good relationships with our local, state and federal legislative representatives as they continue to support both our electric and propane businesses.

**TEACHERS
+ BRIGHT IDEAS
HAPPY STUDENTS.**

IT'S BASIC ARITHMETIC.

Last call for Bright Ideas entries—Friday, September 15, 2017.

EnergyUnited
YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

Spotlight on Generators: A Member's Experience

EnergyUnited is committed to providing our members with safe, reliable electric service. While we strive for a reliability rating of 100%, sometimes there are interruptions in service that are out of our control due to severe weather, accidents or equipment issues. To be more prepared for a situation where an outage does occur, you may want to consider purchasing a generator. We recently spoke to one of our members, Andy, about his experience purchasing a generator from EnergyUnited.

Why did you decide to purchase a generator from EnergyUnited?

We bought an older home in Lake Norman in November 2015, which was our first experience having a private well for water. We quickly realized that when the power goes out, that also means we have no water, which prompted me to start doing a little research into generators.

What was the purchasing process like?

EnergyUnited made it an easy, smooth process. Once I requested information online, EnergyUnited came out for a site visit and we talked about what I was looking for, where I wanted the generator located and the options available.

I ended up choosing a whole house unit and the mobile feature, which sends me text alerts when the generator kicks on and off and includes an app that shows how many hours it has been running and when maintenance is required.



What has been your experience with the generator so far?

The generator has made the occasional small outage seem inconsequential. This peace of mind has been wonderful, especially since power outages affect our water. EnergyUnited took control of the whole process, making it easy for me as a consumer to have a one-stop-shop experience. They did an excellent job of handling the installation and explaining all the options to me. I've been very pleased with the purchase.

If you would like to purchase a generator or receive more information, contact EnergyUnited at 1-800-522-3793 to help you choose the right system for your home's electrical needs.

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Please send questions, comments and story ideas to **Maureen Moore**, Communications Manager, at maureen.moore@energyunited.com.



1-800-522-3793 EnergyUnited.com

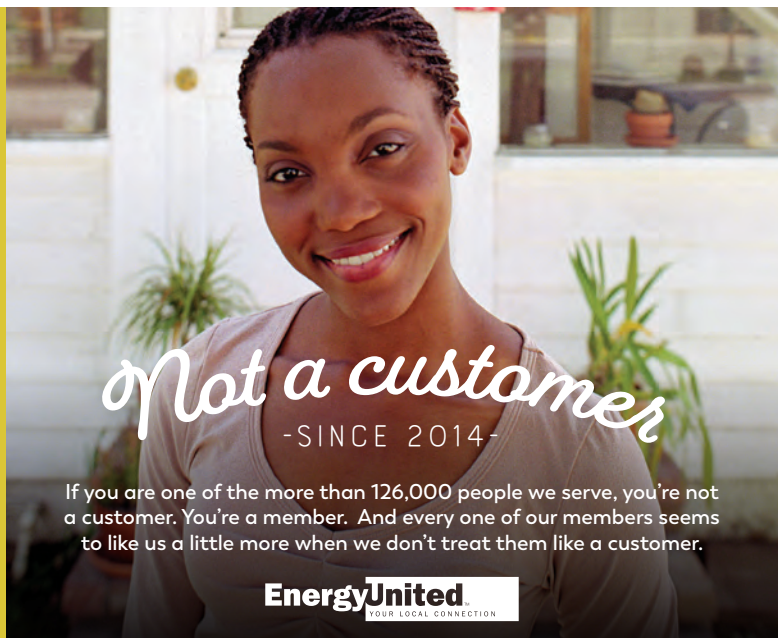
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H. Wayne Wilkins, Chief Executive Officer

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



If you are one of the more than 126,000 people we serve, you're not a customer. You're a member. And every one of our members seems to like us a little more when we don't treat them like a customer.

