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connect**EnergyUnited Helps Members Manage and Save Energy**

At the start of a new year, it's natural to think about changes for improvement. Here at EnergyUnited, we are excited to continue building on the progress we've made over the last several years.

We appreciate member feedback and use it to help guide our business decisions. One thing we hear most consistently is that our members want to find ways to lower their monthly bills. As a result, one of our top goals over the last year was to expand the tools and programs we offer that help you manage and save energy in your daily lives. We look forward to adding even more new insights and tools for our members to manage and save energy in 2018 and beyond.

We understand that the tools we offer are only effective when put into use, which is why we want to pass on a story from the Anderson family, members who shared with us their recent experience using some of our energy and money-saving tools.

A Member's Experience

My name is Greg Anderson, and I've been a member of EnergyUnited for nine years. With two teenagers in the house, my wife, Julie, and I are putting funds away for college and always looking for ways to save money.

A few months ago, I was on EnergyUnited.com to pay my bill and I noticed a link to the Home Efficiency Analysis Tool (HEAT) to help determine my home's energy efficiency. I clicked through the prompts and entered specific details about our home, like the year it was built, type of home, square footage and the number of people living in the house.

In less than five minutes, I was given a list of projects that could be done around my home to help improve its energy efficiency. There were projects for my attic, living space, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system and water heater system.



HEAT suggested a variety of updates that could be done to help us save, with full instructions for each project. Each set of instructions included the skill level, tools and materials needed to get started, as well as the cost-benefit of each project.

Julie and I sat down and decided on a few projects that would be easy to tackle over a few months. We decided that our first projects would be sealing air leaks in the attic and replacing our light bulbs with more energy efficient ones.

I had remembered seeing a link on EnergyUnited.com about a new online store, so I read a little more about it and realized that I could purchase new replacement LED light bulbs directly online from the EnergyUnited Energy Efficiency store. Best of all, the store offers free shipping!

After completing those two projects, we started to notice the impact it had on our monthly bill. Once another few months had passed, we revisited our HEAT suggestions and decided to make the switch to a tankless water heater. Based on the information provided about

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the project, we knew this change had a high cost-benefit.

It was easy and convenient to make these updates to our home, and I know we'll continue to see the effects on our bill in the future.

Thanks, EnergyUnited, for making it easy for our family to manage our energy use. We have more home energy efficiency projects planned for the coming months so we can continue saving.

EnergyUnited Listens to You

At EnergyUnited, our members' priorities are our priorities. We encourage you to provide feedback and send in your success stories, like the Andersons have. We are committed to providing you with safe, reliable and affordable energy

services and will continue to give you access to tools that can help you manage your energy.

If you're like the Anderson family and are looking for ways to control your energy usage and lower your monthly bill, analyzing your home using HEAT is a great place to start! It will give you actionable suggestions, specific to your house, based on the data you enter.

The Andersons started with two easy and effective ways to make their home more energy efficient. Other suggestions HEAT may provide include upgrading to ENERGY STAR home appliances or installing a smart thermostat.

You can access HEAT and view more energy efficiency ideas by visiting EnergyUnited.com/energy-efficiency-tips.

Meet the Teachers Who Have Been Bright Ideas Recipients Three Years in a Row!



Each year, EnergyUnited reviews hundreds of applications submitted by educators throughout the counties it serves. These teachers have applied online for the annual Bright Ideas grant program, awarded since 1994 to teachers for innovative, classroom-based projects that would not otherwise be funded.

Cenda Wooten and Adrian Bustle have proposed creative and innovative projects for their students and been awarded a Bright Ideas grant from EnergyUnited three years in a row!



Adrian Bustle, a social studies teacher at North Iredell High School in Iredell–Statesville Schools, has received a cumulative total of \$1,766.08 in Bright Ideas grant money for his classroom over the last three years. Bustle titled this year's project "The Historical Reporter," proposing the hands-on opportunity for students to use video and audio recorders to report their own news stories and learn how bias can be introduced in that experience. "The idea behind the project is to bring lessons to life and develop skills that are important for future success," writes Bustle.

In addition to Wooten and Bustle, EnergyUnited awarded nearly 40 teachers from 11 of the 19 counties they serve with over \$40,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to fund innovative classroom learning projects, which will benefit over 12,000 students.

EnergyUnited understands the importance of supporting the youth in our communities, which is why we're committed to offering the Bright Ideas grant program year-after-year. For more information about this program, visit EnergyUnited.com or NCBrightIdeas.com. Applications for the 2018 program will be available April 1, 2018.



Cenda Wooten, an English teacher at Yadkin Valley Regional Career Academy in Davidson County, has received a cumulative total of \$3,081.72 in Bright Ideas funding for her classroom over the last three years. This year, through her project, "When the E in STEM is for English," she will test the reading comprehension and critical thinking skills of her freshman honors English students in a practical way through technological and entrepreneurial projects rather than book reports. "By creating instead of memorizing, students will actually learn the material," writes Wooten.

Applications are now being accepted for Sports Camp Scholarships. Elementary and middle school students can apply online by March 31, 2018.



From the desk of H. Wayne Wilkins, Chief Executive Officer

You Already Count on Us for Electricity, so Why Not Propane?

We do everything we can to provide comprehensive and affordable power to our valued members. It's one of the reasons we formed EnergyUnited Propane, to give our members additional choices when it comes to their energy needs. We're proud to offer these services to our members to make powering your home or business even easier.

One of EnergyUnited's main priorities is to provide safe and reliable energy services at the lowest-possible cost. Our propane service is one of these offerings, as it is an efficient, clean alternative fuel that can deliver steady, reliable energy at an affordable price.

Formed in 2000, EnergyUnited Propane proudly provides energy services to over 25,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers in 74 counties across North and South Carolina with 12 retail outlets – making us one of the largest providers of residential propane in North Carolina.

EnergyUnited strives to be your trusted energy advisor in all aspects, and we believe that offering propane services gives you another way to manage your energy, through the cooperative you already know and trust. It's the same great reliability and service that you've come to expect from your electric co-op, and now from your propane provider.

EnergyUnited Propane offers a full range of propane appliances and equipment from tankless water heaters to grills – all to serve your propane needs. This time of year, in

particular, propane plays a role in many of our lives by keeping our homes warm and comfortable with gas logs, fireplaces and outdoor space heaters.

Having access to EnergyUnited Propane is one of the many advantages of being a member of our cooperative. And as an added bonus, new customers will save \$100 on installation and five cents on every gallon when you sign up for our propane services. That's just another benefit of being a member-owner of this co-op.

Visit EnergyUnited.com/Propane or call 1-800-522-3793 to get more information about becoming an EnergyUnited Propane customer. Already a customer? Ask about our customer referral program.

As your cooperative, it is our commitment to you that we will continue to bring you safe, reliable and affordable energy services, to fit all aspects of your life.

MORE POWER TO THE PEOPLE.

EnergyUnited provides members with reliable energy services at the lowest possible cost.

**YOU ALREADY COUNT ON US FOR ELECTRICITY,
SO WHY NOT PROPANE?**

SIGN UP TODAY AT

ENERGYUNITED.COM/PROPANE

AUTOMATIC DELIVERY | FREE TANK RENTAL WITH MINIMUM ANNUAL REQUIREMENT

EnergyUnited
YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

Stay Warm and Save Money this Winter

Did you know that the average American household uses almost half of their annual energy bill for heating and cooling? The following tips will help you stay warm while lightening the load on your winter energy bills.

Install a smart thermostat

A smart thermostat can automatically adjust your heating system for optimal performance to save you money on your next bill. A number of models are available at a range of price points, so you're sure to find a smart thermostat that fits your budget. Programmable thermostats run at a lower price point and allow you to create a weekly schedule of temperatures, so the unit automatically reduces the temperature setting when you're away. Smart thermostats don't need a schedule – they adapt based on your routine and heat up your home once you're in a certain vicinity, so it's comfortable when you arrive. Recent studies indicate that a smart thermostat can help most consumers save 10–12 percent on their home heating costs due to the energy saved while they're away.

Change your furnace filters

Dirty filters block air flow and make your heating system work harder. If it must work harder, it uses more energy and costs you more money. Be sure to check and change your air filters once a month during the heating season.

Double check your propane tank

Do you use propane to heat your home? If so, don't forget to ensure that your propane tank is full so you can stay warm and cozy in your home. As an EnergyUnited Propane customer, you have the option of signing up for our Auto Delivery Plan, which eliminates the need for you to monitor your tank level. With this plan, you'll never run out of fuel, and you'll avoid the expense and hassle of unexpectedly running out of propane on a cold day.

Install a generator

Generators give you peace of mind that you will have a backup in the event of a power outage. This is particularly important for those members who have medical equipment that relies on power to operate. In these situations, the loss of power is more than inconvenient; it can become life-threatening. If you or your family member uses medical equipment that needs



power to operate, please remember to prepare as needed before an outage occurs and ensure you have an updated list of emergency contacts.

Sign up for budget billing

Under EnergyUnited's Budget Billing Payment Plan, you can take the worry and uncertainty out of fluctuating electric bills by paying the same amount for electricity each month. Your monthly payment is determined by the average of your last 12 months of energy use and is recalculated each May. To find out more, log into your account and select "Budget Billing." From there, you'll see a quote for your new monthly payment amount.

For more about how small changes can add up to energy savings tips in your home, visit,

EnergyUnited.com/energy-efficiency-tips

EnergyUnited is here to help.

Check out EnergyUnited's Energy Efficiency Store online for a wide range of smart thermostats and weatherization products to save money in your home during the chilly months.

EnergyUnited.com/energyefficiencystore

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

H. Wayne Wilkins, Chief Executive Officer

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