



# watts working

The Monthly Newsletter for Members of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

## Managing Your Energy Budget

As we move into November, colder temperatures are on the rise, and your energy use will likely increase as well. Randolph Electric is looking out for you by offering several tools to help ease the financial crunch that colder temperatures can put on your budget.

### TAKE ACTION:

Target the largest energy users in any household to gain the most savings:

- **Heating and cooling systems:**  
Set your thermostat to the lowest comfortable level
- **Water heaters:** reduce hot water use and install low-flow shower heads
- **Lighting:** Replace traditional incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).

Turn the page for a quick home energy audit that can help you identify other ways to save!

### SIGN UP FOR BUDGET BILLING:

**Enjoy equalized monthly payments throughout the year:**

- Your total kilowatt-hours (kWh) from the previous year is divided into 12 equal payments based on the current rate structure.
- You then pay that set amount each month for next 11 months, regardless of the amount of electricity you use.

- In the 12th month, you'll "catch up" to the difference in what you've paid and what you owe. If you have paid too much during the previous 11 months, a check is written out to repay you. If you have paid too little, you must pay the remaining balance to bring your account balance to zero.

### AVOID LATE FEES:

No one likes late fees, but they are a necessary part of our business. These fees cover the extra administrative costs involved in managing late accounts and ensure that members who pay on time are not charged more to cover these costs for those members that pay after the due date.

**Sign up for our Bank Draft program to be sure your payment will be made on time every month.** If you would rather use a debit or credit card, consider making payments online at RandolphEMC.com. One-time and recurring payment options are available at any time.

Randolph EMC offices will be closed

**November 11**  
in observance of  
Veteran's Day  
and

**November  
24 & 25**  
for Thanksgiving

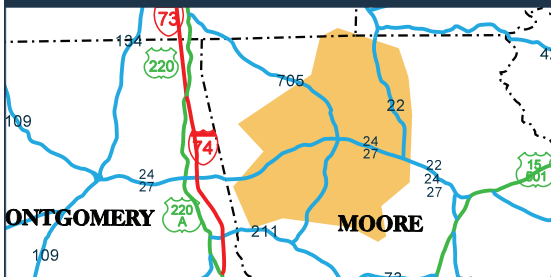
*Enjoy your  
holidays!*

### in this issue

Quick-Start Home Energy Audit	B
ENERGY STAR Tax-Free Weekend	C
Dale Lambert's AWARE Column	D



## NOVEMBER SMART METER INSTALLATIONS



Crews will be installing smart meters in the highlighted areas during November.

## SWAPSHOP

### For Sale

Horse Trailer 93 Model Bumper Pull, enclosed 6 ft wide, 7 ft high. White, ramp, escape door, 6-ply tires, VGC. \$2,500. 910-464-5582.

2009 John Deere tractor 5055D, 105 hours, canopy, weight block, garaged 2 wheel drive, sold new for \$17,500; will take \$15,000. Liberty area. 336-260-9758.

1955 Model 60 John Deere with Model E080A JD Scrape Blade, fully restored & parade ready. 7' X 18' 10,000 LB GVW tandem axle trailer LN condition with 2' side boards. 2500 series 2001 Laramie SLT Dodge pickup with heavy duty towing package, EC. Sold as a package, \$18,500. 336-879-3765.

50 lb bag feed wheat \$8.50 per bag. 336-622-2480.

Little Wonder Blower, three wheel, 9 HP Honda. Like new. \$950. 336-362-3342.

3,000 Red Sex Link pullets (young, laying age chickens), brown egg layers, vaccinated & debeaked. \$6 & up. 336-708-2998.

100' Spot fishing net, used once \$175. 336-879-8294 or 336-460-1075.

Pictures, black & white, & color, 8" x 10" \$10 or 10"x13" \$25. Bridges & mills of Uwharrie River including Pisgah Covered Bridge. 336-629-2533.

Members, email Swap Shop items to [General@RandolphEMC.com](mailto:General@RandolphEMC.com)

## Quick-Start Home Energy Audit

Clip this list and check each area of your home to see if you're using energy efficiently. Every nook and cranny holds potential inefficiencies, so it pays to be thorough! Visit [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov) for more information on what's listed below.



### INSULATION and DUCTWORK



#### Attic

- ☐ Insulation spread evenly
- ☐ Insulation in good condition
- ☐ Attic vents are unblocked by insulation
- ☐ Attic access doors properly insulated and sealed

#### Walls and floors

- ☐ Minimum R-value of 19 for perimeter walls
- ☐ Minimum R-value of 25 for under-floor insulation

#### Basement

- ☐ Ductwork insulated and sealed
- ☐ Hot water pipes insulated
- ☐ Water heater insulated, if in unconditioned space

*R-Value indicates an insulation's resistance to heat flow (the higher the better). Insulation should meet R-values recommended for your specific climate.*

### HEATING and COOLING



- ☐ Air supply vents are unblocked by furniture or curtains
- ☐ Return air registers are unblocked by furniture
- ☐ Return air handler filters are clean
- ☐ HVAC system has had annual maintenance check-up
- ☐ Programmable thermostat installed and programmed

### AIR INFILTRATION



#### Windows and Doors

- ☐ Windows close and lock properly
- ☐ Window gaskets in good condition
- ☐ Window trim sealed and painted
- ☐ Doors properly weather stripped
- ☐ Doors close and latch properly

#### Exterior Penetrations

Plumbing and wire openings sealed:

- ☐ Kitchen cabinets
- ☐ Bathroom cabinets
- ☐ Utility room
- ☐ Fireplace damper sealed tightly

### APPLIANCES and LIGHTING



- ☐ Refrigerator condenser coils clean
- ☐ Refrigerator door gasket tight
- ☐ Unused refrigerators and freezers unplugged
- ☐ Water heater set to 120 degrees or below
- ☐ Dishwasher energy-saving feature turned on
- ☐ Washing machine loads run with cold water when possible



#### Well Pump

- ☐ Operating properly
- ☐ Good pressure
- ☐ No leaks

#### Lighting

- ☐ Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) used
- ☐ Outdoor lighting automatically triggered by motion or dark

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

## CONTACT US

#### Electric Service:

Asheboro .....(336) 625-5177  
.....(800) 672-8212

Robbins Area: .....(910) 948-3401  
.....(800) 868-7014

Power Failures: .....(877) REMC-OFF  
.....(1-877-736-2633)

Bill Payments: .....(877) 534-2319

#### Office Hours:

8:00 am – 5:00 pm | Monday–Friday

#### Board of Directors:

Bob Wright .....President

Jerry Bowman .....Vice President

Sue Spencer .....Sec.-Treasurer

Tammie Phillips .....Assist. Sec.-Treasurer

James Andrews Paul Hurley

Delbert Cranford Larry Routh

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Adam Hargett .....Vice President of Finance

Dennis Mabe .....Vice President of Operations

Fred Smith .....Vice President of Member  
& Public Relations

Jill Vanness .....Public Relations Coordinator, Editor



## How to keep the air in your duct system and money in your wallet

If you've identified leaks in your home's duct system, they're costing you money. According to TogetherWeSave.com, sealing the air ducts in your home can save you up to \$177 a year.

While some ducts are concealed in walls and between floors, others are exposed—in attics, crawlspace, basements and garages—and can be repaired by sealing. To start, you'll need mastic sealant or metal tape. Experts advise against using duct tape, which can dry out and disintegrate when used on ductwork.

In addition to sealing any leaks that you have found, check the connections at vents and registers. They should be well-sealed where they meet the floors, walls and ceiling.

It's also important to insulate your duct system. As air travels through your ducts, you want it to stay cool during the summer and warm during the winter. Ductwork located in areas with little or no insulation—crawlspace, attics or garages—will need to be insulated to make sure that the air running through the ducts isn't affected by temperature extremes.

## Don't Miss Out on the Tax-Free Weekend for ENERGY STAR Appliances November 4-6!

Bring home any of these new ENERGY STAR appliances during this weekend and save on sales tax!

Tax-exempt products include:

- Clothes washers
- Freezers & refrigerators
- Central air conditioners & room air conditioners
- Air source heat pumps & geothermal heat pumps
- Programmable thermostats
- Ceiling fans
- Dehumidifiers

Appliances must have the ENERGY STAR logo to qualify!



Remember to set your clocks back one hour on November 6 when Daylight Saving Time ends!

## Trimming Trees Trims Outages

### Q Why does REMC have to prune or remove trees on my property?

**A** REMC's aggressive tree-trimming and right-of-way maintenance program is crucial to the cooperative's mission of delivering reliable electric power to members. In 2010, 34 percent of outages were caused by trees or tree limbs coming in contact with power lines.

Protecting power lines from trees minimizes the number of power outages for you and keeps down the costs associated with replacing damaged lines. You can be a big help to the co-op by letting us know if a tree on your property threatens the primary lines so that we may trim it.

Randolph EMC also has a Trade-a-Tree program in place for members who have trees growing too close to primary lines. If the tree on your property qualifies, we will work with you to select a different type of tree at a reasonable cost, find a suitable location for it, and reimburse you for the cost of the tree.

Learn more about our right-of-way maintenance and Trade-a-Tree program at [www.RandolphEMC.com](http://www.RandolphEMC.com).



# a word about Randolph Electric

by Dale Lambert



## A Time for Thanksgiving

Dear Members,

November is traditionally the month of "Thanksgiving." Many times we get caught up in the day-to-day activities of life and neglect to be thankful. I can say for sure I do, but I certainly have been blessed. I'm thankful for my Lord, my family and my church. I am also thankful to have the opportunity to work for you every day.

So, this month I'm not going to write about wholesale power, the EPA or legislative activities under way in Washington, D.C. and Raleigh. I would like to say those two words that aren't said often enough: "Thank You." I want to say thank you to several groups of people for their contributions that make Randolph EMC what it is.

The first group I want to recognize is our employees. They are on the front line in meeting the needs of our members—in good weather and bad. We strive to meet and exceed our members' expectations, and though we certainly are not perfect, our hearts are set on serving our members to the best of our ability. Even with all the high-tech equipment and technology that we utilize today, our people are still the true heart of Randolph EMC.

A couple of months ago, I received an email from a member after a power outage. Here's an excerpt from her email: "Those guys worked until close to 10:00 that night because a tree had taken out not one, but two power poles! I can't thank them enough for their quick response and the awesome job that they did. They are some of the smartest men I have ever seen, and they made me very proud to be a member of REMC! Of course it didn't hurt that all of them were so good looking too!" I know who was on that call. Apparently they look a lot better when it's dark.

Recently, our crews returned home from restoring power at two electric co-ops in eastern North Carolina recovering from the damage caused by Hurricane Irene.

Both were extremely appreciative of our crews offering assistance and were impressed with the professionalism and ability of the line personnel. They were given some the toughest work to be done and performed admirably.

When you call into the office for assistance, we want to be problem solvers for you. Our goal is to serve you to the highest of our abilities.

I want to thank our employees for all they do each and every day. They are an extremely hard-working group, and I am proud to be associated with them.

Next, I want to thank the People Helping People Board of Directors. People Helping People is a program that allows members to assist other Randolph EMC members by rounding up their power bills to the next whole dollar. We currently have 1,151 members who are rounding up their bills each month and contributing an average of \$6 per year. Over the last 10 years, a total of \$59,950 has been given to assist fellow Randolph EMC members that are facing a crisis in their lives. All the money stays right here within the communities we serve.

The People Helping People Board of Directors are Katherine Brady, Chairperson; Barry Cole, Vice Chairperson; Emily Ledwell, Secretary; Bernard Beck; Lucille Carter; Priscilla Clay and Carolyn Thompson. These folks have a great heart of service and do a fantastic job administering this program. I am very appreciative of all their efforts in guiding this organization.

Next, I would like to thank a group of very dedicated and hard-working individuals—the Randolph EMC Board of Directors. The electric utility industry is more complex today than ever before, and it takes a lot of work and commitment to stay abreast of the issues and continual changes within our industry. Every decision that is made is based on one simple notion: "What's best for the members?"

Randolph EMC must plan well in advance for the infrastructure needs of the future. In fact, we are making decisions about electricity generation that will be in place into the 2040's. That takes vision and knowledge, and all of us at REMC have a sincere sense of duty to make good, sound decisions for the future success of the cooperative.

Your Directors are Bob Wright, President; Jerry Bowman, Vice President; Sue Spencer, Secretary-Treasurer; Tammy Phillips, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer; James Andrews; Delbert Cranford; Steve Harris; Paul Hurley and Larry Routh. I consider it a privilege to work for and with your Board of Directors as we plan for the future. I want to thank them for their dedication to Randolph EMC.

The last group I want to thank is actually the most important group of all. It is you, our members. You see, without you, Randolph EMC would not exist; you are the owners. Our allegiance is not to a group of shareholders with different ideas and philosophies, it is to the member-owners of the cooperative.

Your support is greatly, greatly appreciated, whether it is through serving on committees, attending and participating in the annual meeting, bringing coffee to a crew working in the field, dropping some goodies by the office during a major storm restoration effort, using your tractor to pull a truck into a muddy field to repair a line, calling to tell us where the tree is on the line, or simply calling into the office or emailing to say "thank you for what you did."

We hope you have a blessed Thanksgiving season.

Thankfully Yours,

Dale F. Lambert  
Chief Executive Officer