



watts working

The Monthly Newsletter for Members of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

The Value of Grassroots: A History of Co-op Success Through Political Action

In the context of the electric co-op program, "Grassroots" is a powerful word. In fact, the historical success of the electric co-ops can be largely credited to that single word.

"Grassroots" refers to electric cooperative activists — directors, managers, employees and member-owners — who take an active role in the political process to protect their co-op from harmful legislation and regulation, as well as to promote the value of co-op ownership to their legislators.

Grassroots involvement can mean communicating with local, state and federal legislators on issues affecting electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperatives have cultivated a reputation on Capitol Hill over the years, and legislators know that when electric co-op member-owners actively get involved by writing, calling and e-mailing, they should listen. Grassroots

advocates speaking with the same voice makes a difference on Capitol Hill.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) recently launched Action.coop to do just that. Action.coop is a website dedicated to explaining issues that affect the electric industry and provides an easy-to-use platform for folks to contact legislators regarding those issues.

We are successful because members like you take the time to be engaged in the political process. Dale Lambert's AWARE column goes into detail about President Obama's latest proposal to curb greenhouse gases.

We encourage you to read Dale's article and then visit Action.coop to watch a video of NRECA's CEO, Jo Ann Emerson. Her message shares how affordable electricity powers the American spirit, highlighting the investments co-ops have already made for a brighter future.

Randolph EMC offices will be closed

November 11
in observance of
Veteran's Day
and

**November
28 & 29**
for Thanksgiving.

*Enjoy
your
holidays!*



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SWAP SHOP

For Sale

Wood \$75 to \$100/load. Need wood splitter. 336-824-8445.

Horizontal type wood splitter, \$300 neg. 336-629-2560.

2 white Anderson Exterior duo-pane glass doors, \$75 ea. or \$125 for both. 2 sections of unused 30-in. aluminum corrugated pipe, 15 ft. & 20 ft., \$750 for both. 336-381-2452 or 336-273-5551.

1974 Ford 6400 2-ton dump truck, 390 Engine, runs good, \$3,200 neg. 336-879-2826.

Craftsman Generator 3,500 watts, 240V outlet, 120V outlets, \$500 neg. GC. 336-879-4157 or 336-879-2826.

John Deere 445, 22 HP Kawasaki, 54" Deck, EC, Original Owner. \$3,850. 336-362-3342.

Aluminum truck bed 8 x 18 roll up door 2,000-lb lift tailgate fold under & jacks, GC. \$1,200. 336-879-5818.

10¼ acres of land with 180 foot road frontage in Moore County on Jessie Rd near Needhams Grove Church. \$30,000. 336-879-5818, 336-873-7170 or 910-948-2387.

1991 Class C Tioga Montara RV \$2,500. New handmade quilts, F,Q & K, \$100-\$150 neg. 336-625-4548.

3,000 Red Sex Link pullets (16-18 week old chickens) laying age, brown eggs, vaccinated & debeaked, \$6.75 & up. Liberty area. 336-708-2998.

50-lb bag feed wheat \$9/bag. 336-622-2480.

FOR RENT: Lot on Nathan Rd in Carthage, \$175 per month, private. 910-464-3459.

Members, email Swap Shop items to General@RandolphEMC.com

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:

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Jerry BowmanVice President
Sue SpencerSec.-Treasurer
Tammie PhillipsAssist. Sec.-Treasurer

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An Equal Opportunity Employer | M/F/V/H

Why Do You

FLEXPAY

A PREPAID ENERGY SOLUTION FROM Randolph EMC

"The deposit required to turn the power on in my new apartment was a little more than I could afford. With FlexPay, I didn't have to pay a deposit at all!"

- Melissa C.

"I drive a truck for a living, and I like not having a due date. I can pay only as much as I need to – even away from home."

- Gary F.

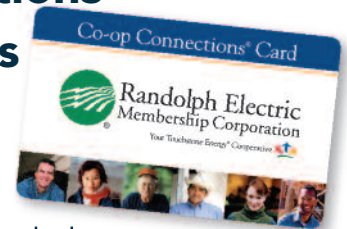
"I receive a Social Security check once a month, so I really have to watch my budget. FlexPay lets me make smaller payments during the month and I don't have any surprises on my bill!"

- Mary Ellen W.

Learn More at www.RandolphEMC.com

Use Your Co-op Connections Card for Holiday Savings

The holidays are almost here, so whether you're traveling, shopping, eating out or getting ready for company, your Co-op Connections card can help trim your holiday spending. Visit our Co-op Connections page at RandolphEMC.com and see what deals you can find with national retailers and local businesses!



Welcome our newest business to the Co-op Connections Program...

Health 1st Chiropractic and Rehabilitation
Dr. Chris Thompson, D.C. | www.HSTriad.com

964 S. Fayetteville Street, Asheboro | (336) 521-9023

3336 S. Church St., Burlington | (336) 584-5522

Free SEMG Exam when you show your card (Regularly \$189)



Take the Chill Out of Winter Bills

Between holiday houseguests and shorter, colder days, electric bills tend to climb in the winter. Save energy when the temperature drops with these five tips:

Lower your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower)

Decreasing the temperature by just one degree can save up to 5 percent on heating costs. A programmable thermostat makes it easy to control temps when you're away.

Adjust blinds and curtains

Keep them open to let in sunlight during the day, and close at night to keep heat inside and protect from drafts.

Seal and insulate

This is the best way to keep heat in and air out. Areas that may

need sealing include corners, cracks, door frames, and windows.

Free your vents

HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems will have to work twice as hard if vents are blocked by rugs, furniture or doors. Keep vents clear for proper airflow.

Keep food cool

Don't make your fridge work too hard. A temperature set between 34 and 37 degrees Fahrenheit is usually sufficient.

Holiday Efficiency Tip

If you're expecting guests for holiday festivities, consider giving your heating unit a break. With the oven cranked up and the house packed with people, the temperature will rise on its own.

Also make sure it has a clean filter so it can work as efficiently as possible all winter long.

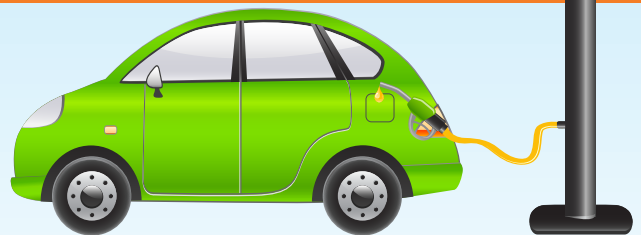
Remember to set your clocks back one hour on November 3 when Daylight Saving Time ends!

The Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment

Q What is the WPCA line item on my bill?

A The Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) is the rate component on your electric bill that reflects the variable cost of electricity that Randolph EMC purchases from its wholesale power supplier. When fuel costs rise, Randolph EMC pays a higher price for electricity, which is recovered from members through the WPCA. When fuel costs have been lower than expected, the WPCA will be a negative amount, which translates into a credit on your bill.

Our annual budget and rates are based on our best projections of what we expect to pay for electricity in the wholesale market and what our projected kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales will be for the year. If necessary, the WPCA is adjusted up or down when "projected" power costs and "actual" power costs differ to keep rates as



stable as possible. The current WPCA for November and December, 2013, is a *credit* of \$12 per 1,000 kWh. In January, 2014, WPCA will be \$7.50 per 1,000 kWh.

You can think about the impact the WPCA has on your electric bill in the same way you look at how the price of gasoline affects the cost of operating your car.

Even though your monthly car payment (your electricity delivery rate) hasn't gone up, the car you drive will cost more or less to operate because of the price you pay for gasoline to drive it (as do prices for fuels used to generate electricity).

AWARE

a word about Randolph Electric

Dear Members,

by Dale F. Lambert, CEO

Through the years, we have worked together to address and influence legislation at the state and national levels that would have increased what we all pay for electricity in our homes and businesses. You faithfully responded to make your voices heard loud and clear and our combined efforts were very successful. We need your assistance again.

In 2008, legislation was introduced in the United States Congress to use the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide emissions—something the act was never intended nor designed to do. If this legislation would have passed, electric rates would have increased dramatically. We, along with other electric cooperatives, pushed back and the legislation did not move forward.

This past June, President Obama announced a series of actions with the intent to combat climate change. The proposed plan is to reduce the volume of greenhouse gas emissions from electric generation plants that burn fossil fuels, such as coal and natural gas. This plan targets both new and existing power plants.

The intent is very similar to the proposed legislation that was introduced in 2008, but this time the President has bypassed Congress and instructed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act.

Whether you agree with the President's underlying concerns about global warming or not, the basic fact is that, short of closing all coal-fired power plants, there are no economically viable tools currently available to accomplish his goals of effectively capturing and storing CO₂ from power plants. Randolph EMC and electric cooperatives across America are concerned that these regulations will dramatically impact costs for providing electricity.

In the late 1970s, policymakers were concerned the U.S. would soon run out of natural gas, the main energy source for heating and cooking in many parts of our land. Congress' solution to the issue was passing the ill-conceived Power Plant and Industrial Fuel Use Act of 1978, which prohibited burning natural gas to generate electricity. To meet growing demand for power, utilities were forced to choose either coal or nuclear power facilities.

At the time, generation and transmission co-ops were in the middle of a major power plant building cycle, and many found themselves shifting generation strategies

midstream. Thanks to the Fuel Use Act, power costs soared, and with them, cooperative electric bills. Realizing its mistake, Congress repealed the act in 1987.

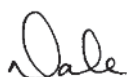
Folks, it might seem like we're a little ol' co-op in the middle of North Carolina, but we're part of a huge network of co-ops across the nation. And together, we have a mighty big voice. On the cover of this month's *Watts Working*, you'll find some information about the Cooperative Action Network. If you'll read, you'll see that it's a place where members (and non-members) can go to learn more about these issues and easily contact their legislators.

I'm actually glad that I am able to address this pending legislation at this time because at the moment, we are in a good place with our wholesale power costs. As a reminder, the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) allows for Randolph EMC to collect increases or decreases in the cost of the generation of electricity.

And on that note, I have an early Christmas present for you. At the October board meeting, your Board of Directors authorized increasing the current Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) *credit* from \$6 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours to \$12 per 1,000 kWh through the end of the year. In January, the credit will even out at \$7.50 per 1,000 kWh. Fortunately, our generation costs have remained steady rather than increased, which allows us to "lower" your rate by increasing the WPCA credit on your bill.

As you can see, the more stable we can keep our power costs, the better it is for your pocketbook each month. That's why we pay attention to what's happening in Washington, D.C., and ask you to help us stand up for affordable electricity. I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving and thank you for your support and membership!

Cooperatively Yours,



Dale F. Lambert, Chief Executive Officer

