

Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

OCTOBER 2013

Celebrate National Cooperative Month with Wake Electric October set aside to honor 26 co-ops in North Carolina

Join Wake Electric in celebrating cooperatives in North Carolina and across America during National Cooperative Month.

Every October, cooperatives are recognized for the qualities that make the business model unique: local democratic control, commitment to supporting the communities they serve and improving quality of life, special benefits and services, and the return of margins (the co-op term for profits) back to members in the form of capital credits.

"Cooperatives are special," says Jim Mangum, General Manager and CEO of Wake Electric. "We have an obligation to provide reliable, affordable, and safe electricity, but we take that a step further. We also have a responsibility to support our members, enrich schools, and enhance our communities."

Wake Electric is proud to be part of America's

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cooperative network, which employs more than 850,000 people. Across the nation, 29,000 co-ops and credit unions generate \$74 billion in annual wages and nearly \$500 billion in annual revenue.

Wake Electric is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts and public power districts serving 42 million people in 47 states.

"Electric cooperatives were formed because rural communities were struggling from lack of investment," Mangum explains. "Neighbors banded together and lit up the countryside when no one else would. That's what we celebrate each October."

In addition to cooperative utilities, North Carolina residents are served cooperatively by credit unions, food co-ops, agricultural co-ops, and more! To learn more about co-ops and find one near you, visit go.coop.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Keep wintery drafts out of your home by sealing cracks and gaps. Weather stripping around doors and windows works well when you can see daylight between the frame and the wall or floor. Use caulk to seal around the frames where you see gaps. For more tips and tricks, visit TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com



Calling All Youth Tour Alumni

For the past 50 years, students have attended the Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., visiting monuments, meeting elected officials and learning about rural electrification. Cooperatives such as Wake Electric have sponsored youth to attend this amazing opportunity over the years. With the 50th anniversary of Youth Tour upon us, the search for alumni has begun.

Are you one of the youth who toured the streets of D.C.? If you are, you can join the Youth Tourists database at <http://ncelectriccooperatives.com/community/youthtour/alumni.aspx>. Tell us your story, where you are now, or what impact the trip made on you. Help us celebrate 50 years of a trip of a lifetime!



 Wake Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Call to report outages: 919.863.6499 or 800.743.3155
Regular office hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Telephone hours: M-F, 7 a.m.-6 p.m., 863.6300 or 800.474.6300
Underground locating service: Call 811
Dedicated pay-by-phone number: 866.999.4593

Wake Electric's Touchstone Energy Sports Scholarship Winners Have a Blast at Basketball Camps

Wake Electric's two Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarship winners Chloe Bowman, an 8th grade student from G.C. Hawley Middle School, and Evan King, an 8th grade student at Wendell Middle School, had a wonderful time at the basketball camps this summer.

Chloe Bowman shot hoops and ran drills with college coaches and athletes during the Wes Moore Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at North Carolina State University in August.

Evan King attended the Roy Williams Carolina Basketball Camp in June, and had the opportunity to experience life on a college campus and to learn from some of the NCAA's best basketball players and coaches.

These camps develop fundamental skills that will help young athletes excel both on and off the court.

This is the 10th year that the state's Touchstone Energy cooperatives, including Wake Electric, have sent young men and women to basketball camp at NC State and UNC-CH. More than 50 students from across the state won full Touchstone Energy scholarships to attend basketball camps on the two college campuses this summer. Scholarship winners were selected by a panel



Chloe Bowman and coach Wes Moore



Evan King and coach Roy Williams

of judges who reviewed an application that included academics, extracurricular activities and an essay. The scholarships are sponsored by North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives and are available to middle-school students every year.

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship program is part of the electric cooperatives' ongoing commitment to North Carolina communities.

Wake

ElectriConnection

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Member Advisory Committee Meetings are this Month

RSVP BY OCTOBER 9 TO ATTEND ONE!

Wake Electric's fall Member Advisory Committee (MAC) meetings will be held this month. We invite all members to attend ONE of the meetings on any of the following dates: October 14, 16 and 17. To attend, you must RSVP by Wednesday, October 9, before 5 p.m. These meetings are an excellent way to discuss electric utility issues and the plans and progress of Wake Electric with its senior management team.

These casual meetings are open to all Wake Electric members. As an incentive, we will have several drawings for a \$25 credit on your next electric bill. A catered dinner is included for all attendees. The meetings start at 6:30 p.m. at 228 Park Avenue in Youngsville.

If you have any questions or wish to RSVP, please contact Darnell Alford, Business Operations Specialist, at (919) 863-6312 or 1-800-474-6300 or via e-mail at Darnell.Alford@WEMC.com. Be sure to leave a contact number in your RSVP message.

For more information on MAC meetings, please visit www.wemc.com/membermeetings.aspx.

Renewable Energy and You

Back in 2007, the North Carolina General Assembly passed Senate Bill 3, the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS). This standard requires all retail electric power suppliers to include renewable energy resources like solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal and biomass in their fuel mix.



Wake Electric is well on the way to comply with North Carolina's Renewable Portfolio Standard that requires 10 percent renewable generation by 2018. Actually, it's a sliding scale that requires 3 percent in 2012, 6 percent in 2015 and 10 percent in 2018.

The first 3 percent was relatively easy since we could count the renewable hydropower we get from the Kerr Lake project in Virginia. As we look toward meeting the higher targets, however, we have acquired Renewable Energy Certificates [RECs] from renewable resources right here in North Carolina. While they are not directly connected to our electric system, they count the same for REPS compliance.

A renewable generation resource has three sources of revenue: 1) federal and state tax credits and tax benefits such as accelerated depreciation [which can cover up to 75 percent of the cost], 2) sale of actual electricity produced to the interconnected electric utility and 3) sale of RECs [one REC for each 1,000 kWh produced]. The revenue from all three sources is usually needed to make the project feasible.

Wake Electric has purchased Solar RECs from 23 large-scale [above 2,000 kW] solar projects in North Carolina. In some cases, we have purchased much of the entire output of RECs for the expected 20-year life of the project. For more information on some of these projects, visit www.stratasolar.com or www.o2energies.com.

Complying with the REPS law is expensive, and we estimate the current cost of \$1 per meter per month to increase to around \$2 per meter per month in 2018. However, we think it is reasonable to conclude that without the REPS requirement, solar developers would be less likely to locate resources in North Carolina.

Wake Electric is also implementing several energy

efficiency projects, but for the larger number of RECs, solar has proven to be the most cost-effective. By choosing solar as our primary resource in complying with NC REPS, Wake Electric members have and will continue to make a big investment in solar power's future in North Carolina.

Want to become part of the Member Advisory Community?

In April, Wake Electric launched a new component of the Member Advisory Community via email. It is an online extension of the long-running Member Advisory Committee, which meets "in person" twice a year. Interested members will receive emails from the Member Advisory Community, with the goal of getting more members involved on important topics and discussions about the cooperative as well as the electric utility industry as a whole.

Initially, Wake Electric plans to communicate with interested members via email about interesting and timely subjects such as the above article on renewable energy as well as other topics such as technology and energy efficiency. Wake Electric intends on keeping the posts short and usually focused on a single topic.

We hope our members will ask questions, make comments and/or suggest future topics for discussion. Please feel free to spread the word about this new community. To join the discussion, just send your name and email address to MAC@wemc.com. This is an exciting new communications tool at Wake Electric... get involved!

Protect Your Home from Electrical Fires

Each year, electrical failures and malfunctions cause 43,900 home fires, resulting in 438 deaths, 1,430 injuries, and \$1.47 billion in property damage. But many home electrical fires can be prevented simply by understanding basic electrical safety principles and following safe practices.

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign runs October 6-12 and focuses on kitchen fires. The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) have teamed up to offer safety tips to help protect your home and family:

- ★ Safety should always be the top priority when working with electricity. ESFI recommends that a qualified, licensed electrician perform all home electrical work in compliance with local and national safety standards.
- ★ Consider having your circuit breakers replaced with arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), which provide enhanced electrical fire protection by detecting dangerous arcing conditions.
- ★ Make sure all electrical panel circuits are properly labeled. Always replace fuses or circuit breakers with the correct size and amperage.



Visit www.esfi.org for more home electrical safety information and for ESFI's Fire Prevention Week resources.



Fire Prevention Week 2013 is Oct. 6–12. Test smoke alarms every month by pushing the TEST button.

- ★ Keep the area around the electrical panel clear so you can easily shut off power in an emergency.
- ★ Every month, use the TEST button to check that ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) at outlets and AFCIs are working properly.
- ★ Be mindful of warning signs of an electrical problem, such as outlets and switches that are warm or make crackling, sizzling, or buzzing noises.
- ★ Regularly check cords, outlets, switches, and appliances for signs of damage. Do not use damaged electrical devices.
- ★ Do not use extension cords on a permanent basis, and never use them with space heaters or air conditioners.
- ★ Avoid overloading outlets.
- ★ Do not use lightbulbs that exceed the recommended wattage of the light fixture or lamp.
- ★ Despite your best efforts at prevention, a fire could still happen. Follow these tips to make sure your family is prepared to make a safe escape:
 - ★ Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.
 - ★ Test smoke alarms every month by pushing the TEST button.
 - ★ Create a family fire escape plan that includes two ways out of each room.
 - ★ Pick an easy-to-find meeting place outside, a safe distance from your home.
 - ★ Practice your escape plan by having at least two fire drills a year. One fire drill should be at night while your family is sleeping.
 - ★ If anyone in your household is deaf, or if your own hearing is diminished, consider installing a smoke alarm that uses a flashing light or vibration to alert you to a fire emergency.

—Electrical Safety Foundation International