

Published for Member/Owners of **EnergyUnited**

connect

in this issue

Renewable Energy credits	21
Triple Surge Guard protection	22
Looking back on 2013	23
Bright Ideas education grants	24

On Track with Renewable Energy Credits

EnergyUnited has worked diligently the past several years to ensure that we are on the right path to meet the Senate Bill 3 mandates introduced in 2007 as well as amendments to the bill since passed. With the signing of the bill, North Carolina became the first state in the Southeast to adopt a Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS). Under this law, rural electric cooperatives like ours are subject to REPS requirements.

Although the law set forth a number of details, electric power suppliers generally may comply with the REPS requirement in a number of ways, including the purchase of power from renewable energy facilities, the purchase of renewable energy certificates, or the implementation of energy efficiency measures. Renewable energy resources includes a solar electric, solar thermal, wind, hydropower, geothermal, or ocean current or wave energy resource; a biomass resource, including agricultural waste, animal waste, wood waste, spent pulping liquors, combustible residues, combustible liquids, combustible gases, energy crops, or landfill methane; waste heat derived from a renewable energy resource and used to produce electricity or useful, measurable thermal energy at a retail electric customer's facility; or hydrogen derived from a renewable energy resource.

While renewable energy is often embraced as the answer to America's energy crisis, the price tag associated with its development—and how reliably renewable projects operate—often leaves a lot to be desired. EnergyUnited is committed to providing affordable and reliable power in an environmentally responsible fashion. Our statewide and national organizations work with Congress to ensure that

rates for electricity don't rise too much as a result of any federal mandates. Investments in renewable energy must be made with the impact on electric bills in mind.

Each month, EnergyUnited customers see a small REPS charge on their bill statements. Simply put, REPS charges are meant to recover a portion of the expenses that are incurred by electric companies in their efforts to reach the mandates. At EnergyUnited, these charges vary depending on whether the account is classified as residential, commercial or industrial. Currently, those charges are \$.51, \$2.55 and \$25.62 per month, respectively.

Co-ops, including ours, are well ahead of the curve when it comes to investing in renewable resources. The costs of renewables have been declining in recent years and we have done a good job of meeting our mandates while working to control the costs to meet the portfolio requirements. Because of that, beginning Jan. 1, 2014, the REPS rider charge to residential members will decrease to \$.30 per month. Commercial customers will see a charge of \$1.53 each month and \$15.37 for those customers classified as industrial, a reduction of forty percent.

We know every little bit counts when it comes to saving money. We're committed to delivering reliable energy services at competitive prices to improve the quality of life of our members and the communities we serve.

Keep Your Appliances and Electronics Safe with Triple Surge Guard

Triple Surge Guard is a revolutionary system that offers comprehensive protection against high voltage power surges. A one-of-a-kind service that guards your house three ways, it will give you peace of mind in knowing that all your household appliances and electronics are safe.

Triple Surge Guard ensures the safety of your home appliances and electronics because it blocks three major avenues through which surges can enter your home: your electrical lines, your cable lines, and your phone lines. Therefore, all household motor driven appliances and electronic devices are protected, including those that are plugged in and permanently hard-wired to your electric systems, such as furnaces, central air conditioners, ovens and range tops. Triple Surge Guard comes with an industry-leading manufacturer's warranty of up to \$50,000 replacement per incident. Even if a power surge damages the Triple Surge Guard system and the surge is able to damage your electronics and appliances, the protected equipment will be repaired or replaced. And best of all, Triple Surge Guard protection starts at \$9.99 per month!

Plug-In Surge Protectors

Most can only provide protection from surge peaks between 3,000 and 17,500 amps.

Most cannot protect hard-wired appliances such as dishwashers and oven ranges.

Most do not provide adequate warranty coverage for replacement of damaged household goods.



Triple Surge Guard

Triple Surge Guard provides protection from surge peaks up to 40,000 amps on the electric system and 20,000 on both the phone and cable/satellite system.

Triple Surge Guard provides whole-house protection, including appliances and sensitive electronics.

Triple Surge Guard comes with an industry-leading manufacturer's warranty of up to \$50,000 replacement per incident.

Visit https://www.energyunited.com/triple_surge_guard.asp or call 1-800-681-3077 for more information about Triple Surge Guard protection

Apply Now for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, applications will be accepted for the 2014 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, the 50th anniversary of the tour!

EnergyUnited will once again send two high school seniors on an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. The winning students will join 1,500 high school students from across the country from June 14-20. Youth Tourists will have the opportunity to visit historic monuments and museums and see our nation's government in action.

Other activities will include being part of a reality show that will allow participants to experience government in real time. Civics will come alive as students will enhance their skills in leadership and hands-on learning.

Applicants must be current high school juniors who live in EnergyUnited's service area, but do not necessarily have to live in a residence that receives electricity from EnergyUnited. To see EnergyUnited's 19-county service area, please visit www.energyunited.com/eu_locations.asp.

To download a Youth Tour application, please visit the website at www.energyunited.com/youth_tour.asp. The deadline for submitting an application is Feb. 10.

For additional details about the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, please visit www.ncemcs.com/community/youthtour.htm. If you are a Youth Tour alumnus, please join the database of alumni at <http://www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/community/youthtour/alumni.aspx>.

2013 Youth Tourists Sarah Sturdivant and Keigan Parker in Washington, D.C.



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



Success Stories

The beginning of a new year always seems like the right time to reflect on recent accomplishments. At EnergyUnited, I think we have quite an impressive list. We forged ahead with new programs designed to make the partnership between our members and our cooperative more convenient.

In addition, we made great strides in reliability and we continued to give back to the communities we serve. We're proud of our accomplishments and know that our members will benefit from the programs and initiatives we put in place in 2013.

The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) that we began implementing three years ago was completed in 2013. The benefits that AMI brings to our members are a big part of why we put the program in place to begin with. Because we are now able to read meters on demand, we have been able to extend to our members payment options that we would not otherwise have been able to offer. We have experienced a growing number of enrollments in programs such as pre-paid metering and custom due date. Pre-paid metering allows customers the option of paying for electricity in advance and eliminates the need for deposits, which makes it especially beneficial to those members who face large deposits when signing up for service. Our custom due date program allows members to choose their billing due date. These programs give our members a chance to be more in control of their electric usage and electric bills. You can visit our website (www.EnergyUnited.com) or call 1-800-522-3793 for more information about these programs.

Is there anything more important to our members than reliability? We don't think so and that's why we put so much effort into making sure that reliable service is one of our main focus areas. To that end, in 2013 we put into service a brand new substation in the Fort Dobbs area of Iredell County. This new substation services 1,500 members. We are also proud to be utilizing new technology called fault indicators. These line fault indicators are installed on a number of transmission lines and help pinpoint where outages have occurred. Instead of the need to traverse large sections of lines to find the fault, our servicemen are able to locate the outage more easily, which leads to shorter restoration times.

We also introduced distribution automation in a pilot program. Automated switching automatically transfers load when the incoming source is lost. This will significantly cut restoration time and save manpower as well.

Our right of way (ROW) department also plays a big role in reliability. The simple act of clearing and trimming trees near lines helps keep tree branches from falling on lines during inclement weather. In 2013, our ROW department and contract crews trimmed over 850 miles of distribution lines and 20 miles of transmission lines.

In 2013, we continued our long-standing traditions of giving back to the communities we serve. Through our Bright Ideas Education Grant program, we funded projects for local educators that might otherwise have gone unfunded. 26 area teachers split nearly \$40,000 in grants, which will in turn benefit over seven thousand students. And speaking of students, EnergyUnited sent two high schoolers to Washington, D.C. for the Rural Electric Youth Tour and two middle school-aged kids to basketball camp. From what I understand, a good time was had by all! We can't think of a better way to show our support of the communities in which our employees and members live and work than by supporting students in those areas.

We're thrilled with what we were able to accomplish in 2013 and we're equally excited about things to come this year. Stay tuned for updates about what we've got planned for the near future in next month's column!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "H. Wayne Wilkins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Bright Ideas Become Reality for Teachers

Twenty-six educators with “Bright Ideas” will now have the chance to make their ideas a reality thanks to EnergyUnited and the Bright Ideas education grant program. Bright Ideas education grants, sponsored by EnergyUnited and North Carolina’s electric cooperatives, provide resources to North Carolina teachers for innovative, hands-on, classroom projects that might otherwise go unfunded. This year, grants were awarded to 25 different schools in 12 of the 19 counties in which

EnergyUnited serves.

Nearly \$40,000 will be granted to K-12 educators within the EnergyUnited service area as part of the Bright Ideas program in 2013. Bright Ideas grant applications are collected each year through mid-September. The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2014.

To find out more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit www.energyunited.com or the Bright Ideas website at www.ncbrightideas.com.



Huntersville Elementary School teachers Michael Salvatore and Denise Beers accept their Bright Ideas checks with Principal Deborah Mangieri

Bright Ideas Grants Winners:

Alexander County

Lindsey Cox, Alexander Central High

Catawba County

Dacia Jones, Claremont Elementary

Davie County

Deborah Barron, Cooleemee Elementary
Sara Davis, Davie County High
Luwonna Oakes, William R. Davie Elementary

Davidson County

Adam Dunn, Central Grove Middle
Julie Lloyd, Thomasville Primary
Jeannette McNamara, Stoner-Thomas School
Susan McWhorter, Tyro Middle
Donna Tucker, Oak Grove Middle

Forsyth County

Melanie Langley, East Forsyth High
Cathy Musci, Kernersville Middle

Guilford County

Kelly Hines, McLeansville Elementary
Kathleen Melious, Andrews High

Iredell County

Margaret Lindeman, Liberty Preparatory Christian Academy
Heather Przybylski, Troutman Elementary
Brenda Stewart, Collaborative College for Technology and Leadership
Sara Webb, Lake Norman Elementary

Mecklenburg County

Denise Beers, Huntersville Elementary
Pam Lilley, Cornelius Elementary
Michael Salvatore, Huntersville Elementary
Jennifer Thompson, James Martin Middle

Rockingham County

Tammy Robertson, Central Elementary

Rowan County

Lynn Bradley, West Rowan Middle

Stokes County

Mary Carder, Sandy Ridge Elementary

Wilkes County

Robin Roten, Wilkes Central High

connect is published monthly for its members by EnergyUnited. Questions, comments and story ideas should be directed to:

Connect

P.O. Box 1831 Statesville, NC 28687-1831

H. Wayne Wilkins
Chief Executive Officer

EnergyUnited
YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

1-800-522-3793

www.energyunited.com

[facebook.com/EnergyUnited](https://www.facebook.com/EnergyUnited)

[@EnergyUnitedEMC](https://twitter.com/EnergyUnitedEMC)