

CONNECT

VOLUME 15, Nº 2

Published for Member/Owners of ENERGYUNITED

February 2013

Replace Air Filters Regularly for Efficient Heating and Cooling

Energy
Efficiency

21

Clogged air filters could add \$82 to your electric bill every year. Checking, changing, or cleaning your filter once a month saves money and extends the life of your home's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system.

More than half of your monthly energy bill goes toward keeping your home comfortable. While air filters prevent pesky dust and annoying allergens from clogging your HVAC system, if left unchecked, a dirty filter forces the HVAC system to work harder to push conditioned air through tight spaces. This results in higher energy bills and—potentially—system failure.

Filter Facts

Successful filters have a short lifespan—the better a filter catches dirt, the faster it gets clogged and must be cleaned or replaced. Leaving a dirty air filter in place cuts a home's air quality and reduces HVAC system airflow.

While removing a clogged filter altogether relieves pressure on the system, the system can't perform well without one. Unfiltered dust and grime accumulate on critical parts like the evaporator coil, causing unnecessary wear and tear.

Monthly Check-up

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) advises checking an air filter once a month and replacing it at least every three months. It's critical to inspect and replace filters before seasons of heavy use like summer and winter.

If you have pets or smokers in the home, filters clog quickly.

Remodeling projects or furniture sanding add more dirt than normal; a filter may need to be changed before the average three-month lifespan expires.

Turn your heating and cooling system off before checking your filter. Slide the filter out of your duct work, and look for layers of hair and dirt. Run a finger across the filter. If the finger comes away dirty or there's a line left on the filter, it's time for a change.

When replacing the filter, make sure the arrow on the filter indicating the direction of the airflow points toward the blower motor. To help schedule monthly check-ups, write the date on the side of the filter so you know when it needs to be checked again. Once you've made the change, turn your system back on.

Filtering Choices

Shopping for a new filter? Before you leave home, write down the size printed on the side of your current filter. If you get a filter that's too small, dirt will get around the barrier and invade your system.

There are several different types of filters and levels of efficiency. Filters are either flat or pleated; pleated filters offer extra surface area to hold dirt, making them more efficient.

The most common filters use layered fiberglass fibers reinforced with metal grating. Some filters boost efficiency by using polyester fibers. Electrostatic filters are made from positively- and negatively-charged fibers and capture smaller debris. The filters best

able to capture small debris are high efficiency particulate arrestance (HEPA) filters, but these deluxe filters are mainly used in hospitals and office buildings, not in homes unless a family member suffers from severe allergies.

Air filters are rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). Ranging from one to 20, this scale gauges a filter's effectiveness at blocking debris. Low MERV-rated filters offer high airflow into a cooling or heating system, but only catch large air particles. A higher rating isn't always better—those filters block more dirt but also reduce system airflow. Most experts recommend filters with a MERV 6 or higher.

Manufacturers are not required to post MERV on filter packaging. Brands like 3M's Filtrete instead list levels of microparticle performance rating. Some stores use a ranking system of good, better, best, and premium. Better (and more expensive) filters mean higher MERV scores.

Ask a heating and cooling professional what type of filter works best for your home and family needs. Once you find a filter that works well in your home, it's a good idea to keep spare filters on hand. Basic filters cost anywhere from \$2 to \$10; electrostatic filters may range from \$18 to \$25.

Interested in more ways to save? Take the home energy savings tour and see how little changes add up to big savings at:

www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Business
News

22

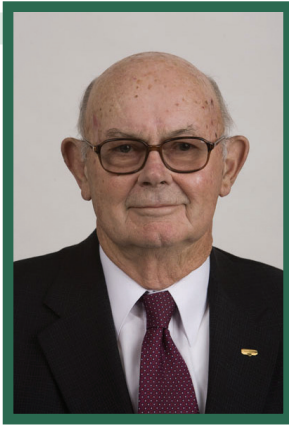
CEO
Column

23

Payment
Options

24

EnergyUnited Mourns the Loss of Two Directors



After more than 45 years of service as a cooperative director, Jimmy R. Horton, Sr., who helped guide EnergyUnited to be the cooperative it is today, passed away Dec. 9 at the age of 82.

Jimmy R. Horton, Sr.

Horton served on the board of directors at Crescent Electric Membership Corporation beginning in 1966 and had been a member of EnergyUnited's board of directors since it was formed by the consolidation of Crescent and Davidson EMCs in 1998. Horton served as president of the EnergyUnited board of directors from 1999-2011 and most recently represented the Cooperatives third district.

Horton, co-owner of Horton Brother's Builders Supermarket and a Black Angus Cattle farmer was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a life-long member of Amity Lutheran Church. In addition to his service to EnergyUnited, he served

on the Federated Rural Insurance Exchange, the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperative boards and was a member of the Rural Electric Action Political Action Committee. Horton was past member of the Mooresville Rotary Club having served as President and was named a Paul Harris Fellow.

Horton is survived by his wife, Betty Ann Lineberger Horton, whom he married May 2, 1953; children, Jimmy Ray Horton, Jr., Lee Ann Horton and Jon Allison Horton and wife, Jenny; five grandchildren, brother, Jesse Lee Horton, Jr., and sister, Naomi Horton Holshouser.

A search committee will make recommendations to the board of directors concerning the vacant District # 3 directorship.

Jack B. Wooten

Jack B. Wooten, who faithfully and devotedly served 33 years on the board of directors for first Crescent EMC and then EnergyUnited EMC, passed away December 11, 2012. Mr. Wooten retired from the Board of Directors of EnergyUnited in June 2011.

Born in Rowan County on June 13, 1936, Wooten was the founder and owner of Jack B. Wooten Trucking Company. In addition to his time on the EnergyUnited board, he was

a member and served on the of the board of directors of Believers Faith Center for 30 plus years and was an Elder at Old Providence Presbyterian Church.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Anderson Wooten, a son, Alan D. Wooten and his wife, Anne, two daughters, Gail Sharpe and her husband, Todd and Louann Sherrill and her husband, David, all of Cleveland. Also surviving are 5 grandchildren.



Bright Ideas Grants Awarded to Educators

EnergyUnited honored teachers and celebrated innovation in education in December by awarding over

\$40,000 in Bright Ideas education grants to local educators. More than 6,000 students in elementary, middle and high schools in Alexander, Catawba, Cabarrus, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Guilford, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Rockingham, Rowan and Stokes counties will participate in the 27 projects funded by EnergyUnited's Bright Ideas grants this year.

EnergyUnited representatives awarded the grants to teachers in Davidson County, Alexander County Schools and the Iredell-Statesville School

districts at December board of education meetings. They also made classroom visits to present grant checks.

Statewide, the electric co-ops are expected to award more than \$620,000 in Bright Ideas grant funding to educators this school year.

Bright Ideas grant applications are collected each year through mid-September, and winning proposals are selected in a competitive evaluation process by a panel of judges. The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2013.



Alexander County school teachers were presented a total of \$3,989.00 in Bright Ideas grants by Mike Russell, EnergyUnited commercial & industrial sales manger during a county board meeting.

Powering the Communities We Serve - Our Commitment to Economic Development



By helping existing businesses in the communities we serve expand, and by attracting new businesses to our area, EnergyUnited is helping to create job opportunities, strengthen the local economy and improve our members' quality of life. We want to help our communities thrive, especially during this time of economic recession. Economic development is so important to us that we have made "Growth" one of our five company-wide goals and we have also dedicated an entire team of employees to the sole purpose of growing businesses in our service territory.

To attract new businesses to our service area, our economic development team works with communities to identify sites that are potentially a good fit for new business parks. Our site development program helps design and layout all details for the park including acquisition and infrastructure costs. EnergyUnited can also provide capital through a Revolving Loan Fund (a zero interest loan to start grading or prepare roads) to our local Economic Development Commissions (EDCs) to bring the project to reality. Last, the co-op provides virtual design and marketing for potential buildings in the park.

The team also works to develop relationships and partnerships with local, regional and statewide government entities. It's our job to identify opportunities to partner with local government to help make the economic development process run as smoothly as possible for potential new businesses considering our service territory.

Our economic development team

also strives to serve existing business expansions. One important way we are doing this is by educating businesses on using the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG) for expansions. Under the REDLG program, the United States Department of Agriculture provides zero interest loans to local utilities, such as EnergyUnited, which we then pass on to local businesses for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas.

EnergyUnited also develops incentive rates for business expansion in our territory. The co-op actively seeks opportunities to work with clients on energy-efficiency upgrades or energy monitoring projects. We also provide other energy services, such as selling propane to Commercial & Industrial members, and offer power quality project assessments and lighting maintenance programs. Our team works hard to keep current customers satisfied by providing safe, affordable and reliable power, making it more desirable to stay and expand in the region.

What does a strong economic development program mean for the membership? Since we are a member-owned cooperative, the more energy (kWh) we sell, the more it increases our leverage and buying power so we can provide affordable electricity for all. The process of economic development is a living, breathing component of the cooperative that works to benefit everyone in the region.

With more than 120,000 members in parts of 19 counties in central North Carolina, EnergyUnited is the second largest provider of residential

electricity in the state and the largest electric cooperative in the state.

However, when trying to attract new business to our area, we are often competing against larger investor-owned utilities that have more resources and capital than we do. It can be a David versus Goliath story, but we remain competitive because of our hard work, dedication and unique ideas to entice businesses to choose EnergyUnited as their power supplier.

One recent success story from our economic development team is when Avgol Nonwoven Industries chose to expand its Mocksville facility. The economic development team worked with several local government entities to help Avgol select Mocksville for their expansion. Avgol is already EnergyUnited's largest customer, and the expansion resulted in a 25 percent increase in energy demand, as well as \$20 million in investments to the area. The expansion also brought 25 new jobs to Davie County. It was a coordinated effort and a huge victory for EnergyUnited, as well as the community.

Our commitment to the business community includes keeping rates as low as possible, while providing you with the ultimate in service. It's all about building better communities. That's the cooperative difference.

ATTENTION!!! We're Still Moving, but...



The opening of our new Lexington office has been delayed until March. Members who have made a payment at the current Lexington office will be notified via postcard of the new opening date. Until then, please continue to visit our office located at 1900 South Main Street. Look for an update in next month's issue of the CONNECT newsletter in *Carolina Country* magazine.



Stay Connected With Us



EnergyUnited.com



facebook.com/EnergyUnited

follow us on
twitter



@EnergyUnitedEMC

CONNECT

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

1-800-522-3793

www.energyunited.com

H. WAYNE WILKINS
Chief Executive Officer

Scholarships to Summer Basketball Camps: Apply Today!

EnergyUnited, along with North Carolina's other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, are awarding middle-school students full scholarships to attend basketball camp on college campuses this summer.

Young men can apply to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp scheduled for June 15-19 at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and young women can apply to attend the Kellie Harper Basketball Academy taking place on Aug. 1-4 at N.C. State University in Raleigh. EnergyUnited will award scholarships to one boy and one girl.

To be eligible, applicants must be in sixth, seventh or eighth grade for the

2013-2014 school year, and applications must be postmarked by March 30.

Statewide, Touchstone Energy cooperatives will send more than 50 students to camp this summer. For more information or to download the application, go to www.ncelectriccooperatives.com/community and click on the orange Sports Camp Scholarship logo.



EnergyUnited's Bill Payment Options: Pay Your Electric Bill with Convenience & Ease

EnergyUnited wants to make paying your electric bill more convenient than ever. That's why we offer numerous payment options to our members so you can pay your bill how you want, when you want.

One unique bill payment option is called budget billing. It's a unique bill payment option that allows members to take the worry and uncertainty out of fluctuating electric bills by paying the same amount each month. The monthly payment is determined from the average usage over the previous 12 months.

Our custom due date payment option takes payment flexibility to a whole new level. Custom due date allows members to select the due date of their electric bill in order to make bill payment as convenient and flexible as possible.

EnergyAdvantage is another payment option that is progressive and flexible. It is a program that allows members to purchase electricity on a "pay-as-you-go" basis; members pay when they want and in the amount they choose. It is an excellent way for members to manage their electric costs by viewing their daily usage online, taking energy efficient measures and seeing results. The more you are aware of your electric consumption, the more likely you are to begin to manage it and make choices to lower your monthly electric bill. This program allows members to choose the time and amount of their payments in accordance with their budget. In addition, EnergyAdvantage accounts will never receive interest penalties or delinquent fees and do not require a deposit.

Payments can be made the following ways:

- Bank draft
- Pay-by-phone at 1-800-215-7315 (check, debit, or credit card)
- Mail (check or money order)
- After-hours deposit facility (check or money order)
- In person at any EnergyUnited office
- Authorized payment locations through the Global Express Financial Services (a network of local businesses such as grocery stores and convenience stores throughout our service territory)
- Online bill pay via EnergyUnited's website (via check, debit or credit card)

EnergyUnited accepts Visa, MasterCard and Discover credit cards. We encourage our members to take control of their finances and utilize any of the bill payment options we offer. For more information on bill payment options, please visit www.energyunited.com/payment_options.asp.