

CONNECT

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May 2013

Electric Safety Month

Electric Safety Month

21

All day, we rely on electricity for almost everything from heating our breakfast in the morning to setting our alarm at night. Sometimes, we forget that electricity can potentially be hazardous. There are many steps we can take, however, to practice proper safety when it comes to electricity. May is National Electrical Safety Month, so here you'll find some great tips to keep you and your loved ones safe in and around the home.

In the Home:

- When using appliances in the bathroom, such as hair dryers or curling irons, be sure that no water is near and that the item is unplugged as soon as it is no longer being used. Also ensure the outlets in your bathroom are equipped with a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which monitors electricity flowing in a circuit and trips the circuit if there's an imbalance.
- Unplug all kitchen appliances when not in use, such as the toaster and coffee maker, and store them in a safe and level place to prevent being knocked over.
- When unplugging items from an outlet, pull by the plug instead of the cord.
- Put outlet covers into outlets not being used to prevent curious children from trying to put fingers or other objects into the outlets.
- Replace electrical cords that are fraying or cracking and inspect for damage.
- Never overload an electrical outlet. Stressing the system can create a fire hazard. When too much current is drawn from the circuit or more than one outlet is wired to a single circuit, the outlet could potentially catch fire.
- When replacing light bulbs, check what wattage is needed on the label inside the light fixture or lamp. Be sure that lamps are sitting away from curtains or other materials that could easily catch fire and that they are placed on stable surfaces.

Outside the Home:

- If a downed power line is nearby, leave the area immediately and call 911 or EnergyUnited. If others are around, let them know that they need to stay away.
- "Call Before You Dig." Dial 811 before starting a digging project, and workers will be sent to your home to mark utility lines in your yard. This service is free, and it has the potential to save your life.
- Never use electrical equipment near any wet areas, such as pools or ponds.

This National Electrical Safety Month, take the time to be cautious and check your home for potential risks. If caution is not taken, electricity can lead to costly damages, injuries and even death. Regularly check for electrical hazards year-round in order keep your home safe.



Tamper Resistant Outlet Receptacles have built-in shutter systems that prevent single-pronged objects from being inserted. Unlike plastic outlet caps, the new receptables are permanent, automatic and reliable. They install just like standard outlets.

EnergyUnited offices will be closed Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day. Crews will be on call.

Board Candidates

22

CEO Column

23

Vegetation Management

24



Nominating Committee to Name Board Candidates

In preparation for the upcoming director elections, the EnergyUnited board of directors has chosen a Committee on Nominations.

The committee will meet at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 10, 2013 at the EnergyUnited Education Center located at 182 Salisbury St. in Mocksville, N.C.

Nominations may also be made by petition and must be received by June 13, 2013. Detailed information may be found in the EnergyUnited bylaws located on the website at www.energyunited.com.

Names of the candidates will be posted at the Cooperative's principal office and will appear in the August issue of *CONNECT*, located inside *Carolina Country* magazine.

Again this year, directors will be elected by mail-in ballot. A mail-in ballot and postage paid return envelope will be also be included with the August issue of *CONNECT*. Completed mail-in ballots must be returned to the Cooperative via U.S. Mail no later than the close of business August 30, 2013.

District 1

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143 Fred Lanier Road
Mocksville, NC 27028
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District 2

Neal Motsinger
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District 3

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Legend

- District 1
- District 2
- District 3

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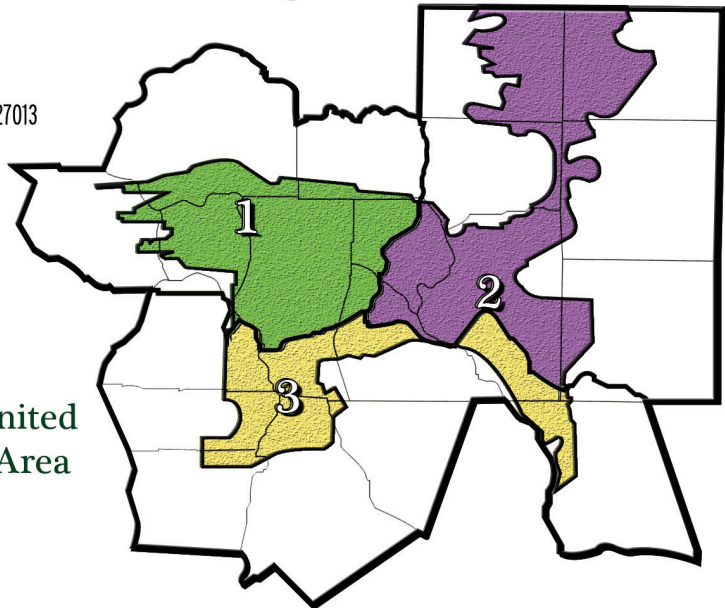
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**EnergyUnited
Service Area**



EnergyUnited
YOUR LOCAL CONNECTION

STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

EnergyUnited is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, this organization is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). Both USDA and EnergyUnited are equal opportunity providers and employers.

The Value of Being Part of a Cooperative

If you've read *CONNECT*, then you know EnergyUnited is an electric cooperative. As a result, you and everyone else who receives electric service from us are members, not customers. Members own and govern their electric cooperative, making the way we do business very different than how other investor-owned utilities run their day-to-day operations.

Being a member of an electric cooperative definitely has its advantages. EnergyUnited is locally owned and controlled by our members, and it shows in how we do business every day. We exist to provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electric service in a way that raises the quality of life in our communities.

When it comes to your electric bill, our rates are set simply to cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders. In fact, because we are a not-for-profit organization, EnergyUnited returns money in excess of operating cost to our members in the form of capital credits.

Another cooperative advantage is that we give each member a voice. Members can vote on the direction they want EnergyUnited to take by electing fellow members to our board of directors to represent their best interests.

The nominating committee is in the process of preparing for the board of director elections that will occur prior to our annual meeting on Saturday, September 21 at Davie County High School in Mocksville. This year, the committee will nominate

two candidates from district two. Nominations can also be made by petition.

For the second year in a row, we will be using the mail-in ballot election process to elect our board members. The new system was a success last year and more than doubled membership voting involvement compared to prior years. The new mail-in ballot system ensures that all members can vote in an easy, convenient manner that complies with the cooperative's principle of promoting democratic control.

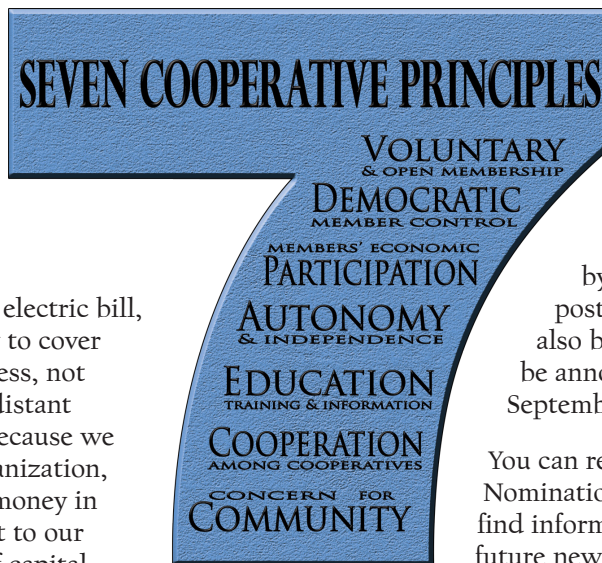
Ballots will go out to members in the August issue of *Carolina Country* and must be returned by August 30, 2013 at 5 p.m. A postage-paid return envelope will also be included. Election results will be announced at the annual meeting on September 21.

You can read more about the Committee on Nominations in this newsletter. You'll also find information about the board candidates in future newsletters, as well as on our website at www.energyunited.com. I encourage you to take time to learn more about both the candidates and the voting process so you can make an informed decision when casting your vote this year.

Remember, your voice and your vote count, and you always have a say in how your co-op is governed. We hope to see you on September 21 at the 2013 annual meeting!



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



Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for September 21 and bring your family out to our Annual Meeting of Members. As a member-owner, learn how we power the communities in which we serve and help us share our cooperative story. There's more to just flipping that switch nowadays. It will be a memorable event for adults and children alike and a great way to spend the day. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

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H. WAYNE WILKINS
Chief Executive Officer

Vegetation Management: Promotes Diversity and Protects the Ecosystem

EnergyUnited is committed to providing safe and reliable electric service to our members while protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat. A reliable source of electricity is essential to the safety, security, economic and welfare of our great nation and the communities that we live and work in every day. In today's environment, utilities must be proactive and maintain an aggressive vegetation management program.



EnergyUnited's ROW Coordinator Jamie Miller and Forester Steve McCorkle spend time walking right-of-way corridors with Jay Jordan to identify specific plant species and ground cover that support wildlife habitats.

Our goals and objectives on the rights-of-way are the maintenance and stabilization of early-successional (low growing) ecological communities that compete with tall growing vegetation and maintaining diverse vegetation communities within the right-of-way corridor. A well-managed right-of-way corridor can act as a greenway and can recreate ecosystems necessary for the survival of rare and federal-endangered plants. Wildlife experts often commend EnergyUnited on its integrated vegetation management program.

The Cooperative works with third party wildlife organizations such as the Energy for Wildlife Program and the Pollinator Partnership Program to help

protect threatened and endangered species and critical habitats for today and future generations.

The selective use of herbicides have allowed the Cooperative to control undesirable undergrowth from growing into power lines and causing power interruption, while at the same time allowing grasses, forbs, legumes, vines, wildflowers and shrubs to flourish. With the return of low growing plant communities comes increased food and cover for wildlife habitat such as deer, wild turkey, field mice, rabbits and songbirds. Bees, butterflies, beetles and small mammals pollinate plants and flowers creating a food supply and beautiful landscapes we enjoy every day.

"EnergyUnited was one of the first energy companies to form a partnership with the NWTF's Energy for Wildlife program," said Jay Jordan - Energy for Wildlife Coordinator. "Over the years, EnergyUnited has continued with a vegetation management program on their rights of way that has provided the safety, security and clearances needed for their customers. This program has also been a benefit to wildlife and their habitats all across its system."

Crews will be performing integrated vegetation management to selected rights-of-way in mid-May and will continue thru September. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Steve McCorkle, EnergyUnited's Forester at 800-522-3793.



North Carolina Pollinator Week: June 17-23

Attention: Budget Billing Reminder!

Members, the month of May marks the first year of the annual recalculation to your payments if you are enrolled in EnergyUnited's Budget Billing payment plan. Newly calculated payment amounts will be reflected on June bills. Any credit or debit balances at the time of recalculation is equalized over the next 12 months. EnergyUnited does review member budget plans periodically and adjusts plans accordingly to help reduce fluctuating costs. If you would like to enroll in Budget Billing login at the "Account Information" page and select "Budget Billing." You will receive a monthly payment amount and instructions on how to proceed.