

# Cooperative review

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections®

A Newsletter for Members of Union Power Cooperative

## NC Electric Cooperatives Launch New Company: GreenCo Solutions, Inc.

**N**orth Carolina's electric cooperatives recently announced the creation of a not-for-profit company to focus on energy efficiency initiatives and renewable resources. The new company, a member-owned cooperative, has been named GreenCo Solutions, Inc.

GreenCo Solutions is owned by a majority of the state's electric cooperatives. Bob Goodson, Chief Operating Officer of the new company, said it will aggregate services related to green energy, allowing the member co-ops to achieve efficiencies and economies of scale. "By working together, we can provide high quality programs that will benefit our residential and commercial consumers at the lowest possible cost," Goodson said.

The new company's core services will include energy efficiency program development and pilot projects for development of renewable energy resources. GreenCo Solutions will be governed by board of directors made up of representatives from the member cooperatives. At a May 8 meeting, the following were elected officers of the board: Tony Herrin, president; Donald Spivey, vice president; and Mitchell Keel, secretary-treasurer. Herrin, Spivey, and Keel are chief executive officers of Union Power Cooperative (Monroe), Pee Dee EMC (Wadesboro), and Four County EMC (Burgaw), respectively.

Herrin said, "GreenCo Solutions is another example of cooperatives working

together through a unified statewide effort to provide added value to our members."

The new company will also provide compliance reporting and tracking for member cooperatives related to Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (REPS) established by Senate Bill 3, enacted by the NC General Assembly in 2007. The bill mandates that NC-based electric utilities must purchase or generate a specific amount of renewable energy, or reduce electricity use through energy efficiency improvements.

Goodson said, "Because the outlook for our energy future is changing, the timing is right for this new company, with or without the legislative mandate."

"GreenCo Solutions is another way for cooperatives to look out for their members by providing them ways to manage their energy costs while fulfilling the commitment to a cleaner environment," he said.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives serve 2.5 million people in 93 of the state's 100 counties.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Union Power Mourns the loss of Director Ralph E. Johnson

Union Power is mourning the loss of Director Ralph Johnson who passed away on May 21 in his home.



Mr. Johnson was appointed to the Board of Directors on February 14, 1976. He represented District IV, which included Mecklenburg County and a portion of Union County. In 2006, Mr. Johnson was recognized for his 30 years of dedicated service as a board member by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives at their annual meeting in Raleigh, NC.

Mr. Johnson was retired from Sardis Presbyterian Church in Charlotte and was a member of Mowing Glade AME Zion Church.

Mr. Johnson was preceded in death by his wife, Mrs. Edith Johnson, in 2004. He is survived by a daughter, Beverly Dawkins, and a son, Ralph E. Johnson, Jr.; and two grandsons, Brian Antonio Dawkins; and Robyn Kyle Johnson; and a god-grandson, Jaren Christian Gaston.

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**Tony E. Herrin**  
Executive Vice President  
and General Manager

It seems like nothing ever stays the same. Things are always changing and all of these changes are to improve our way of life. Just think about the technological changes we've seen during the past five years. One example of that is the iPod. Can you believe you can save and listen to 25,000 songs using an iPod that's not much bigger than a business card?

Change is inevitable. We have to embrace it and plan for it as best we can. During the past few months, Union Power has laid the groundwork for the company's five-year strategic plan. The plan covers the measures

## Planning for the Future

and goals vital to the success of the cooperative over the next 5 years along with specific improvement initiatives aimed at achieving those goals. We will be examining processes throughout every facet of the Cooperative to see where improvements or changes could be made to improve the efficiencies of our operations.

Another area of focus during this strategic process was developing some principles from which we could structure our business around. These are qualities that our employees possess and shine through in our business actions.

### Union Power's Guiding Principles

- *Continuous Improvement*- We relentlessly pursue excellence in all that we do.
- *Fiscal Responsibility*- Our financial success keeps us in business.
- *Empowerment*- Involved employees are our greatest asset.
- *Stewardship*- We promote conservation, energy efficiency, and the use of renewable energy alternatives.

- *Integrity and Trust*- We are honest and truthful in all relationships.
- *Citizenship*- We invest in the communities that we serve.
- *Teamwork*- We work together in integrating all cooperative resources that can add value to our members.
- *Diversity*- We treat all employees and members with fairness, respect, and compassion.
- *Creative*- We are resourceful in adding value to our products and services by promoting change and encouraging innovation.
- *Member Focus*- We deliver the highest standards of service and ensure that the objectives of the Cooperative are linked to the member needs and expectations.

Strategic planning is an ongoing process. We will continually be evaluating our progress to see if we are meeting our set goals. But one thing that will never change is our focus to provide safe and reliable power with exceptional value to all of our members.

## Commitment to COMMUNITY



*Steve Whitley, energy specialist, and Hal Setser, vice president of marketing and energy services, assist participants with CFL information.*

### Stallings Earth Day Celebration

Union Power was proud to participate in the Stallings' Earth Day celebration in Union County. Earth Day participants who visited the Union Power tent were given the opportunity to take part in the Energy Star's Change A Light, Change The World campaign and were given a compact fluorescent (CFL) light bulb in return. Over 600 bulbs were pledged to be changed out during the event. Other booths were teaching kids and adults how to be more energy

efficient and how to conserve energy as well as the importance of not littering.

Union Power was proud to be a part of the Earth Day celebration in Stallings.

Furthering our commitment to the communities we serve, Union Power is sponsoring two Stanly County events: **Big Lick Bluegrass Festival**, held on June 6 and June 7, and the **50th Annual Oakboro 4th of July Celebration** beginning on July 1 through July 5.

## Union Power Awards Kay Yow and Roy Williams Basketball Camp Scholarships To Deserving Students



**Catherine Harward**

“Union Power was excited to have the opportunity to send three deserving young people to basketball camps with nationally renowned coaches,” said Carrie Cameron, manager of communications.

The Kay Yow Basketball Camp was held June 22–26 at North Carolina State University and the Roy Williams Basketball Camp was held June 21–25 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Catherine Harward of Richfield was awarded a Kay Yow Basketball Camp Scholarship from Union Power Cooperative. She is the daughter of Marcus and Patty Harward. Justus Cochran of Concord and Robert G. Wadsworth of Waxhaw were both awarded a Roy Williams Basketball Camp Scholarship from Union Power.

Justus is the son of Corey and Amy Cochran and Robert is the son of Robert and Melissa Wadsworth.

Winners were selected based on their application and essay about the students’ reason for wanting to participate in the camp. Catherine, Justus, and Robert were selected based on the excellence of their applications and accompanying essays.

The staff of the Kay Yow Camp includes Naismith Memorial



**Justus Cochran**



**Robert G. Wadsworth**

Basketball Hall of Fame inductee Coach Kay Yow and current N.C. State Women’s basketball players. The Roy Williams Camp is led by 2005 NCAA National Championship Coach Roy Williams and current and past UNC Tarheel basketball players.

This is the fifth year that Touchstone Energy has sponsored young women to attend the Kay Yow Camp and the second year that young men have been sponsored to attend the Roy Williams Camp. North Carolina’s Touchstone energy Cooperatives are sending 27 commendable young women across the state to the Kay Yow Camp and 27 deserving young men to the Roy Williams Camp.

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

## Congratulations to the GRADUATES OF 2008

Union Power Cooperative awarded three high school graduates with a \$1,000 scholarship to attend a North Carolina accredited, four-year college or university. We are proud to have awarded these scholarships to students whose accomplishments in academics, leadership, and community service will go far to enhance the future of communities in which they will live and work.

### **Sarah Elizabeth Settle**



Sarah is the daughter of Stephen and Carolyn Settle of Concord. She recently graduated from Central Cabarrus High School. She plans to attend UNC Chapel Hill this fall where she plans to major in English.

Sarah’s hobbies and interests include reading, writing, films and movies, as well as politics.

While in high school she was involved in many clubs including National Honor Society, Beta Club, Quiz Bowl, Latin Club, and Math Club.

### **Spencer Shell**



Spencer is the son of Don and Koby Shell of Stanfield. Spencer recently graduated from West Stanly High School. He plans to attend North Carolina State University this fall.

Spencer’s hobbies and interests include working with computers, traveling, cycling, and running. While at West Stanly, Spencer was in the National Honor Society,

Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and played on the Soccer team where he was voted Most Valuable Player.

### **Brittany Grismer**



Brittany recently graduated from Piedmont High School. She is the daughter of Robin Grismer of Monroe. Brittany plans to begin her college career at Johnson and Wales University this fall to pursue a career in Business, Fashion Merchandising, and Marketing.

A few of Brittany’s hobbies include drama, fashion, and business. While in high school, she was involved in the Drama Club and was the Sports Manager for the football and basketball teams.

# Union Power Cooperative's 69th Annual Membership Meeting



**Saturday, September 20, 2008**  
**Wingate University**  
**7:00 a.m.–Noon**

*Breakfast • Health Fair • Kids Festival  
 Entertainment • Member Dividends*

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

Union Power Cooperative 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 which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Tony E. Herrin, Executive Vice President and General Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or 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). Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Cooperative Review is published monthly by



**Energy for today, power for tomorrow.**

Union Power Cooperative provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to over 64,000 members in Union, Stanly, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Rowan counties.

**Tony E. Herrin**  
 Exec. Vice President & General Manager

**Carrie A. Cameron**, Editor

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**B. L. Starnes**, President  
**William R. Wilson**, Vice President  
**Jan Haigler**, Secretary-Treasurer  
**Dent Hall Turner, Jr.**, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer  
**Neil W. Hasty**  
**Jim T. Hartsell**  
**Vann W. Hilton**  
**Ralph E. Johnson**  
**Juanita Poplin**  
**Rufus N. Reid**  
**Richard Simpson**

### Business Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday  
 704-289-3145 or 1-800-922-6840  
[www.union-power.com](http://www.union-power.com)

### 24-Hour Outage Reporting Service and Account Information

1-800-794-4423

### Call Before Dig

NC One Call Center—Dial 811



### SERVICE CHARGES:

**Security Deposit**—charges vary

\$0, \$175, \$375

**Connection Fee**

\$25

**Late Payment Charge**

\$5 or 1.5% of past due balance, if greater

**Returned Check Fee**

\$25

**Meter Test**

\$75 (refunded if not accurate)

**Dual Meter Comparison**

\$50 (refunded if not accurate)

**Field Collection Charge**

\$25 (only checks or money orders accepted, no cash)

**RECONNECT CHARGES:** (collected in advance)

**Normal Hours**

\$50 (if called in *before* 4:00 p.m.)

**After Hours**

\$100 (if called in *after* 4:00 p.m.)

**Weekends and Holidays**

\$100