

Cooperative review

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

A Newsletter for Members of Union Power Cooperative

Union Power Recognized Nationally for Tree Care Practices

Union Power Cooperative is one of 150 utility companies in the nation that have earned Tree Line USA designation from The National Arbor Day Foundation in 2007. These companies serve a combined total of 80 million American households.

The Tree Line USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and recognizes utilities that meet three requirements: a program of quality tree care, annual worker training in quality tree care practices, and a tree planting and public educational program.

“Tree Line USA is so vital because trees are essential to America’s cities and towns, offering their many environmental and economic benefits,” said John Rosenow, president of The National Arbor Day Foundation. “Trees conserve energy, increase property values, and help clean air and water.”

On the North Carolina level, Union Power was honored on April 13, in Raleigh, as a Tree Line Company for the second year in a row. The Tree Line Company award goes to utilities that protect and enhance urban forests and is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Wil Ortiz, Union Power’s system Arborist, attended on behalf of Union Power.

“We feel honored to have achieved this national recognition for our tree care practices,” said Tony Herrin, executive vice president and general manager of Union Power. “Good tree care practices are critical for us to deliver the most reliable electric service to our members.” Utilities that preserve community trees while providing reliable service achieve long-term operational savings and help beautiful trees live into the future.



Wil Ortiz, Union Power’s System Arborist (left) accepts flag from Wib Owen, of Division of Forest Resources

Tree Line USA includes both investor-owned and public utilities of all sizes ranging from those serving thousands of households in a single community to those serving millions across several states. More information on Tree Line USA is available by calling The National Arbor Day Foundation at 1-888-448-7337 or by visiting www.arborday.org.

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

Sydney Rowell of East Union Middle School was awarded the Kay Yow Basketball Camp Scholarship and Daniel Mickey of Weddington Middle School was awarded the Roy Williams Basketball Camp Scholarship from Union Power Cooperative. Sydney is the daughter of Joey and Janet Rowell of Marshville and Daniel is the son of Richard Mickey of Waxhaw.

Winners were selected by a panel of judges who reviewed an application that included an essay about the students' reason for wanting to participate in the camp. Sydney and Daniel were selected based on the excellence of their applications and accompanying essays. The Kay Yow Basketball Camp will be held June 24-28 at N.C. State University and the Roy Williams Basketball Camp will be held June 23-27 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Union Power is excited to have the opportunity to send these deserving students to basketball camps with nationally renowned coaches," said Carrie Cameron, manager of communications.

This is the fourth 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.



Sydney Rowell



Daniel Mickey

The staff of the Kay Yow Camp includes Naismith Memorial 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. Both camps will work closely with each camper to help develop fundamental skills. Individual and team competition will provide opportunities to challenge young athletes to perform and to excel, both on and off the court.

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

Year 2006

General Notice of Capital Credits Assignments

This is to certify that by virtue of its having received revenues in excess of its operating expenses for and during the calendar year 2006, each person who was a member of this cooperative during the year 2006 has been credited, on the books of the cooperative, at its office in Monroe, with having furnished the cooperative capital in the amount of:

5.53 – Percent of member's patronage during the calendar year of 2006

5.53 – Total percent during 2006

The percent of credit above applies to revenues for electric service during the year, and represents the

member's share of the operating margin realized by the cooperative during the year. This amount has the same status as if it had been refunded to the member in cash and immediately returned by the member to the cooperative as member-furnished capital.

A capital credit cannot be redeemed for cash. It is issued subject to all the terms and conditions as contained in the cooperative's bylaws, and rules and regulations, both as presently worded and as may hereafter be duly adopted or amended.

The co-op retains these funds putting them to work to help keep rates lower until the board of directors determines that they may be refunded.

What is a Substation?

Substations are a vital link in the system that delivers electricity to your home

Substations are an important part of providing safe and reliable electricity to you when you flip on a light switch in your home or open up your refrigerator to get something cold to drink.

Substations are facilities where electricity is typically transferred from high-voltage transmission lines to local distribution lines that extend out into neighborhoods. Substations are where power is changed from high voltages to low voltages. Substations should be located near the end users, which is the reason you find many of them in residential areas. They are often screened with trees and other barriers to help buffer them.

Presently, Union Power has 20 substations and two breaker stations operating in the five-county service area including Union, Stanly, Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, and Rowan counties. Those 22 electric facilities serve over 61,000 residents and businesses and the numbers continue to grow by leaps and bounds every day. The Cooperative is signing up over 400 new services in some months. The upgrading of existing substations and the building of new substations, where needed, is critical for the Cooperative to be able to keep up with the growth in the area and to continue to deliver reliable power to all Union Power members. To meet the growing demand of electricity in this area, Union Power is now planning for the construction of new substations where this rapid growth is occurring.

So the next time you flip that switch in your home or business, remember that substations are essential and necessary for reliable power.



Critical Considerations when selecting a new Substation Site

Selecting locations for future substations is an exact science that must consider many factors, including the following:

- New substations must be located in areas they will serve with electricity. Ideally, the location will be as centrally located as possible provided they are conducive to other factors that must be considered.

- The selected substation site must offer the opportunity to connect the substation to the electric utility's existing network of electrical distribution lines.

- Since substations must be connected to high-voltage lines, sites must be selected that will offer practical opportunities to do so.

- When selecting a substation site, care must be taken to choose a site that allows the construction of the substation with minimal or no adverse environmental effects.

- When selecting a substation site, it is always desirable to select a site that can be developed in such a way that it will have minimum impact on surrounding land uses.



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Right-of-Way Clearing



During the next month, you may see our tree-trimming crews in your neighborhood. Carolina Tree Care and ABC Tree Professionals will be working in the following areas of Union and Stanly Counties:

New Salem Road	Brief Road	St. Martin Road
Tarlton Mill Road	Old Ferry Road	Hazard Road
Ansonville Road	Hwy 218	Little Creek Road
Hamilton Cross Road	Haigler Road	Barbee's Grove Road
Mills Harris Road	Unionville-Brief Road	Hwy 138
Monroe Ansonville Road	Sikes Mill Road	Hill-ford Road
Sugar and Wine Road	Love Mill Road	Hill View Road

For more information about Union Power's vegetation management program or tree trimming practices, please call (704) 289-3145 and speak with Wil Ortiz (ext. 3323) or Carrie Lorenz (ext. 3291).

How to Report An Outage

When reporting an outage to Union Power, and the phone number is not recognized, you will be instructed to enter additional information to help us identify the location of the problem. You can report your outage by providing us with any one of the following items that are listed on your billing statement:

- ☛ **Phone Number**
- ☛ **Account Number**
- ☛ **Meter Number**

All of this information can be found at the top of your billing statement and is required in order for you to be able to report an outage.

It is important that your phone number be listed correctly on your account.

To add or update your phone number, call our office at (704) 289-3145 or (704) 485-3335 and select option 2.



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www.union-power.com

24-Hour Outage Reporting Service and Account Information

(800) 794-4423

Call Before You Dig

NC One Call Center
(800) 632-4949

Providing electricity and energy services to over 61,000 members in Union, Stanly, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Rowan counties.

SERVICE CHARGES:

Security Deposit-charges vary
\$0, \$175, \$375

Late Payment Charge

1% of the amount of bill

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