

# Cooperative *review*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections®

A Newsletter for Members of Union Power Cooperative

## *Union Power to conduct* **Field Inventory of Entire System**

**S**atellites, laser guns, and computers—no, it's not Star Wars. It's part of the new facility mapping system being implemented at Union Power. The Cooperative has contracted with Davey Resource Group (DRG) to record the precise location of every Union Power pole, transformer, and electric meter. A pilot project was launched in November and the full system inventory begins in January.

It's a huge effort. Union Power delivers power to nearly 65,000 members with a distribution system that includes more than 5,700 miles of overhead and underground lines throughout Union, Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Stanly, and Rowan Counties.

Once it's done, the facility mapping system will provide big benefits to Union Power members and help crews get lights back on more quickly after a power outage. In addition to the location of a particular power pole, the mapping system will also include information about the equipment associated with that pole, such as any transformers it may carry.

DRG field technicians will be traveling throughout Union Power's service area with global positioning

system (GPS) equipment to record locations of poles, transformers, and meters. GPS technology uses signals from satellites to compute mapping coordinates for a specific location.

Members will receive notice in the mail when crews are expected to be working in their area. This project is scheduled to take 18 months and during that time, you may spot the crew visiting your neighborhood to record meter locations or slowly driving down the road in their white truck with its flashing yellow light. You may even see them working on Saturdays. They will be identified with Union Power truck magnets and will carry identification badges. They may be on foot or riding an ATV wearing yellow backpacks.

They will be making two passes of the entire circuit and will visit all poles, transformers, and meters twice. This will allow us to better manage Union Power's assets and have more accurate information in our maps which will assist us in providing better service and outage restoration.

Union Power remains committed to delivering safe and reliable electricity to its members. The new facility mapping system will soon be utilized



in an effort to better serve all members, from residential to industrial.

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## Smart Solutions for Our Energy Future

The dust has settled from the fall election, and this month we turn our eyes to Washington, D.C., as Barack Obama takes office as the 44th President of the United States and to Raleigh where Beverly Perdue takes the Governor's seat. The economic crisis will remain a major focus for elected officials over coming years, and the Obama Administration also promises an increased focus on energy policy. As all of us paying electric bills every month can attest to, the two go hand-in-hand. It is crucial that any energy policy discussed in Washington and in Raleigh comes with a price tag that won't leave consumers in the dark.

Through the nationwide grassroots awareness campaign called **Our Energy, Our Future™**, co-op consumers have contacted their elected officials with three critical energy policy questions focused on capacity, technology, and affordability. With a new President, a new Congress, and new State leaders taking office, electric cooperatives will need to continue pressing for answers.

These answers won't be clear-cut. Day to day, Union Power Cooperative works hard to provide you with safe, affordable, and reliable electricity. When you come home at night, you can count on a well-lit home, and should outages occur, we're on the job to restore power quickly.

Although electricity use across the United States is steadily climbing, relatively high costs for construction materials and uncertainty about climate change goals, which could place strict limits on carbon dioxide emitted by power plants, have stalled development of new base-load generation: the large, efficient stations that provide dependable and affordable electric power year-round.

So here's the important question: How can we keep power flowing and electric bills affordable? There's simply no single answer, and electric co-ops know from experience that it will take a variety of new generation resources and technologies to ensure reliable and affordable electricity in the coming years. We must invest in renewable

energy, clean coal technology, nuclear power, an updated transmission grid, and improvements in energy efficiency across the board.

Of course, implementing all of this on a large scale will require a massive investment. As consumer advocates and industry leaders, electric co-ops can provide lawmakers with expertise on what programs are affordable, sustainable, and technologically feasible.



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

we've sent more than  
**1.5 million**  
messages to Congress

All of this must be grounded in goals and public policy that put consumers first. This is no time for policy makers to ignore our needs with a wink and a nod to special interest groups. Now, more than ever, Main Street must come before Wall Street.

You can help in this effort and make a real impact by telling elected officials your story—why affordable electricity is important to you and your family. Tens of thousands of electric co-op members have done so already, and as a result, we've sent more than 1.5 million messages to Congress, calling attention to our Nation's impending electricity crisis.

Please visit [www.ourenergy.coop](http://www.ourenergy.coop) today. Make your voice heard and help guide policymakers toward a smart, affordable energy future.

### Productive dialogue begins by asking tough questions and requiring straight answers.

Start by asking your elected officials these questions to get the dialogue about energy and climate issues headed in the right direction.

Experts say that our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation and efficiency can provide; What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we need in the future?

What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions free electric plants an affordable reality?

Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?

# North Carolina Electric Cooperatives Secure Wind Resources

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), the power supply organization for the majority of the state's electric cooperatives, announced recently its participation in a wind farm located in Story County, Iowa, and operated by a subsidiary of FPL Energy.

NCEMC, a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative, joins five other G&Ts across the country in the historic joint project, believed to be the first time several cooperative utilities from different regions of the country have banded together to reap the benefits of a large-scale wind project.

The Story County Wind Energy Center is comprised of 100 General Electric 1.5 MW turbines. At its maximum capacity, the facility will be capable of generating enough electricity for approximately 37,500 average-size homes.

The participating G&Ts will purchase the entire output of the 150 MW Wind Energy Center. NCEMC's share will be 12 megawatts.

The other participating G&Ts are: PowerSouth Energy Cooperative (serving portions of Alabama and Florida); Wabash Valley Power Association (serving in several Midwest states including Indiana); Hoosier Energy (serving parts of Indiana and Illinois); Central Iowa Power Cooperative; and Buckeye Power (serving in Ohio).

Each of the six G&Ts will receive Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) from the project, which they may use for their own account or sell into the REC marketplace.

The Story County facility began commercial operation earlier this month. The energy generated by the facility will be consumed in the region served by the Midwest ISO, an independent, regional transmission organization responsible for maintaining balance and reliability of the area's electric grid system.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives are committed to furthering the development of renewable energy. This project, while located in Iowa, presents an opportunity to gain further insight into wind energy resources, an option not currently available in North Carolina. The Iowa project is an important addition to the cooperatives' portfolio of renewable resources. The cooperatives will receive RECs in return for their participation in the project.



*The Story County Wind Energy Center, located near Colo, Iowa consists of 100 wind turbines, each capable of producing 1.5 megawatts of wind power.*

North Carolina's electric cooperatives' newly formed company, GreenCo Solutions, will manage the RECs associated with the output of the facility. The RECs may be used to assist the N.C. cooperatives in complying with North Carolina's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, established in Senate Bill 3 by the state legislature, or may be sold into the REC marketplace.

GreenCo Solutions, formed this year, is a member-owned green cooperative that manages energy efficiency programs and renewable energy projects for the members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives.



## *What is* **Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment?**

You may have recently noticed the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) line item on your power bill and wondered what this is for. The Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment is the component on your electric bill that directly reflects the cost of the fuels (natural gas, propane, coal, oil, and other fuels) that are used to generate electricity. We recover these increased costs from customers through the WPCA.

# 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 Rowan counties:

**Union County:** Highway 207 (Wolf Pond Road), Stack Road, W. G. Medlin Road, Joe Collins Road, Sandy Ridge Road East, Austin Road, Sandy Ridge Road West, Plyler Mill Road, Trinity Church Road, Gus Eubanks Road, and Walters Mill Road.

**Rowan County:** Panther Creek Road, Ribelin Road, Morgan Road, Stokes Ferry Road, High Rock Road, Wyatts Grove Church Road, John Morgan Road, Casper Road, and Barber 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). For monthly right-of-way clearing updates, visit [www.union-power.com](http://www.union-power.com).

## Steps to Report a Power Outage



**Call 1-800-794-4423  
to report an outage**

The winter season brings with it the chance of large-scale outages due to ice storms.

If you need to report an outage and if 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

It is important that your phone number be listed correctly on your account. To add or update your phone number, visit our website, [www.union-power.com](http://www.union-power.com), or call our customer service center at (704) 289-3145 or (704) 485-3335.

Cooperative Review is published monthly by

**Union Power  
Cooperative**  
*A member-owned energy provider*

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

Union Power Cooperative provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to over 65,000 members in Union, Stanly, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Rowan counties.

**Tony E. Herrin**

Exec. Vice President & General Manager

**Carrie A. Cameron, Editor**

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### 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