

Cooperative review

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

A Newsletter for Members of Union Power Cooperative

Union Power Awards

\$20,000 in Bright Ideas Grants



(Front): Rebecca Worlds accepts a \$2,000 Bright Ideas grant for her project, "Gardening...Planting the Seeds of Inquiry." (Back row, left to right): Assistant Principal David Prybylo, Sir Purr, Frank Omiyale, teacher Chris Kovalchick and Kenneth Moore.

More than 5,800 students will benefit from Union Power's Bright Ideas grants awarded this past November and December. Union Power Cooperative granted \$20,000 this year to area teachers for their "Bright Ideas."

Grants were awarded in surprise visits to the teachers' classrooms where they were presented a "big check" in front of their students. At Lebanon Road Elementary in Mecklenburg County, a school-wide assembly was held in honor of teacher Rebecca Worlds. Carolina Panthers wide receiver, Kenneth Moore and offensive tackle, Frank Omiyale kicked off the winning Bright Ideas project called "Gardening...Planting the Seeds of Inquiry" at the special school assembly. The players also spoke to students about seeing a project through from start to finish and congratulated teacher Rebecca Worlds on her winning a Bright Ideas grant. Sir Purr, mascot of the Carolina Panthers, was also a part of that celebration.

The purpose of the Bright Ideas grant program is to improve education in North Carolina classrooms by awarding grants to teachers for innovative, classroom-based projects in grades K-12 that would not otherwise be funded. Since its inception in 1994, the Bright Ideas program has awarded more than \$5.9 million in grant money to North Carolina teachers to fund more than 5,500 projects touching the lives of more than 1 million students.

2008-2009 Bright Ideas Grant Winners

Hickory Ridge High School
Christy Burton

Central Cabarrus High School
Beke Lindsay

Albemarle High School
Lynne Terry, Eric Stine,
and Dave Mueller

Lebanon Road Elementary
Rebecca Worlds, Guyla Vardell,
and Darlene Petranick

Garinger High School
Erica Alcox

Marvin Ridge Middle School
T. J. Petronzio and Ryan Reiter

Forest Hills High School
Brenda Williams and Sandra Jones

Forest Hills High School
Farley Strickland and Greg Deese

Forest Hills High School
Matt Collier

Piedmont High School
Tracy Price

Piedmont High School
Susan Helms

Porter Ridge Middle School
Ginger Jantz

Sun Valley High School
Chris Roncone, Jean Rosmon,
and Doug Latta

Co-op To Adjust Rates

Due to Rising Wholesale Power Costs

As a consumer-owned electric utility, Union Power Cooperative's mission is to provide safe and reliable power with exceptional value. Since our beginning in 1939, your Cooperative's leadership has remained committed to this mission.

The costs associated with producing and delivering electricity have risen steadily over the last four years and are expected to continue to increase well into 2009 and possibly into 2010. In July 2008, our wholesale power provider, North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC), passed an increase of wholesale power cost to Union Power and other co-ops in the state. This was due to the dramatic increase in fuel prices at that time and extreme weather conditions combined to produce higher than budgeted costs. The actual energy used was higher and the peak demand was higher. Additional natural gas and short-term power purchases were required to meet the higher energy and demand. These increases were not part of Union Power's rate structure.

Since this increase in wholesale power cost, Union Power hired an independent consulting group to conduct a Cost of Service and Rate Study. The purpose of this study was to help the Cooperative's Board of Directors and management evaluate rates based on current and projected costs. Over the past two years, Union Power has managed to absorb an increase in the cost of wholesale power. When necessary, a portion of this additional cost has been passed on through the wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA).

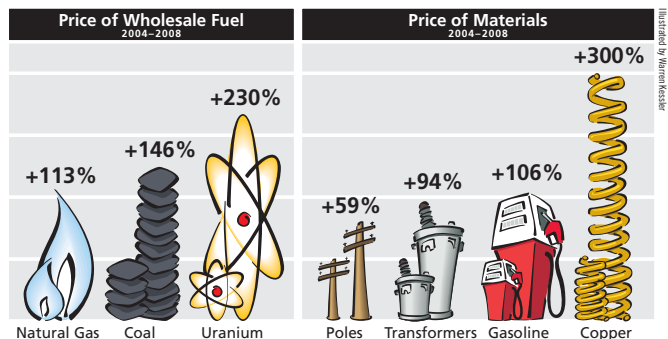
The reasons for increasing costs in providing you electricity include:

- Rising prices of fuels needed to produce electricity (natural gas and coal)
- Inflation and the general state of the U.S. economy

- Increasing market demand for energy resources and continued growth in North Carolina
- Mining, transportation, and construction cost increases
- Significant global economic pressures
- Rising cost of meeting increasingly stringent environmental regulations
- Congressional uncertainty in addressing energy policy and global warming issues

For these reasons, we are adjusting our rates effective April 1, 2009. The average residential member uses 1,275 kWh per month and will see an effective increase of approximately \$2.37. On the general service rate, the first 1,000 kilowatt-hours of usage will cost 9.78 cents per kWh and for any kilowatt-hour of usage above that will cost 9.31 cents per kWh.

A new rate schedule is included for your review below. If you have any questions concerning the new rates, please feel free to contact our office at 704-289-3145. We will be glad to address your questions and concerns.



New Rate Schedule *Effective April 1, 2009*

General Service		Residential All Electric Service		Commercial Service	
Basic Facilities Charge	\$21.00	Basic Facilities Charge	\$21.00	Basic Facilities Charge	\$50.00
Energy Charges:		Energy Charges:		Demand Charges	
First 1,000 kWh	\$0.09780	<i>Summer (June - October)</i>		First 25 kW	\$0.00
Next 1,500 kWh	\$0.09311	First 500 kWh	\$0.0931	All other kWh	\$7.95
All other kWh	\$0.09311	All other kWh usage	\$0.0884	Energy Charges:	
		<i>Winter (November - May)</i>		First 3,000 kWh	\$0.1201
		First 500 kWh	\$0.0903	Next 3,000 kWh	\$0.0902
		Next 500 kWh	\$0.0840	Next 6,000 kWh	\$0.0785
		All other kWh	\$0.0840	Next 12,000 kWh	\$0.0604
				All other kWh	\$0.0456

How Will You Pay For College?

Apply For Union Power's College Scholarship



Attention High School Seniors:

College is not cheap. Union Power offers scholarships to help their members with this expense.

Union Power Cooperative is proud to offer three college scholarships to area

high school seniors. Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded this year to outstanding high school seniors planning to attend a four-year, North Carolina accredited college or university. These students will be chosen from our five-county service area, which is made up of Union, Stanly, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg and Rowan counties.

Applications are awarded based on 40% need; 30% scholastic achievement; and 30% extracurricular activities in school, civic, and community functions, and judged by a committee that is not affiliated with the Cooperative. You can call 704-289-3145, extension 3265 for an application or get one online at www.union-power.com and click on the **In the Community** tab. The deadline for submitting applications is Friday, April 3, 2009. Winners will be notified in late May.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- You must be a child of a Union Power Cooperative member or live in a home served by Union Power Cooperative.
- You must be a high school senior in the current graduating class.
- You must plan to attend a four-year, North Carolina accredited college or university.
- It is not available for vocational or other non-academic study, or to students who plan to pursue less than a full four-year college career.

Scholarships to Basketball Camps Available to Students in Grades 6-8



Coach Kay Yow



Coach Roy Williams

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives are providing deserving students from across the state the opportunity to attend prestigious N.C. basketball camps again this year. The scholarships are being offered to rising 6-8th grade females to attend the Kay Yow Basketball Camp at N.C. State University and to rising 6-8th grade males to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill. North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives will send more than 50 students to the camps in 2009.

"We are excited to continue our tradition of awarding these scholarships to outstanding students," said Morgan Lashley, communications specialist for North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives. "This program provides students with an unforgettable opportunity, allowing them to stay on a college campus for a week and receive basketball instruction from legendary collegiate coaches."

Kay Yow, coach of the N.C. State women's basketball team for the 33rd season, and Roy Williams, coach of the 2005 national champion Carolina Tar Heels men's basketball team, will use the help of their staff and current players to conduct their camps. Both camps will work closely with each camper to develop skills that will benefit the young athletes both on and off the court.

Applications for both camps will be accepted through March 27, 2009. The winners of the

scholarships will be announced in May.

Winners of the Touchstone Energy Kay Yow Basketball Camp Scholarship will attend the overnight camp in Raleigh, while winners of the Touchstone Energy Roy Williams Basketball Camp Scholarship will attend the overnight camp in Chapel Hill. N.C. State will host The Kay Yow Basketball Camp in mid-June with specific dates to be determined, and the Roy Williams Basketball Camp will be held June 21-25, 2009. Campers must have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the camp and must provide their own transportation to and from the camp.

Eligible students who are interested in the scholarship can visit our website, www.union-power.com, or contact Carrie Cameron at (704) 220-0714 or carrie.cameron@union-power.com.

Applicants will be judged on their academics, extra-curricular activities and an essay that must be submitted with the application. To learn more about the camps, visit www.kayyowcamps.com or www.roywilliamsuncbasketballcamp.com.

The Touchstone Energy Sports Camp program provides a unique educational and athletic opportunity for our state's youth. The scholarships reflect Touchstone Energy's core values of accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community.

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, East Sandy Ridge Road, Austin Road, West Sandy Ridge Road, Plyler Mill Road, Trinity Church Road, Gus Eubanks Road, Walters Mill Road, Landsford Road, Eubanks Road, Cox Road, Walters Road, Dudley Road, Arant Road, Vann Sneed Road, Belk Mill Road, Hargette Road, Kelly Autry Road, Old Pageland Marshville Road, Philadelphia Church Road, Cheraw Road, Clontz Taylor Road, and Smith Town 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, Barber Road, Reeves Is Road, Richfield Road, Shaver Road, Wildlife Access Road, Basinger Road, Pond School Road, River Road, Wyatts Grove Church Road, Flat Creek Church Road, Surratt Road, Wyatt Road, Orchard Road, Bringle Ferry Road, Panther Creek Road, Catfish 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 our website www.union-power.com.



Coming In March

When you receive your power bill from Union Power in March, you may notice a new look and easier to read layout.

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.

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8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday
704-289-3145 or 1-800-922-6840
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