

# NEWS Central

DEC 2020

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

## Supporting local teachers and students

Central Electric is continually looking for ways to support the communities we serve. One way is by annually awarding Bright Ideas grants to local educators. The program helps support engaging and innovative classroom projects.

This year, the co-op awarded \$15,000 to 13 educators, who were selected by an independent panel of judges. Over 3,100 students in our communities will be positively impacted as a result. Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$12.9 million to educators across the state. Congratulations to the following 2020 Bright Ideas grant recipients:

- ▶ Kim Collazo, Sandhills-Farm Life Elementary
- ▶ Linda Collura, W.B. Wicker Elementary
- ▶ Audrey Crissman, Benhaven Elementary
- ▶ Dillon Crockett, Southern Lee High
- ▶ Kelsey Crowley, Southern Lee High
- ▶ Karen Jeremiah, Pittsboro Elementary
- ▶ Elaine Labate, Horton Middle
- ▶ Rachel Lambert, McDeeds Creek Elementary
- ▶ Jo Ann Lawler, Deep River Elementary



Rachel Lambert (left) accepts a Bright Ideas check that will be used to bring Merge Cubes into her classroom to allow students to learn and interact with science in a digital, augmented reality world.

- ▶ Michael Markofski, Ascend Leadership Academy
- ▶ Kelley Spahr, B.T. Bullock Elementary
- ▶ Misty Lee Thompson, SanLee Middle School
- ▶ Edward Walgate, Northwood High

The application process for Bright Ideas grants will reopen for interested educators in April 2021. For more information on Bright Ideas grants, visit [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) or [NCBrightIdeas.com](http://NCBrightIdeas.com).

**DEC. 24 & 25** the CEMC office will be closed for the Christmas holiday. Crews will be on-call. Merry Christmas from your friends at Central Electric!

**DEC. 31 & JAN. 1** year-end closing will take place. Starting at 12 p.m. on Dec. 31 through 12 p.m. on Jan. 1, all payment systems will be down.



# POINT OF VIEW

## A brighter future for all

*From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham*

“ Since we are located in and belong to the communities we serve, we understand our local needs firsthand and remain driven to make a real difference, now and in the years to come. ”

From the time we were formed by local community members, Central Electric has been committed to building a brighter future for the people, businesses and communities we serve. Our original mission was to bring electricity and new opportunity to our region, and it has since expanded to include the pursuit of new energy solutions, community enrichment and economic development initiatives that provide us new ways to deliver value to our members.

Looking to the decade ahead and beyond, we remain focused on providing you electricity that is reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible. To achieve this low-cost, low-carbon future, we are working with the state's other electric cooperatives to reach significant carbon reduction goals, targeting a 50 percent drop in carbon emissions from our 2005 levels by 2030, and net zero carbon emissions by 2050. To meet these sustainability goals while upholding our commitments to reliability and affordability, our efforts will be focused in areas that make the electric grid more flexible, efficient, resilient and capable of supporting new energy solutions and the vitality of our communities.

New technologies are already leading to the creation of a virtual power plant, which coordinates thousands of resources across the grid, ranging from solar energy, battery storage, microgrids, smart thermostats and electric vehicle charging stations to balance supply and demand on the system. This sophisticated approach provides growing potential for increased power reliability and lower costs for you, as well as greater convenience and control of

your home electricity use. Electric cooperatives like us are at the forefront of these efforts, and strong partnerships with members like you will ensure that we all continue to benefit from a rapidly evolving energy landscape.

In addition to powering our communities, we are also contributing to a brighter future by empowering those we serve. This concern for community is a hallmark of the cooperative difference, and our commitment to community support has been amplified by the unprecedented circumstances of the past few months. We want to make sure that our communities have the strength to succeed no matter the challenges we face, which is why we continue to invest in our local schools through Bright Ideas grants and other youth programs, our local non-profits through Operation Round Up and our local economy through zero-interest economic development loans, as well as many other efforts aimed at improving the daily lives of our members. Since we are located in and belong to the communities we serve, we understand our local needs firsthand and remain driven to make a real difference, now and in the years to come.

To learn more about all the ways we are ensuring a brighter future for all, make sure you visit [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) to see the many different ways we are working hard to serve you, our members, as well as our local communities.

# Save energy in your workshop just like Santa

The holiday season is finally upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

It's no secret that Santa is known for running an efficient workshop—how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures.



Here are four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop.

- ▶ Santa uses LED lights to decorate instead of incandescent bulbs. LEDs use less energy and last longer, and LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.
- ▶ Santa also puts his holiday lights on automatic timers to minimize the time lights stay on overnight and during the day. He also does this during the year with other items to help reduce the amount of time they are running when he isn't home.
- ▶ Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating.
- ▶ Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.

This holiday season, let's take a page from Santa's book and remember to save energy when possible. With these four tips, you'll be well on your way to savings (and hopefully, Santa's "nice" list!).

## Apply now for the 2021 Youth Tour to D.C.

Central Electric is seeking applications from high school students wanting to participate in the leadership opportunity of a lifetime: The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Step out of your comfort zone, and join North Carolina's future leaders as they explore the nation's capital.

The cooperative will sponsor two local students to join the June 2021 Youth Tour. The all-expense paid, week-long Tour is hosted by electric cooperatives nationwide and is a tradition more than 50 years strong. Students who will be entering their junior or senior year in fall 2021 are eligible to attend and are encouraged to apply. Visit [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) to apply or to find out more information on this incredible opportunity.

## Did you know that a water heater maintenance program is available to you for just \$1 month?

That's right, this small fee covers the heating element, pop-off valve and thermostats on your water heater, regardless of where you purchased it, or how old it is. Even more, after you've been enrolled for at least 90 days, if the cooperative's licensed plumber determines the element, pop-off valve or thermostat is the problem, a \$50 credit will be added to your next bill. If they determine the water heater needs to be replaced, a \$100 credit will be added if you purchase a new water heater with an energy factor of 95 or higher. Visit the "Other Services" section under the "Member Services" tab at [CEMCPower.com](http://CEMCPower.com) to enroll.



Congratulations to Matthew Oldham, he was selected by random drawing for a \$2,000 scholarship during this year's Annual Meeting!

Matthew is a 2020 graduate of Jordan Matthews High School and is currently attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Thanks to all the students who submitted an entry and congrats to Matthew for winning the drawing!



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