

NEWS Central

DEC. 2022

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 over \$15,000 to 12 educators, who were selected by an independent panel of judges. Almost 4,000 students in our communities will be positively impacted as a result. Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded more than \$14 million to educators across the state.

Congratulations to the following 2022 Bright Ideas grant recipients:

- ▶ Kathryn Blake, Sandhills-Farm Life Elem.
- ▶ Stephanie Cifers, Seaforth High
- ▶ Deanna Deaton, Greenwood Elem.
- ▶ Vickie Isley, East Lee Middle
- ▶ Jo Ann Lawler, Deep River Elem.
- ▶ Miranda Lupski, SanLee Middle
- ▶ Cassie Lynch, Floyd L. Knight School
- ▶ Shauna McNeill, Greenwood Elem.



Wendi Pillars accepts a Bright Ideas check that will be used to reintroduce students to nature through partnerships with the Carolina Tiger Rescue sanctuary and the GeoBus from Appalachian State University.

- ▶ Dede Mitchell, McDeeds Creek Elem.
- ▶ Melissa Parks, Silk Hope School
- ▶ Wendi Pillars, Jordan Matthews High
- ▶ Michelle Pinto, Chatham Middle

The application process for Bright Ideas grants will reopen for interested educators in April 2023. For more information on Bright Ideas grants, visit CEMCPower.com or NCBrightIdeas.com.

DEC. 23 & 26 the CEMC office will be closed for the Christmas holiday. Crews will be on-call. Merry Christmas from your friends at Central Electric.

DEC. 30 - JAN. 1 year-end closing will take place. Starting at 12 p.m. on Dec. 30 through midnight on Jan. 1, all payment systems will be down.

WE WISH YOU
Merry Christmas
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR



POINT OF VIEW

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 to see the many different ways we are working hard to serve you, our members, as well as our local communities.

Until next time,

Apply now for the 2023 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 2023 Youth Tour. The all-expense-paid, weeklong 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 2023 are eligible to attend and are encouraged to apply. Visit 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 to enroll.



Holiday décor tips for an energy-wise home

Whether you've already decked your halls or you're just getting started, there's still time to incorporate energy savings into your holiday décor planning.

- ▶ If you haven't strung your twinkle lights, be sure to use LED light strands. LEDs consume far less energy than incandescent lights and they can last 40 holiday seasons. They're also safer because they're made with epoxy lenses, not glass, making them cool to the touch, so no burnt fingers!
- ▶ If you missed Santa's memo about energy-saving LEDs and your holiday lights are already up, you can still save on lighting costs. All you need is

a programmable light timer. Most models cost between \$10 to \$25 and can be purchased through online retailers like Amazon or at big box stores like Lowe's or Wal-Mart. With a light timer, you can easily program when you want your holiday lights turned on and off, which will save you time, money and energy. If you're using a timer for exterior lighting, make sure it's weatherproof and intended for outdoor use.

- ▶ If Clark Griswold's décor style is a bit much for your taste, consider a more natural approach. Many Christmas tree farms, and even retailers like Lowe's and Home Depot, give away greenery clippings from recently trimmed trees. With a little

twine, extra ornaments and sparkly ribbon, you can create beautiful garlands and wreaths to hang over your front door or windows. To add extra twinkle at night, you can install solar-powered spotlights to illuminate your new (essentially free!) greenery. Solar spotlights can vary in price, but you should be able to purchase a quality set of four for about \$30—and because they run on natural energy from the sun, there's no additional cost to your energy bill.

Regardless of how you decorate your home for the holidays, there are plenty of ways to save energy throughout the season. Visit CEMCPower.com for additional energy-saving tips.



Congratulations to Ivey Tillman, who was selected by random drawing for a \$2,000 scholarship during this year's Annual Meeting! Ivey is a 2022 graduate of Chatham Central high school and is currently attending Appalachian State University.

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



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