

NEWS Central

MARCH 2023

Monthly newsletter from Central Electric Membership Corp.

Utility-scale battery storage added to system

A cutting-edge battery energy storage technology was recently brought online at the co-op's Doc's Road substation near Spout Springs. The battery project is integrated with the co-op's existing substation resources, which will serve to enhance system resilience and reliability for the co-op's members.

"Our co-op is committed to innovation and continually finding ways to best serve our members," said CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham. "The addition of these batteries adds a significant peak-shaving and backup power resource to our existing facilities."

Central's battery project is one of 10 substation batteries being deployed across the state by North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives. Collectively, the batteries will provide 40 megawatts of power. The batteries will be charged when demand for electricity is low and discharged during moments of peak demand for power. This not only enhances electric reliability but is expected to provide cost savings over the lifetime of the batteries. Since the



The co-op recently added cutting-edge battery storage technology at the Doc's Road substation. The batteries will allow us to continue enhancing the reliability and resiliency of the service we provide to members.

co-op is not-for-profit and operates as close to at-cost as possible, the co-op's members will benefit from those savings.

The substation batteries complement a growing collection of distributed energy resources, which cooperatives are integrating into the grid and deploying at scale. The goal is to collectively maximize benefits and optimize operation for enhanced grid resilience and reliability.



MARCH 12 is daylight savings, so don't forget to "spring" your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night before you go to bed!

MAY 1 is the deadline for applications for Central Carolina or Sandhills Community College scholarships. Visit CEMCPower.com for more details.



POINT OF VIEW

Maintaining ROW is key

From the desk of CEO & General Manager Eddie Oldham

“There are many ways the co-op provides its members with safe and reliable service. One of the most important and highly visible ways is right-of-way (ROW) clearing.”

The spring and summer months are right around the corner, and while maintaining reliable service to our members is a top priority year-round, the warmer months bring more daylight and opportunity to complete important work projects.

There are many ways the co-op provides its members with safe and reliable service. One of the most important and highly visible ways is right-of-way (ROW) clearing. ROW refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that the co-op has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear.

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping the power flowing to your home. Without an effective ROW clearing program, power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines. Tree branches are also extremely dangerous when they come in contact with power lines as they can become energized just like the power line. An effective ROW program not only helps keep you connected, but it also helps keep you and other members of our community safe by ensuring tree branches do not become energized due to contact with power lines.

In order to maintain an effective ROW clearing program, the co-op invests a portion of its operating budget to cutting back trees and shrubs that grow too close to the power lines. We accomplish this with bucket trucks, chainsaws, chippers and mowers to ensure that trees grow at a distance far enough from our lines where they will not cause harm to individuals or disruption to electrical service. Specifications can vary, but the general guideline the co-op follows in maintaining

a safe ROW is 20 feet of clearance on either side of primary conductors and 10 feet of clearance below the neutral line. This ensures a safe distance between trees on your property and the dangerous lines carrying electricity to your home.

The co-op is committed to maintaining our ROW areas to ensure the safety of our community and also the reliability of our service to you, our member-owner. Remember to always contact the co-op rather than trying to trim or remove trees near power lines. We can send a crew to your home to trim the tree back until our ROW crews are able to fully clear the lines near your home.

While this is just one of the many ways we keep your lives powered, we are working hard each and every day to continue providing the superior service you have come to expect. This not only includes the reliability of the electricity going to your home, but also the programs and services we provide to you. Our commitment to you, our members, is unwavering; to be your trusted energy partner now and well into the future.

If you have any questions about our ROW clearing program, or any other services provided by the co-op, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are always here to answer any questions you may have.

Until next time,



Reliable power depends on maintenance

Trimming trees and overgrown vegetation around power lines is essential to providing you with safe and reliable service 24/7/365.

In addition to reducing outages due to vegetation, maintenance also:

- Speeds up outage restoration because crews can more easily access problem areas.
- Keeps crews and members safer from downed trees, especially in right-of-way (ROW) areas along roads.
- Reduces unexpected costs for repairs related to accessibility issues.

In the coming months, you may see ROW crews working in the following service area locations:

- HWY 902
- Bonlee/Bennett areas
- HWY 27 W
- Lower Moncure Rd area
- Various areas in Harnett County

ROW maintenance. One more way Central Electric keeps you connected.

TESC Basketball Scholarship Program

Central EMC annually awards two Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships to local students in Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Moore or Randolph counties. Usually a young man is selected to attend the Carolina Basketball School at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and one young lady wins a scholarship to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at NC State University in Raleigh.

At camp, students work directly with the staff to learn basketball skills, leadership and teamwork.



To be eligible to apply, students must be in the sixth or seventh grade during the upcoming school year, have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the overnight camp and must provide their own transportation if selected to attend. Scan the QR code or visit [CEMCPower.com](https://www.cemcpower.com) for more information or to apply by March 31.



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The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance effort is the General Manager. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at https://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442 or (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov.



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