

NEWS



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Manager's Message:

Season's Greetings from Tri-County EMC



J. Michael Davis

General Manager

"The holidays." I love everything about this time of year. Just the thought of the holiday season brings a smile to my face and evokes a sense of comfort and nostalgia. Recalling family gatherings and traditions warms my heart and fills my senses.

It's a time of reflection. I'm grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family. At Tri-County EMC, we're driven by a sense of mission and purpose. Our employees feel a strong connection to our community and our members because we live here too.

While many of our community-focused programs and activities ramp up this time of year, we have several programs and services in place to help our members year-round. I'd like to remind you about some of these offerings in hopes you'll find them beneficial.

We hope you'll take advantage of mobile app that empowers you to monitor, manage and pay your energy bill conveniently through the phone. Another service we offer is prepaid metering, which is intended to help budget your monthly energy costs. Tri-County EMC members can pay for electricity before it's used, then use the electricity until the credit expires. During the time period paid for, you'll receive daily text messages on your balance. We also offer energy efficiency programs to save you

money and energy, like our Home Energy Advisor Program.

Our Operation Round-Up program helps local organizations and individuals in our community who need assistance during a time of need. By simply choosing to "round up" your energy bills to the next whole dollar amount, you can help others right here in our community. Through members' generous donations over the last 20 years, we've been able to give \$2,198,048.43 to those in need. If you'd like to participate in our Operation Round-Up program, please contact our office.

In addition to helping members save today, we're focusing on the future. You may have noticed our EV charging station at the cooperative. We invested in an EV charging station, to promote greater understanding of electric vehicles and promote their use, especially given the focus on electrification of the transportation sector.

But the most important investment we make is in our local youth. Tri-County EMC employees have logged numerous volunteer hours supporting schools, youth clubs and programs along with providing more than \$400,000 in scholarships for local students. Each year, through our Youth Tour program, we send high school seniors to Washington,

D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

At the heart of all these programs is you – the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our employees at Tri-County EMC, I know the future will be bright, because of you.

Closed for the Holidays

Tri-County EMC will be closed on Friday, December 24, to celebrate the Christmas holiday. Payments after office hours and on holidays can be placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to tcemc.com. You may choose to call the numbers listed below to pay by phone. To report a loss of power or an emergency, please call 1-800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.

Tri-County EMC Awards Grants to Educators for 'Bright Ideas'



Tri-County EMC awarded \$81,238.34 in Bright Ideas education

grants to 98 educators to fund engaging classroom learning projects. Thousands of students at schools in Duplin, Wayne and Lenoir counties will participate in Bright Ideas projects funded by Tri-County EMC this year.

Educators were awarded on Monday, October 25, at a walk-thru celebration hosted at Tri-County EMC Corporate office. "We were thrilled to award local educators with grants of up to \$1,000 each to help power their creativity both in and outside the traditional classroom setting," said Deidra Grantham, manager of marketing and communications of Tri-County EMC.

In addition to awarding teachers, Tri-County EMC also granted \$500 each to LaGrange Elementary, Northwest Elementary,

Pink Hill Elementary, Woodington Middle, North Lenoir High School and South Lenoir High School for having eight or more Bright Ideas winners in their individuals schools.

Since the Bright Ideas grant program began in 1994, Tri-County EMC has contributed \$1,766,982.15 to fund creative projects to local teachers.

Bright Ideas grant applications are collected each year through mid-September, and winning proposals are selected in a competitive evaluation process by a panel of judges. The application process will reopen for interested teachers in April 2022.

To find out more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit tcemc.com or the Bright Ideas website at nrbrightideas.com. Become a fan of "Bright Ideas Education" on Facebook to receive regularly updated news about the program.



LaGrange Elementary



Northwest Elementary



South Lenoir High School

The following is the list of this year's winning teachers, along with their school:

Alicia L Davis.....	LaGrange Elementary	Heather A Watson.....	Brogden Primary	Margo Harper.....	South Lenoir High
Allie Barfield.....	Wayne Country Day School	Helen Lewis.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Mari A Hatcher.....	Woodington Middle
Amber Sauls.....	Fremont Elementary	Hollie Ayers.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Mason Burgess.....	East Duplin High
Amy Jo Jones.....	Northwest Elementary	Jaime Moore.....	LaGrange Elementary	Megan Rager.....	Woodington Middle
Amy Kennedy.....	Rosewood Elementary	Jami Finch.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Melanie Smith.....	South Lenoir High
Amy Taylor.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Jeff Bradley.....	Grantham Middle	Melissa Perritt.....	Woodington Middle
Andrea Sweetland.....	B F Grady Elementary	Jennifer H Ginn.....	North Lenoir High	Michael Lewis.....	North Lenoir High
Anna Hinson.....	Eastern Wayne High	Jennifer L Grubbs.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Michele Weeks.....	Northwest Elementary
Ashley C Joyner.....	South Lenoir High	Jennifer McLawhorn.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Myra Aycock.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Ashley Holland.....	North Lenoir High	Jennifer Mobley.....	Beulaville Elementary	Olivia Paul.....	Northwest Elementary
Ashley Turnage.....	South Lenoir High	Jennifer Tingen.....	Northwest Elementary	Rebecca Hawkins.....	North Lenoir High
Austin Kennedy.....	Woodington Middle	Jenny Sasser.....	North Duplin Elementary	Rebecca Richards.....	Grantham Elementary
Betsy Mercer.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Jeremy Wilder.....	James Kenan High	Regina Kilpatrick.....	Kenansville Elementary
Beverly Anderson.....	Grantham Elementary	Jessica Davis.....	Southern Wayne High	Robyn Sutton.....	Kenansville Elementary
Bobbi Colie.....	Banks Elementary	Jessica Hill.....	South Lenoir High	Rocio Vega.....	Grantham Elementary
Brenda Griffin.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Jessica Jones.....	Woodington Middle	Ryan C Gardner.....	South Lenoir High
Britni Davis.....	Banks Elementary	Jessica Miller.....	LaGrange Elementary	Samantha Newcomb.....	North Lenoir High
Caitlin Thomas.....	Northwest Elementary	Jessica Montgomery.....	Woodington Middle	Sarah L Winnie.....	LaGrange Elementary
Caroline Casey.....	LaGrange Elementary	Jodi S Maxey.....	South Lenoir High	Sarah York.....	South Lenoir High
Casey Carlson.....	Moss Hill Elementary	John H Morgan.....	Woodington Middle	Selina Gray.....	Pink Hill Elementary
Catherine Borgquist.....	Northwest Elementary	Jonathan Smith.....	E B Frink Middle	Sherry Waters.....	Northwest Elementary
Cathie Hooks.....	Wayne Country Day School	Jordan Gray.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Stacie Fail.....	Northwest Elementary
Chris Radford.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Julie Adams.....	Woodington Middle	Stacy Stewart.....	B F Grady Elementary
Courtney Howell.....	Northwest Elementary	Julie Rouse.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Tammy Boyette and Davida Sutton.....	LaGrange Elementary
Crystal Boose.....	Northwest Elementary	Kady Long.....	North Lenoir High	Tammy Vail.....	Charles B Aycock High
Dawn Schappell.....	Wayne Country Day School	Karen Helms.....	Eastern Wayne Middle	Taylor Blizzard.....	Beulaville Elementary
Deborah Anderson.....	LaGrange Elementary	Katherine T Sowers.....	LaGrange Elementary	Terry Smith.....	Spring Creek High
Dona Briggs.....	Wayne Country Day School	Kelly Bluhm.....	Pink Hill Elementary	Tiffanie Chase.....	South Lenoir High
Donna Amos.....	Spring Creek Elementary	Kim Hipkiss.....	North Lenoir High	Tracy Smith.....	B F Grady Elementary
Emily Coggins.....	Northwest Elementary	Kim Pearson.....	Wayne Country Day School	Travis Towne.....	Lenoir County Early College High
Erin DeGrechie.....	Northwest Elementary	Kristina E Jones.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Victoria Brinson.....	Warsaw Elementary
Glenda H Kennedy.....	Moss Hill Elementary	Lauran Smith.....	E B Frink Middle		
Harley Smith.....	North Lenoir High	Lisa H Davis.....	LaGrange Elementary		

ChristmasWatts: The perfect Christmas gift for anyone

Each year, Tri-County Electric Membership offers the ChristmasWatts program for its members. ChristmasWatts is a gift that anyone can use, and what could be more practical than helping someone pay their electric bill during the holiday season?

When you give ChristmasWatts, you are purchasing kilowatt hours of electricity for someone you love or care for and reducing the amount of next month's electric bill for the person you select. The amount of ChristmasWatts purchased will be credited to the electric bill of the selected person.

To purchase Christmas Watts, complete the request form below, clip and mail the form with your

check, money order or credit card information to Tri-County EMC. You may also purchase ChristmasWatts by stopping by our office located on Highway 117 Alternate in Dudley. Credit card orders may also be placed by calling 919-735-2611 or 800-548-4869. Additional request forms may be obtained by calling the above numbers.

**Request must be received by
December 20, 2021.**

Order your ChristmasWatts today and make the holiday season bright and warm for someone special!!!

CHRISTMASWATTS REQUEST FORM

I would like to purchase ChristmasWatts in the amount of \$ _____

FOR _____
(Name of Tri-County Member)

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If possible, please provide account number, meter number or location number _____

Please mark (X) one of the following payment methods

Check enclosed Money Order enclosed Credit Card payment authorization
I wish to pay this with VISA Mastercard

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date ____/____ Zip Code _____

FROM _____ Telephone Number _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CLIP OUT this request form and mail with your check, money order, or credit card payment to
ChristmasWatts | Tri-County EMC | PO Box 130 | Dudley, NC 28333



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they are not in use.

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 more resistant to breaking—and they're 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 Tri-County EMC's website at tcemc.com for additional energy-saving tips.



Tri-County EMC Membership Corporation in Dudley, N.C., was chartered May 8, 1940.

Mission Statement:

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation is a member-driven cooperative committed to providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost, to offering superior service, and to taking an active role in supporting the communities it serves.

We are here to serve you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year.

For Outages or Emergencies:
919-735-2611 or 1-800-548-4869

tcemc.com

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Brandy Rouse

Employee Ready to Serve You



William Jones

William (B.J.) Jones is one of 50 employees ready to serve you. B.J. has worked with Tri-County EMC as an equipment operator since July 14, 1997. He and his family live in Faison.