

NEWS



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Operation RoundUp Hits \$2 Million!

Tri-County EMC's Operation RoundUp just hit \$2 million. Since 2000, Tri-County EMC members have "rounded up" their electric bills to the next-highest dollar and to date, has awarded \$2,012,072.65 to nonprofit organizations and individuals in its service territory.

Established as an extension of the electric cooperative



TCEMC General Manager Mike Davis (right) presents a \$7,500 grant to Indian Springs Fire Chief Phil Shivar and fireman Collin Hall (left).

principle of "concern for the community," the electric co-op's members round up their electric bills to the next even dollar. This spare change accumulates in a community fund, resulting in thousands of dollars given in grants each year. Members who participate contribute an average of only \$6 per year, demonstrating that little things really do make a difference.

"About 94 percent of our membership

participates by rounding up their electric bills to the nearest dollar," said Mike Davis, general manager of Tri-County EMC. "It's a great example of how when we come together, we can make a huge impact in our communities, and reaching \$2 million is a testament to the value of cooperative membership."

Davis added that many of the recipient organizations wouldn't be able to provide certain services without help from



Albritton Recreation Park received a \$7,500 Operation RoundUp grant to assist with funding a new playground at Calypso Park. J. Michael Davis, general manager of TCEMC, presents a \$7,500 grant to Debbie Jones, Chairman of Albritton Recreation Park Playground Committee.

Tri-County EMC members. One example involves a grant was recently presented to Sarecta Fire Department to assist with the purchase of a rescue boat, giving our firefighters one more tool in rescue operations.

Nonprofit organizations and individuals suffering from an unexpected life-changing event in Tri-County EMC's seven counties are invited to apply for the grants, which are awarded each quarter. Applications can be found at tcemc.com/content/operation-round.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: energy.gov

Metrics of the Month

943

Total number of Operation RoundUp grants awarded

Three Easy DIY Projects to Save Energy

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

Make the Most of Your Water Heater

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

Seal Air Leaks with Caulk

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The



area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

Weather Strip Exterior Doors

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moulding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.



Daylight Savings Time Begins March 10

When you set your clocks **ahead** an hour for daylight saving time on **Sunday, March 10**, remember also to check your heating and cooling system filters and change them if they are dirty. This is also a good time to change the direction of your ceiling fans to counter clockwise to push cool air through your home. To add to your safety, also change your batteries in your smoke alarms.

Save The Date

Friday, June 14, 2019

Ninth Annual Tri-County EMC Scholarship Golf Tournament

- 8:00 AM and 1:30 PM Shotgun Starts
- Lunch Provided
- Southern Wayne Country Club
- Mount Olive, NC

Tri-County EMC employees will host the Ninth Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament Friday, June 14, 2019, at Southern Wayne Country Club in Mount Olive. We invite members and friends of Tri-County EMC to join us for a morning or afternoon of fun and fellowship to benefit the Employee-Funded Scholarship Program.

The tournament will offer two start times, either morning or afternoon, with lunch catered by McCall's BBQ and Seafood Restaurant for all players. Team entries will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. Individuals are also welcomed to participate. Individual participants will be assigned to a 4-player team. There will be cash prizes for the winners.

If you are unable to play golf with us this year, please consider being a Hole Sponsor. Money raised through this event will be used to award college scholarships to high school seniors.

Tri-County Electric's employees appreciate your assistance with this benefit, and believe that it is important to enhance the education of our youth who will be the future leaders of our communities.

Registration deadline is June 7, 2019. To obtain a registration form and hole sponsor form, or if you have questions, please contact Mike Wood (michael.wood@tcemc.com), Deidra Locklear (deidra.locklear@tcemc.com) or Mike Davis (michael.davis@tcemc.com) at 800-548-4869 or 919-735-2611.

Celebrating Agriculture and Our Rural Roots

Close to a century ago, farmers and rural community members came together to form Tri-County EMC and other electric cooperatives across the state and the nation. They set the poles, strung the lines and went door-to-door asking the people in their communities to join them in establishing a local, consumer-owned business that could transform communities and change lives.

We've come a long way since then, but we've remained true to our roots and steadfast in our commitment to investing in and strengthening our local communities. Electricity continues to hold great promise for agriculture—North Carolina's top industry—and open the door to new opportunity across numerous sectors, as we work to embrace 21st-century innovation and implement new technologies.

March 14 marks the 46th anniversary of National Ag Day, which recognizes the essential role agriculture plays in our everyday lives. We are proud to support farmers' operational needs through safe, reliable and affordable power and look forward to growing the relationship

between agriculture and energy to create efficiencies that will benefit all North Carolina communities.

To learn more about the history and heritage of Tri-County EMC, as well as the ways we are looking ahead to a brighter energy future, visit tcemc.com



Attention students! Deadlines Drawing Near

Scholarships

Tri-County EMC has scholarship opportunities available for students in our service area. Scholarships of \$500 will be awarded to graduating high school seniors who pursue a four-year degree and scholarships of \$250 will be awarded to graduating high school seniors pursuing a two-year degree. Applications may be obtained at the guidance counselor offices of Charles B. Aycock, Eastern Wayne, Rosewood, Southern Wayne, Spring Creek, East Duplin, James Kenan, North Duplin, North Lenoir, or South Lenoir high schools or tcecm.com. Applications must be received or postmarked by March 31, 2019.

Sports Camp

Time is ticking for local middle-school students to apply for an all-expenses-paid scholarship to attend basketball camp this summer. Tri-County EMC will be sending one young man to the Roy Williams Basketball Camp June 22-26

at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and one young lady to the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp June 9-12 at NC State University in Raleigh. Students will work directly with players and coaches to develop basketball skills and practice leadership and teamwork at the overnight camps.

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must be in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade during the 2019-2020 school year. Applicants must also have permission from a parent or guardian to attend the sleep-away camp and must provide their own transportation to and from the camp if selected to attend.

To access the application, visit ncelectriccooperatives.com/in-the-community/sports-camps/, or contact Deidra Locklear at 919-735-2611 for more information about the program. Applications must be postmarked by March 31, 2019.



Tri-County EMC Employees:

Ready To Serve

Mike Buegeler is one of 47 employees ready to serve you. Mike has worked with Tri-County EMC since November 18, 1996, as a Staking Technician. Mike resides in Goldsboro with his family.

2019 Down East Walk to Defeat ALS®

- **WHAT:** Walk to Defeat ALS® (Lou Gehrig's disease)
- **WHEN:** Saturday, May 11, 2019 @ 9:00 am-12:00 pm
- **WHERE:** East Carolina University, Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, Gate 5, Greenville, NC 27858
- **REGISTRATION:** Visit <http://web.alsa.org/downeast> or call 877-568-4347
- **CONTACT:** Engagement Manager, Stephanie West, stephanie@alsnc.org, 919-390-0121



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

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

tcecm.com

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.

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