



# Along the LINE

October 2020

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

## 2020 Annual Meeting Notice

**Dear Member:** The 83rd Annual Meeting of Members of Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation will be held on Thursday, October 22, 2020, at the headquarters facility, NC Hwy. 33E, Tarboro. Due to COVID-19 pandemic precautions, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will hold a non-traditional, drive-thru Annual Meeting of Members with an inclement weather date of Thursday, October 29, 2020, at the Cooperative Headquarters from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The business session will be at 4 p.m. For those who wish to be here during the business session, you will have the option to park your car and listen to the business session from the radio. For those who do not wish to stay for the business session, we will Facebook Live this event.

Members will be directed to stations throughout the parking lot to conduct meeting business. They will be registered, receive a copy of the Annual Report and ballots, pick up an attendance gift, pick up a to-go plate of food and turn in completed ballots. All members attending will be entered in the prize drawing and you do not have to be present to win. Please enter through the receiving entrance, the drive-thru meeting will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and you may attend anytime during those hours.

The purpose of this meeting is: (1) the presentation, consideration of, and action upon reports by officers, directors and committees, (2) the election of directors, and (3) the transacting of any other business that comes before the meeting. The board president and CEO will make their annual reports to the membership on the state of the cooperative. Please mail questions pertaining to your cooperative prior to October 5 to Winston Howell, CEO, P.O. Box 188, Tarboro, NC 27886, so we may have time to compile any information or data your request may require.

The meeting agenda is located on the attached cover wrap. If you do not plan to be present and wish to cast a vote, please complete, sign and return the proxy form on the inside of the front cover wrap by mail to the address noted above. (Only an adult member of your household is eligible to vote your proxy.) Members who are entitled to and desire reasonable accommodations under the American with Disabilities Act or other laws should contact the Member Services Department prior to Thursday, October 8, 2020. Mark your calendars to attend the Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday October 22, 2020. We look forward to seeing you.

Yours Truly,  
*Joseph A. Suggs*



## Reminder Regarding Seasonal Services

This is just a friendly reminder that seasonal accounts are only billed three times a year – August, September and October.

These accounts have a monthly base charge like all other rate schedules, even though the account is only billed three times a year. Please contact our office at 252-823-2171 if you have a seasonal account that will not be used for next year's season or if you plan on adding additional load to a seasonal account.

Adding additional load to your service could require an increase in transformer capacity to ensure reliable service.



Edgecombe-Martin County  
Electric Membership Corporation  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

**To report a loss of power or an  
emergency after hours, please  
call 1-800-690-0657.**

# Community College Scholarships Awarded

Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation recently awarded our annual scholarships at Nash Community College, Edgecombe Community College and Martin Community College.

Established in 2018, Edgecombe-Martin EMC provides two \$500 scholarships to the colleges annually. As part of our commitment to our community, the funds assist deserving students

enrolled in the NCC and MCC Electric Line Construction program and the engineering or electrical program at ECC.



*Nash Community College Check Presentation*



*Martin Community College Check Presentation*



*Edgecombe Community College Check Presentation*

## Innovating a Brighter Future

October is National Cooperative Month, an annual recognition of the ways electric co-ops like Edgecombe-Martin County EMC are building a brighter future for our members and communities. Co-op innovation is at the center of these efforts, as we are constantly seeking new solutions and technologies to expand services, find efficiencies and strengthen the electric grid.

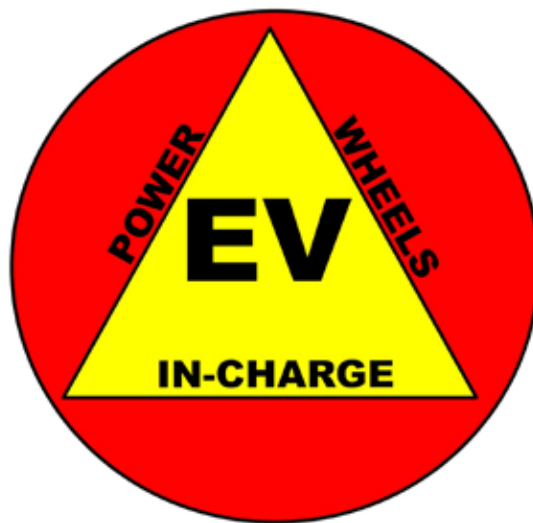
Power no longer moves in a linear path from our cooperative to our members. Instead, cooperatives are coordinating a variety of energy resources distributed across the grid, including solar, microgrids, battery storage and even smart thermostats and water heater controls. By implementing and coordinating these resources, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is advancing the way the grid is managed to provide you a higher level of service and value.

If you own an electric vehicle (EV), consider signing up for one of our innovative grid EV Power Wheels In Charge program.

**Electric Vehicle Rate/Rebate.** Driving electric offers a number of benefits, including reduced emissions, exciting technology, and the convenience of plugging in to to fuel up at home.

If you drive an electric vehicle, sign up for our special rate and save by charging overnight when demand for electricity is low. By switching to this rate we also offer a \$200 rebate program to our members.

To sign up for this program, or for more information about how cooperatives are building a brighter local future for our members, visit [ememc.com](http://ememc.com) or call 252-823-2171.



## Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Project

A new electric vehicle (EV) fast-charging station will be installed in the near future at our office in Tarboro. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has been awarded \$71,415.70 to fund the charger as part of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency settlement with Volkswagen.

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality awarded eight of North Carolina's electric cooperatives a total of more than \$700,000 in Volkswagen Settlement funding to install 10 high-speed EV charging stations in rural and suburban communities throughout the state. Funding for these projects comes from North Carolina's \$92 million share of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's settlement with Volkswagen for unlawfully cheating on vehicle emissions. The first phase includes nearly \$30 million to replace school and transit buses and install zero emission vehicle fast-charging stations across the state. Together, these projects will reduce 31.8 tons of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions annually, equal to the annual NOx emissions of more than 51,000 passenger cars.

These projects encourage not only the environmental and cost-savings benefits of electric transportation, but also promote education, commerce, tourism, economic development and improved quality of life in our communities. Our members are increasingly interested in the convenience, cost savings and environmental advantage of electric vehicles, and we are proud to support the expansion of this technology by securing funding for this local project.

The new station is a DC Fast charger. DC Fast chargers provide the quickest charge available and can charge a depleted electric vehicle's battery to 80 percent capacity in under 30 minutes.

North Carolina's electric cooperatives, including Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, are working to create a statewide network of EV charging stations, enabling the increased adoption of EV technology. Cooperatives primarily serve members in rural locations, and their expanding charging network fills gaps in charging infrastructure in rural and tourist-visited areas, creating environmental and economic

benefits for communities.

As EV technology improves, and the cost of electric vehicles decreases, more Americans will continue to make the switch to electric. As a result, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC offers a special electric rate to those who drive electric vehicles and are willing to help us by avoiding charging their EV during peak periods.

In 2018, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC began offering the new residential EV rate to members who own a plug-in electric vehicle. This new rate schedule has been designed specifically for EV owners to encourage them to charge their vehicle overnight. If you're an EV owner and would like to lower your energy bill, simply switch to the new EV rate, plug-in your vehicle before bed and save money while you sleep!

Members who choose the EV rate option receive a slightly lower rate during off-peak hours and a significant discount during "super off-peak" hours from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m., seven days a week. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC also offers a \$200 rebate for members with an electric vehicle. This rebate helps with the cost of installing their required EV home charging systems.

Our EV rate is a great example of how electric cooperatives can embrace beneficial electrification to proactively meet the growing demand for EV by consumers. For more information about Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and the benefits of driving electric, visit [ememc.com/electric-vehicle-rates/](http://ememc.com/electric-vehicle-rates/).

Cooperatively Yours,

*Winston Howell*

Winston Howell



ChargePoint

# Give Safety A Shot When Hunting

Hunters have their sights on wild game when preparing for hunting season. A few moments devoted to safety can help prevent an accident with utility equipment. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC encourages hunters to be aware of



electrical equipment while enjoying the great outdoors. Be aware of what's behind that big buck or it might cost big bucks. Repairs can be costly in both equipment and outages to our members. As a non-profit cooperative, owned by the members, we all share in this expense.

- Before leaving for a hunting trip, make sure that you have safety items to signal for help in case of an emergency. Always carry emergency supplies in the event of an accident. A cell phone, whistle

and flashlight are necessary items to carry with you throughout a hunting trip.

- Note the location of power lines and other electrical equipment before you begin a hunt. Be especially careful and observant in wooded areas where power lines are easy to overlook.

- Obey all signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when selecting the location for a tree stand. Tree stands are the leading cause for hunting injuries. If you are using a tree stand, make sure you read the manufacturer's instructions and inspect the stand for wear before use.

- Never use power poles to support a tree stand. Look for an ideal tree for your stand, one that is sturdy and alive. While going up to the stand, keep at least three points of contact while you climb.

- Never shoot nearby power lines or other electrical equipment. A single shot can cause vast damage to the electrical system. Damage to electrical equipment can result in power interruptions and physical risks to those nearby.

- When setting up and taking down the stand, make sure you do not make contact with any overhead electrical equipment.

- If you are using a portable electrical generator on your hunting trip, make sure that you do not run it in a confined area. Do not use it

inside a cabin or RV. Make sure that it is used outside where there is plenty of ventilation.

We recognize the majority of hunters practice safe hunting and understand the potential risks when discharging a firearm. We encourage experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to identify the locations of utility properties and equipment to young or new hunters in their group and remind them to avoid shooting toward these facilities.

## Along The LINE

[www.ememc.com](http://www.ememc.com)

### Board of Directors

Bert Pitt, President

Jimmie Jernigan, Vice Pres.

Joseph Suggs, Secretary

Billy Trevathan, Treasurer

Rejeanor Scott

Norman A. Roberson

Wayne Harrell

Edward B. Simmons, Attorney

### CEO

Winston T. Howell

### Editor

Monica Speight

Hwy. 33 East, P.O. Box 188

Tarboro, NC 27886

252-823-2171 • 1-800-445-6486

Office Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (M–F)

### After Hours Outage Reporting 1-800-690-0657

Payments after office hours and on holidays can be made at the kiosk under the drive thru canopy, by calling our automated telephone service at 1-855-356-6358, placed in the night deposit box or you may choose to utilize the convenience of online bill-pay by logging on to [www.ememc.com](http://www.ememc.com)

## Be AWARE of SCAMS

We have received reports that scammers are making delinquent calls to our members asking for immediate payment. These calls ARE NOT from Edgecombe-Martin County EMC. Remember if a scammer calls you, they have the technology to change the caller ID to "Edgecombe-Martin County EMC." If you receive a call demanding payment, hang up the phone. It is a scam. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will NEVER contact you and demand payment over the phone for your electric bill.