

# Along the LINE

**JANUARY 2021**

For members of  
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

## Cooperative Leadership Camp

Applications for Cooperative Leadership Camp are now being accepted from high school students across North Carolina who want to attend. This year's week-long overnight camp will be held June 21-25.

The camp is hosted annually by the Cooperative Council of North Carolina at the North Carolina FFA Center at White Lake. Cooperative Leadership Camp aims to give rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors a better understanding and appreciation of the cooperative business model and foster leadership qualities, financial responsibility and team-building skills.



**COOPERATIVE  
LEADERSHIP CAMP**

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will sponsor one student to attend the 2021 Cooperative Leadership Camp this year. Co-op leadership campers are also eligible for the \$1,000 Jim Graham college scholarship, which they can apply for during their senior year of high school.

During the camp, students organize a T-shirt cooperative, which includes the election of a board of directors, selection of a manager and design and production of T-shirts. Campers also participate in interactive workshops and presentations, along with small group sessions focused on leadership development and team building activities. Other features include outdoor recreation, a talent show, awards night and team competitions.

For more information, contact Monica Speight at 252-641-9502 or [monicass@ememc.com](mailto:monicass@ememc.com).



### Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Friday, January 1, in observance of New Years Day.

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.

To report an emergency after hours, please call 1-800-690-0657.



### Annual Meeting Date

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for Thursday, March 25, 2021.

More details to come in the February newsletter and on our Facebook page.

# Meadows Participates in STEP Lunch and Learn

Ensuring that tomorrow's workforce is well educated is critical - for the future employees of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, for the economic development, and for the prosperity of the communities we serve in general. For these reasons, Edgecombe-Martin EMC remains committed to our schools - educators, counselors, and students.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is proud to work closely with STEP (Strategic Twin-Counties Education Partnership) and its many educational programs. In November, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Apprentice Line Technician Austin Meadows participated in the Careers in Power and Energy STEP Lunch and Learn Program on behalf of the co-op.

As part of the #workHERE initiative, STEP sponsors Virtual Lunch & Learns focused on local career opportunities, companies and the community college pathway programs that prepare students for

work. During this virtual program, there were over 30 students and educators on the call. The post-webinar survey concluded that 92%



of the students said "they would consider a career in the power industry."

As jobs evolve and technologies advance, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will continue to provide resources that support academic, technical, and employability skills to position students for success in their chosen careers. Our vision is to ensure that Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is poised to bring the benefits of a work-ready workforce to our region by focusing on career fields where there are current and projected shortages of qualified workers.

## Budget Billing Helps Avoid Spikes in Heating Cost

Do you dread opening your monthly electric bill this winter, fearing the shock that comes with seasonal spikes in heating costs?

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Budget Billing program can take away that element of surprise and offer our members, instead, some peace of mind.

Budget Billing is a stable payment plan that allows members to pay one set amount each month, based on a household's average energy expense over the last 12 months. Once that is determined, members are billed the same amount each month, so they know in advance the amount due.

For those managing household expenses, this program is especially beneficial this time of year. Not only are heaters running, but members also tend to stay inside more, consuming much more electricity.

If the actual use differs from the budgeted amount, members will receive a charge or a credit for the difference, the amount is calculated and adjusted every 12 months. To



see if your account is eligible for budget billing give Nina Draughn a call at 252-641-9507.



Improving the quality of life of our members and strengthening our communities is part of our mission. We feel a strong responsibility to the members and communities we serve that goes beyond providing power that is reliable and economical.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is pleased to announce a new community-oriented program called Operation RoundUp. This program encourages members to round up their electric bill to the next-highest dollar, with the money going into a fund for charitable community projects and local needs.

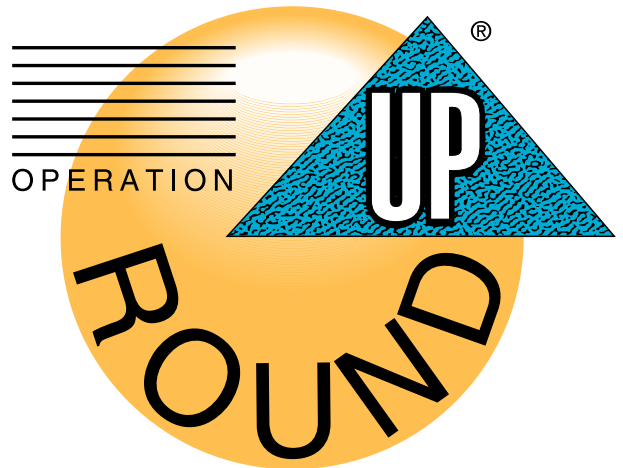
Operation RoundUp is a voluntary program in which more than 200 electric cooperatives across the country participate, including most North Carolina electric cooperatives. The programs go by different names, but they all operate under the same premise: Small change makes a big impact in communities all across North Carolina.

Each month, members who wish to participate will allow Edgecombe-Martin County EMC to automatically round up electric bills to the next highest dollar amount. For example, if your bill is \$68.51, your bill will be rounded up to \$69, meaning that month's contribution is 49 cents. If your bill is \$68.90, your bill will be rounded up to \$69, contributing 10 cents. The extra cents will be put into the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC Operation RoundUp fund. The cost to you will be 99 cents or less per month and will average about \$6.00 a year per member. Individually it doesn't sound like much, but collectively it adds up.

One of the most-rewarding aspects of Operation RoundUp is that it is an extension of the "Neighbor helping Neighbor" concept that helped establish our electric cooperative. Operation RoundUp helps co-op members reach out to worthy causes in their communities and work together to help others.

To sign up for Operation RoundUp, e-mail a member service representative at [memberservices@ememc.com](mailto:memberservices@ememc.com) or call 252-823-2171. Even after you are signed up for Operation RoundUp, you can opt-out of the program at any time by contacting Edgecombe-Martin County EMC.

The Operation RoundUp program is governed by the Edgecombe-Martin County EMC board of directors. Funding requests will be accepted by individual



members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC or organizations within or outside our service area that provide services to our members. The board will decide how the money is disbursed on a need basis. Funds cannot be used for political purposes. You can rest assured that 100% of your donations are being used to help better your community.

Applications may be picked up at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, or you may go online to [ememc.com](http://ememc.com) and click on the Operation RoundUp grant application.

Together, those small amounts will make a big difference! Please contact the cooperative office at 252-823-2171 with any additional questions or to sign up to be a participant.

Cooperatively,

*Bert Pitt*

Bert Pitt

# Defining a Brighter Future for Our Members and The Community

As we begin this new year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is pursuing efforts to build a brighter future for our members and the community we all share – a brighter future that continues our commitment to delivering reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost while also advancing responsible sustainability goals.

Along with the rest of North Carolina's electric cooperative network, last July we announced our new Brighter Future vision, a long-term roadmap for providing sustainable, affordable energy; reliability and innovation; and continued local community support to enrich the people and communities we serve.

Our vision centers on achieving two voluntary sustainability goals: a 50 percent reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 2030, and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. To reach these goals, we will continue to rely on emissions-free nuclear, an extremely reliable, safe and affordable source of electricity that currently fuels more than half our power, along with natural gas, which can be dispatched quickly when needed. We are bringing more renewable energy resources online while investing in new technology, such as battery storage, to make renewables like solar power more versatile and reliable.

Both our carbon reduction goals also rely on the advanced coordination of resources across the electric grid, as well as innovative solutions and technologies to make the grid as flexible and efficient as possible. In addition, they encompass our efforts to electrify devices and processes as an alternative to fossil fuels and use electricity in new and exciting ways.

As a locally based cooperative, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC remains committed to not only powering, but also empowering this community. That's why our Brighter Future vision extends far beyond delivering reliable, affordable, sustainable electricity to include community support efforts like education initiatives and economic development activities that truly

demonstrate the cooperative difference. Our structure affords us unique opportunities to make local investments and engage with local people, businesses, and community leaders to work together to meet changing needs.

The brightest part of our future will always be our members, like you. We look forward to continuing to serve you and to building a brighter future, now and in the years to come.

## Building a **BRIGHTER FUTURE**



### **Sustainable, Affordable Energy**

Pursue a goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 using new and existing resources to ensure electricity continues to be delivered at the lowest possible cost.



### **Reliability & Innovation**

Leverage new technologies and innovation to deliver reliable electricity across resilient, co-op operated electric grids.



### **Local Community Support**

Enrich the lives of our local members through continued education initiatives, economic development and community-focused activities.

## Along The LINE

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

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