



Along the LINE

APRIL 2021

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Get Your Bright Ideas Ready!

It's that time again! Edgecombe-Martin County EMC kicks off its Bright Ideas Education Grant program and begins accepting applications from innovative educators for the 2021-22 school year on April 1.

Teachers with ideas for creative classroom projects that bring learning to life can learn more and apply online at ncbrightideas.com.

Grants are available for projects across all grade levels and subject areas, and educators can apply for grant funding individually or as a team. Over



the past year, the program has supported educators as they seek new ways to engage their students in modified classroom environments during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will continue to provide resources to facilitate innovative learning no matter what the upcoming school year holds.

Applications will be accepted until September 15. As an added incentive to apply early, educators who submit their applications by August 15 will be entered into a drawing to receive a Visa gift card.

Since 1994, electric cooperatives in North Carolina, including Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, have partnered with K-12 teachers statewide to provide Bright Ideas grants for unique classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded. Over the program's history, more than 2.7 million students across North Carolina have benefited from nearly 13,000 Bright Ideas-funded projects totaling more than \$13.6 million.

The Bright Ideas grant program is part of our continued commitment to building a brighter future for the people, businesses and communities we serve. In addition to ensuring the delivery of reliable, affordable and sustainable power, this vision emphasizes the importance of innovation and ongoing community support. Learn more at ncelectriccooperatives.com/brighter.



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Friday, April 2, in observance of Good Friday.

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 ememc.com.

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

Join Us as We Thank our Line Technicians on Monday, April 12

Each year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC joins other electric cooperatives across our state and nation to celebrate Line Technician Appreciation Day. Held annually on the second Monday in April, this day recognizes line technicians' critical role in providing our members with the power they depend on every day.



The important responsibilities of line technicians have become all the more challenging over the past year as they have implemented additional safety procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our line technicians undergo extensive training and follow numerous protocols to ensure safety as they work to maintain our lines and restore power, often in very treacherous conditions," says CEO Winston Howell. "The current pandemic has added another layer of precaution to an already demanding job, but our line technicians have risen to the challenge and demonstrated an exceptional level of skill, dedication and expertise."



No matter the time of day or what the weather conditions are, our line technicians are dedicated to serving the members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC to ensure they all have reliable power. They take pride in their jobs and focus on performing the tasks accurately and safely.

In addition to serving their own communities, line technicians are also called on to provide aid across the state and nation following major storms and other times of need. This commitment to "cooperation among cooperatives" is one of the core principles that demonstrates the true strength and character of the cooperative network.

Please use the hashtag #ThankALineworker on April 12 and throughout the year to pay tribute to our line technicians' many outstanding efforts!



North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives maintain a diverse mix of generating resources to meet our member's needs. Our current portfolio consist of: nuclear, 54%; gas/oil, 23%; purchases, 12%;, renewables, 5%; coal, 4%; and hydro, 2%.

As a safe, dependable and carbon-free source of power, nuclear energy is a key contributor to Edgecombe-Martin County EMC's Brighter Future initiative, part of which promotes environmental sustainability, including a goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. More than half of the electricity we provide to our members is generated from nuclear energy, and it will continue to be a critical component of our balanced energy portfolio.

How Nuclear Works

Nuclear energy is stored in the core of an atom and can be released in the form of heat and radiation when an atom is split, a process known as nuclear fission. Nuclear power plants include a reactor where uranium atoms are split over and over again in a nuclear chain reaction. This reaction is continuously regulated using control rods that absorb neutrons to speed and slow the fission process.

The energy released from the atoms is used to heat water until it boils into steam, which then turns the blades of four turbines that drive the generator that makes electricity. The steam is then cooled back into water and reused to create more steam in an ongoing cycle. The water that touches the nuclear fuel is separate from the water that turns the turbines, and also not the same water that is emitted from the cooling towers as water vapor.

Benefits of Nuclear

The use of uranium instead of fossil fuels makes the energy produced by nuclear fission carbon free. The nuclear process also results in relatively little waste. To ensure safety, used fuel rods are enclosed in steel-lined concrete pools of water for an average of 10 years before being stored in special steel and concrete containers. Nuclear power plants are also closely regulated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and utilize numerous technologies and redundancies to keep their systems safe and secure.

Beyond being environmentally sustainable and safe, nuclear power is also extremely reliable.

Based on data from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy, nuclear power plants operated at full capacity more than 93% of the time in 2019. Nuclear power plants are designed to run 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can often go up to two years without being refueled.

Electric cooperatives in North Carolina invested in nuclear power years ago, and co-op members continue to benefit from the dependable, affordable and emissions-free power it provides. As more renewables are integrated into our portfolio, nuclear provides "always on" power that supports reliability and smooths out the intermittency of sources like solar, which produces electricity only during sunny hours.

For more information about nuclear energy and its benefits, see page 12 of this month's issue of Carolina Country. You can also learn more about the ways we are Powering a Brighter Future at ncelectriccooperatives.com/brighter.

Cooperatively,

Winston Howell

Winston Howell



North Carolina's electric cooperative network owns a 61.51 percent share of the Catawba Nuclear Station's Unit 1 in York County, S.C., which produces much of the nuclear power we deliver to our members.

Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarships Available

The Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarships are offered to members of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC who plan to complete a one or two-year vocational/technical/community college program of study.

The technical school or community college must be accredited in North Carolina. These scholarships give prospective students the opportunity to further their education so they can acquire new skills and knowledge to better prepare them for their future careers.

Applications will be accepted now through May 11, 2021. You can access, complete, and submit applications online at ememc.com. If you wish to receive an application

form by mail, please call Monica Speight at (252) 641-9502.

The Noel Lee, Jr. Memorial Scholarships are made possible through the dedicated work of the Volunteer Action Committee of Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and other private donations. The Volunteer Action Committee helps raise funds for the scholarship by selling desserts and raffling off various items at the Annual Meeting of Members each year.



Statement of Non-discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact

the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://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 of 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*

Along The LINE

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