



Along the LINE

October 2021

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Conetoe Volunteer Fire Department Awarded Grant to Build New Station

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is a cooperative business, which means we do more than deliver electricity. We deliver on a promise to enhance life in the communities we serve by investing in education, supporting essential community services, and leading innovative economic development initiatives that bring jobs to rural areas.



The new building will replace the current flood-prone fire station pictured above.

As part of our commitment to community, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC recently applied for and was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. The program was created to help retain employment and support critical services in rural area.

As part of the grant requirement, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will contribute \$60,000 (or 20% of the total grant) and lend a total of \$360,000 to Conetoe

Volunteer Fire Department at zero-percent interest. The funds will be used to assist in the building of a new fire station to serve Conetoe and the surrounding area. The new station will replace the existing station that has been flooded several times following hurricanes. The new, larger building is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

As these funds are paid back to the cooperative, the cooperative will place them in a new revolving loan fund where they can be loaned back out into the community to assist with other projects.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is pleased to be able to assist our local communities in providing critical services like fire and emergency response. We are excited to be able to leverage these USDA funds to provide much-needed help to rural fire departments like Conetoe.

Supporting our community is one of our seven guiding principles that we have followed since we were founded in 1936. This zero-interest loan program allows us to support our communities far beyond our electric service.

Customer Appreciation Day

Each year, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC holds Customer Appreciation Day in October to show appreciation for our member-owners and to recognize the importance of cooperatives around the world. This year Customer Appreciation Day will be held on October 7, 2021. We look forward to seeing you there!



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.**

Ronald McDonald House Newborn Clothes and Toy Drive

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will host a Christmas newborn drive for the Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina.

This drive will be held for newborn toys and clothing. Often there are many items donated for infants and young children; but there is a need for the newborn age.

The Ronald McDonald House of Eastern North Carolina provides a warm and caring home-away-from-home for families of hospitalized children. When a family has a child in the Hospital during Christmas, shopping can be challenging. The Ronald McDonald House has a Gift Closet that allows families to pick out gifts for each other at no charge.

There will be a collection box at the entrance of our building for you to safely drop-off items during business hours. We are accepting new toys and clothes for newborns. Any other drop-offs or concerns, contact Monica Speight at 252-641-9502.



Brighter together: National Co-op Month

October is National Co-op Month, an annual celebration of what makes co-ops different and the difference co-ops make.

You can see the cooperative business model in action across a variety of industries, from agriculture to grocery to utilities. Electric cooperatives like Edgecombe-Martin County EMC are based in the communities they serve, independent and governed by a board of directors, which is elected by their members, not shareholders.

Although independent, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is part of a network of 26 electric co-ops in North Carolina sharing a vision to build a brighter future for co-op members and communities through commitments to reliable, affordable and sustainable electric service, as well as community and economic development.

While working toward our Brighter Future vision, we will continue to uphold the seven guiding principles of cooperative businesses:

- Autonomy and independence
- Concern for community
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Democratic member control
- Education, training and information
- Members' economic participation
- Voluntary and open membership



The principle of concern for community is woven deeply into programs like Bright Ideas Education Grants, Operation RoundUp, Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarships and our rural economic development work. As your local, non-profit, member-owned power provider, we are working to strengthen the areas we serve while building a brighter future for our members.

To learn more about Edgecombe-Martin County EMC and the value of co-op membership, visit EMemc.com.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has a key accounts program specifically designed to help determine and meet the needs of our commercial members. Like most utilities, our member base consists of a diverse mixture — from rural residential accounts to large industrial and commercial loads. Because of this diversity, we must focus on a variety of needs among our members since the needs of a business are much different than those of its residential counterparts.

Through our key accounts program, we are able to work closely with commercial and industrial members to communicate issues of concern regarding areas such as reliable electric service, rate structure, renewable energy integration, energy-efficiency, planned expansions of facilities, loan programs to fund expansions, and other internal and external issues that may affect our commercial members.

A typical key account is one that requires a large amount of power and operates at one location, such as a QVC or Corning. The cooperative also identifies key accounts as those who have multiple accounts in various locations such as the county school system, agricultural accounts such as The Hanor Company, and an individual farming operation that may have as many as 30 accounts. The common thread for key accounts is their dependency on electricity to power their operations. It is important to note that all key accounts don't have to be large users of electricity to be considered a key account. Other identifiers for key accounts include those accounts that are important to the citizens and communities we serve, such as medical facilities, fire and emergency services facilities, communication towers, and governmental facilities, all of which are dependent on electricity to run their operations to serve those in the community.

While most key accounts are typically large power users, each can be very different. You can see from the diversity in the partial list of key accounts provided below how each account has different load characteristics. This requires the cooperative to approach each account differently. For example, QVC and Syfan require constant reliable power to run their 24/7 operations and typically have a great load factor, which means they are very efficient in their operations. While a rock quarry on the other hand runs during the day requiring a large amount of power but uses very little energy. This is not as efficient as a 24-hour operation with a consistent load factor.

Modern farming and agriculture operations are very dependent on electricity. This is especially true during the harvesting season. There are many agricultural accounts which include poultry and swine operations, produce and sweet potato storage and packaging as well as grain and tobacco drying. These types of operations typically have several accounts with a vast geographical area which require infrastructures spread out over a large area to serve.

Here are a few examples of your cooperative's top energy users and revenue producers which are classified as Key Accounts:

QVC: is a home shopping distribution warehouse employing over 1,200 people.

Syfan Manufacturing USA: manufacturer of retail and food grade shrink wrap, employing over 90 employees.

The Hanor Company of Wisconsin: an agriculture hog producing operation with over 140 employees and 30 separately metered locations.

Edgecombe County Board of Education: county government educational facilities employing over 750 employees county wide with 10 separately metered locations.

Corning Incorporated: distribution warehouse for medical supplies, employing over 220 people.

Hanson Aggregate: rock quarry employing 16 employees.

Town of Oak City: Municipal Township severed electricity at a wholesale load through one cooperative meter where the town then serves their own.

Boseman Farm Carolina Produce: a family farming operation employing over 200 full-time and part-time employees with over 52 industrial accounts.

The diversity in these key accounts each present engineering challenges that the Cooperative must meet each day. While all electric accounts are not the same, your cooperative recognizes the importance of every member and works diligently to provide safe, reliable and economical power to each and every member on the system regardless of their size or revenue produced.

Cooperatively Yours,

Eddie Stocks

Eddie Stocks

High School Students: Apply for a Trip to Washington, D.C., Today

The application period for the 2022 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is now open! Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is selecting 1 student to represent us at next summer's Youth Tour in June.

This will be the first Youth Tour trip to D.C. since 2019, as COVID precautions prevented travel last year. During the weeklong trip, students will network with peers from across the country, meet members of congress, visit national museums and historic landmarks, and grow in confidence and friendships. Students will learn about electric cooperatives and help run their own "H2O Co-op," where they can put the cooperative principles into practice.

As part of the Youth Tour experience, participants will have the opportunity to win one of three scholarships, including the prestigious Youth Leadership Council (YLC) Scholarship. In addition to the scholarship, the YLC designee will represent the state of North Carolina in an elite leadership-building program and on a national stage at the 2023 national annual meeting of electric cooperatives.

For more information, please contact Monica Speight at monicas@ememc.com or 252-641-9502.



Along The LINE

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Wolfpack Women's Basketball Runs Virtual Training Series:

On Aug. 9, NC State University's Women's Basketball – in partnership with North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives – released the first of six videos as part of a new virtual training series. Young athletes looking to master basketball skills will find a new video on NC State and co-op social media platforms every Monday for six weeks. Follow Edgecombe-Martin County EMC on Facebook to watch the latest videos.

Taught by NC State Women's Basketball head coach Wes Moore and his assistants, this virtual training experience is an incredible opportunity for aspiring basketball stars to learn new skills, run practice drills and train for the upcoming season. All six videos will remain accessible on GoPack.com, where athletes can watch and review their skills as many times as needed.

"I wish we could coach you in person at camp this summer, but I'm glad to at least be able to offer this virtual training series to help you improve your skills before your upcoming season," said Coach Moore. "Good luck and we look forward to seeing you next summer at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp!"

Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp in Raleigh, N.C. was cancelled for the Summer 2021 season. Camps are expected to resume as normal for the 2022 summer camp season.