



Along the LINE

APRIL 2022

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC



Teachers, Apply Now for Your 2022-2023 Bright Ideas Grant

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 2022-23 school year on April 1.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC supports the local communities we serve, and Bright Ideas grants are a substantial way for us to help teachers make a difference for our students. These grants give teachers new resources to invigorate and excite their students, and we believe there is no better investment than in the education of our future leaders.

Bright Ideas grants are available to K-12 teachers for innovative projects in any subject. Educators can apply individually or as a team by submitting a simple online application.

Applications are accepted April 1 through Sept. 15. Teachers who submit their applications by the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be automatically entered to win one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.

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



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC
will be closed on
Friday, April 15,
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 Recognize our Line Technician's on Monday, April 11

While it takes each employee across all departments to keep operations running smoothly at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, one of the more visible jobs is that of a line technician.

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC joins other electric cooperatives across our state this month 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.

When members flip a light switch, they may not give much thought to why or how the light comes on. Electric line technicians provide an essential service: They work hard to install and maintain overhead and underground power lines that keep electricity flowing. They are on call 24/7 in case severe storms or other circumstances cause the power to go out.



Line technicians work with high-voltage electricity, often at great heights, in all kinds of weather conditions, such as snow,

wind, rain, ice and extreme heat and cold. The work required to maintain the power grid is physically demanding. 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.

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.

Although everyone at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC works hard to provide reliable service, we salute our line technicians who work around the clock to keep the power on. Their safety, as well as yours, is our top priority.



Keep Kids Safe As They Head Outdoors

When temperatures begin to rise, outdoor areas begin to fill with both children and adults enjoying the weather. It's easy for the electrical equipment that we see every day to fade into the background, but it's important to always take safety precautions around it. Take time to explain to your kids how to be safe around electricity before they head outdoors.

Safe Electricity provides the following tips to share with kids when having a conversation about how to stay safe around outdoor electrical equipment.

- Always stress the importance of safety around electrical substations. Never enter an electrical substation for any reason. Even if a pet has entered inside or a ball goes over the fence, do not go in. Call the electrical utility for help. Substations should only be entered by professionals.

- Kites should only be flown during good weather conditions and in large, open areas like a park or a field. Always look up and check for the location of overhead power lines and other electrical equipment, so that you can be sure to fly kites far away from them. A kite string can conduct electricity from an overhead line directly to the person on the ground.

- Before climbing a tree, check that the tree and its branches are not located near any overhead power lines. Climbing a tree in contact with a power line can energize the tree with electricity and lead to electric shock or death.

- Never throw objects or shoot guns toward power lines.

- If you ever see downed electrical wires, stay far away. Call 911 to have the utility notified. Downed lines do not have to be arcing or sparking to be carrying electricity and be dangerous.

- Do not play with, tamper with, or open outdoor electrical boxes. They contain electrical equipment for underground service to homes and businesses.

- Check the forecast before going outside.

Do not plan outdoor activities if a thunderstorm is expected because there is no safe place from lightning when you are outside. It is important to



follow the advice of the National Weather Service, "When thunder roars, go indoors."

There are also steps parents and caregivers can take to help ensure safe outdoor play.

- Make sure all outdoor outlets are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to help prevent electric shock.

- Keep all long handled tools out of reach of children so they will not be tempted to reach for or accidentally hit an overhead power line.

- Pay attention to trees and power lines. Do not plant trees near them, and if there is a tree that has grown into a power line, make sure to call a professional to trim the tree.

Cooperatively

John Abrams

John Abrams

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, audiotope, 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 mail to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

March Rights-of-Way Schedule

In order to provide safe, reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. We do this through rights-of-way and vegetation management. This requires pruning, removing, and cutting brush to prevent vegetation from interrupting your electric service.

Throughout April, Xylem Tree experts will be trimming in the Mayo-Dunbar substation areas, which include: Hwy 97, Battleboro-Leggett Road, New Hope Church Road, Dunbar Road, West Logsboro Road, Spivey Road, Speights Chapel Road, White Oak Swamp Road, and surrounding areas.

**TRIMMED TREES =
BETTER SERVICE**



When you see us trimming trees near power lines, know that we are doing so because:

- **Tree and foliage overgrowth** can interfere with power distribution.
- **Power lines** can give off a spark or arc that may land on a nearby branch and ignite.
- The lights in your house may flicker when tree branches brush power lines during **high winds**.
- **Stormy weather** can cause nearby limbs to break off and land on power lines.
- Unobstructed power lines make it easier and **safer** for lineworkers to **maintain equipment** or **restore power**.

 **Safe
Electricity.org**

Along The LINE

ememc.com

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