



watts working

The Monthly Newsletter for Members of Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Take Charge of Your Energy Budget with

MyUSAGE.COM

Powers Awareness

MyUsage.com is a free power awareness program available to residential members that helps you save money by keeping you more aware of the energy you consume every day. With this program, you are able to monitor electricity use daily, rather than waiting to see the combined kilowatt-hour amount on monthly bills.

MyUsage will show participants how many kilowatt-hours were used for the day and the dollar-amount for those kWh based on REMC's rates. The program will also overlay the day's high and low temperatures on the usage chart, so that you're able to see how temperatures affect energy use.

"It's difficult to look at a monthly bill and understand the impact of changing temperatures or using different appliances on your energy costs. MyUsage.com is a free and easy way to almost immediately see the impact of these changes. Being able to change your actions based on daily feedback will help every member save energy and money,"

states Paul Caviness, Energy Use Advisor for Randolph EMC.

All Randolph Electric members can sign up for this free service. After a simple online registration process, you can start monitoring how much electricity you use each day, just like you watch the gas gauge in your car. When you sign up, you can also choose to receive daily use alerts by e-mail and high use alerts when your daily use exceeds a certain threshold that you determine for yourself.

Another added benefit of MyUsage.com is that it will be the portal for members who elect to participate in FlexPay, a new billing option that allows members to prepay for their electricity. FlexPay is still in the testing phase at this time, but will be available to members soon.

To learn more about this exciting value-added service, please visit our website at www.RandolphEMC.com.



Attention, Teachers!

The final deadline for submitting a Bright Ideas application is **Sept. 20**

Randolph EMC offices will be closed **September 2** for Labor Day



Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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SWAPSHOP

For Sale

Couch \$150. Rocker recliner \$50. Black & white. 919-837-5174.

Two glass-top oak end tables & matching coffee table. GC \$150. Polaris 4-wheeler, 4x4, auto transmission. \$950. Pack-N-Play, GC \$25. 910-572-2667 or 910-572-7560.

Two 1998 Toyota Sienna Van Hubcaps 15" \$50. Contact aegplayer@embarqmail.com.

Tall pickup truck cap, fits Ford w/6.5-ft bed, white. Sliding side windows & fold down front window, interior light, new condition. \$700. 336-879-2731 or 336-460-0704.

Cleaned deer corn, 50-lb. bag \$7.50. 336-622-2480 or 336-736-0390.

1920s wheat drill, GC, kept inside. \$1,000. 336-381-3513.

New full-size, UWS brand, diamond plate truck toolbox. \$165. 910-572-3718.

New Total Gym. All paperwork included. \$300. 910-948-3234 or 910-948-3607.

3 standard interior solid wood doors. \$50 ea. 910-464-2758.

Niroyal Tire P195/75R14 92S, like new \$35. White handrail for 3 steps \$25. 336-629-5240.

Hay 4x5 rolls, dry in barn \$15/roll. 919-545-4191.

1996 Chevrolet Astro Van, GC, seats 8, new tires, 25,000 miles on new motor, \$5,000 neg. Also 3 tires, 1 rim, size 225 60R17, \$200 OBO. 336-629-5694 or 336-953-6518.

11 vol. *Our Living World of Nature, Forest, Jungle, Seashore, etc.*, \$30. 9 vol. *The Book of Life*, 1963 edition \$40. 2 vol. 1979 World Book dictionary, \$15. UNCC Yearbook 1974-1976, \$10. 1970 World Book Atlas \$5. 336-288-4741.

Gas grill, western books, new handmade quilts—F,Q,K, \$100 - \$150. 336-625-4548.

Organic fescue mix, square bales horse quality hay, 40- 50 pounds. Out of field, \$2.8+, barn \$4+. Liberty area. Pat at 336-317-4105.

50-lb bag feed wheat \$9/bag. 336-622-2480.

For Rent

2/3 BR, 1 BA house in the Coleridge area. Central heat/air. No inside pets. Appliances available. \$500/month + deposit. 336-629-2752.

Members, email Swap Shop items to General@RandolphEMC.com

Get an **A+** in Dorm Safety This Fall

A lack of automatic sprinkler systems, disabled smoke alarms, careless smoking, unattended candles, and cooking, as well as overloaded extension cords and power outlets, are among the most common causes of campus fires.

Because many residences halls were built before students arrived with computers, CD players, microwaves, and refrigerators, wiring in dorms sometimes can't handle the increased electrical load. This makes it especially important not to overload circuits and follow university rules with regard to electricity use.



Help college students and others stay safe this fall with these tips:

- ✓ Do not overload extension cords, power strips, or outlets to avoid overheating and deterioration.
- ✓ Use adaptors in rooms with old-fashioned, two-prong outlets.
- ✓ Buy a power strip with an over-current protector. It will shut off power automatically if too much power gets drawn.
- ✓ If an outlet is hot to the touch, unplug appliances immediately and notify the resident assistant. It could be a potential fire hazard.
- ✓ Do not connect multiple extension cords together.
- ✓ Do not route extension cords under carpet or doors. Do not staple or puncture through extension cords.
- ✓ Look for the UL (Underwriters Laboratories) mark on any electrical product you use.
- ✓ Use lightbulbs with the correct wattage for lamps. The wattage specification should be indicated near the bulb socket.
- ✓ Always supervise the use of hot plates. They can easily start a fire if left unattended.

CONTACT US

Electric Service:

Asheboro(336) 625-5177
.....(800) 672-8212
Robbins Area:(910) 948-3401
.....(800) 868-7014

Power Failures:(877) REMC-OFF
(1-877-736-2633)

Bill Payments:(877) 534-2319

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Jill Vanness Director of Communications, Editor

Auditing Energy: Small Measures, Real Savings

No matter the age of your home, it could benefit from an energy audit. Randolph EMC offers free home energy audits conducted by energy use advisors as a value-added service for our members. But you can get started on your own in finding low-cost solutions that could save money on your monthly electric bill.

TRACK DOWN LEAKS

First, ask yourself a simple question: Does my home feel drafty and cold in the winter, or stuffy and hot in the summer? If yes, then it probably experiences air leakage.

To track down where those spots are, start with the usual suspects—like damaged seals around doors and windows. If you see daylight or feel air, then apply caulk and weather stripping to keep outdoor air where it's supposed to be.

But don't forget spots you might not immediately think of, like recessed canister lights and electrical outlets. Outlet insulation kits can be purchased for as little as \$2, and you can fix up your canister lights with some caulk around the edges. Also look where walls meet the ceiling. Cobwebs mean you've got drafts.

SEE THE LIGHT

Next, look to your light fixtures. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) are up to 75 percent more efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs, and they've come a long way in light quality, design, and affordability. You

can purchase CFLs in a variety of shapes and hues. LEDs—light-emitting diodes—are in the next wave of residential lighting. An ENERGY STAR-rated model is estimated to use only a quarter of the electricity consumed by traditional bulbs and can last for 25 years. As with many new technologies, the up-front cost for an LED bulb is still much more than even a CFL, but prices are expected to drop as new products are developed.

MONITOR WITH MY USAGE.COM

Finally, sign up for Randolph EMC's new energy monitoring program, MyUsage.com. It's a great benefit of your co-op membership that can help you take control of your energy consumption. Monitoring on a regular basis will help you recognize patterns in your day-to-day usage, as well as how variations in your routine—such as hosting a houseguest or taking a vacation—can affect your bill. By knowing how much you are using on a daily basis, you can make decisions on the best ways to reduce your consumption.

Sources: EnergySavers.gov, Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, EnergyStar.gov

Lost Your Co-op Connections Card?

Q Help! I've lost my Co-op Connections Card, and I need to fill a prescription next week. How can I get a replacement?

A Don't worry, you can just print another one! If you lose your Co-op Connections Card, just log on to

Randolph EMC's Co-op Connections page and click on Healthy Savings. Next, click the button that says "Print My Card," fill in your name and choose Randolph Electric Membership Corporation as your provider. Then just print a paper card that participating health providers and other businesses will accept!

Your Co-op Connections Card is good for 10% to 85% discounts on prescription drugs at several national and local pharmacies in central North Carolina, including CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart.

Be sure to show the pharmacist the **back** of your card when getting prescriptions for the fastest service.



Show Your Card to Welcome These Local Businesses!

Randolph Telephone

3733 Old Cox Rd., Asheboro

(336) 879-5684 | www.RTMC.net

- 15% off computer services labor
- 3 months SecureIT anti-virus protection free with computer services purchase (one computer services discount per visit)
- Buy One, Get One Half off wireless cell phone accessories (half off equal or lesser value).

Maness Tire & Automotive

1066 Albemarle Road, Troy

(910) 576-0000 | www.manestire.com

- 10% off oil change

AWARE

a word about Randolph Electric

by Dale F. Lambert, CEO

Dear Members,

Advancements and new discoveries in technology occur at an amazing pace. I'm old enough to remember when our home telephone was connected to a party line that was shared with neighbors. When the only way to communicate to someone was to either make a phone call or send a letter. My first cell phone came in a large bag and you sure couldn't carry it around in your pocket, yet my current cell phone is even more advanced than the computer I used just a few years ago.

Our kids cannot fathom a life without technology (the way we grew up). Just think of the technology you are using today that didn't even exist 10 years ago. Think of the advancements that have been made just in the last five years! No doubt, most of these improvements add value and efficiency in the workplace and in our personal lives.

Research performed in 2012 among electric cooperative members nationwide revealed that over 80 percent of households owned a PC, laptop or tablet, and the same percentage were connected to the Internet. The research also revealed that smart phone ownership continues to grow, with 41 percent of members owning one today. That is an increase of 14 percent over the previous year. For 18 to 34 year olds, the percentage of ownership was 77 percent for 2012.

From party lines to cell phones, one thing hasn't changed—folks still rely on phones to communicate with each other. I know, I know, most people don't use their cell phones too much for talking anymore, but it's still a way for folks to be in touch if they need to be. That's why having your current phone number—or numbers, as the case may be—is so important to Randolph Electric.

First of all, when you call to report an outage, our system immediately recognizes your telephone number and logs your location on our map, which saves a tremendous amount of time in an outage situation. This also means that we can contact you if we have a question about an outage that you've reported. In addition, we are able to let you know about planned outages in your area, so you can plan accordingly when they are scheduled.

REMC also uses your phone number to contact you about issues regarding your bill. A few years ago, the cooperative switched from sending out paper past-due notices to sending out a notification via phone message. We were able to save nearly \$60,000 per year in postage, paper and manpower costs by doing this.

At Randolph EMC, we have embraced technology advancements and proven solutions to add value and improved services that benefits our members. Since completing our automated metering infrastructure, we have been able to implement new services for members, including MyUsage.com and FlexPay. I'm sure you read the front-page article about MyUsage.com, the energy-monitoring tool now available for members to use. FlexPay is a new program that will allow you to prepay for your electric service. It, too, will utilize phone numbers to communicate with members who participate.

It doesn't appear that we will stop using phone numbers to communicate with members anytime soon, and we hope to be able to communicate through email in the future. I urge you to fill out and send in the card below so that we may update your account with your current phone numbers and email addresses to improve our communications with you moving forward. You may also update your contact information on our website at www.RandolphEMC.com. Thank you for your cooperation!

Cooperatively Yours,



Dale F. Lambert, Chief Executive Officer



Please Update My Contact Information!

Member Name _____

CIN Number _____

Phone Numbers _____

Email Addresses _____