



Watts Working

Why Electric Vehicles Are Part of Our Brighter Future

As a member of Randolph EMC, you may be familiar with our Brighter Future vision of serving this community by providing safe and reliable access to affordable, increasingly sustainable energy. As we work toward this vision, it is critical that we appropriately stay ahead of trends to ensure we meet the emerging power needs of our member-consumers.

A significant emerging trend across the nation is consumer adoption of electric vehicles. In 2020, a survey provided exclusively to members of electric cooperatives across the nation showed that 1 in 6 co-op members are likely to consider an electric vehicle as their next car. Although that may not seem like a critical mass, our engineers are planning for this increased electric demand to ensure continued reliability. And just as importantly, we're preparing to provide solutions to our members making the switch.

Because we know interest in these vehicles is on an upward trajectory, we are making investments now to build public charging stations in our local community. Doing so will facilitate the electric vehicle

experience for drivers locally while making sure our region remains open for tourism, commerce, and economic development opportunities.

Randolph EMC currently has four Level 2 Charging Stations installed at the N.C. Zoo and one DC Fast Charger at the McDonald's near Randolph Mall in Asheboro. Soon, we will install a DC Fast Charging Station in Montgomery County near Lake Tillery, as well.

If charging is managed appropriately, electric vehicles can significantly benefit the electric grid in ways that will not impact reliability and affordability of electricity. When charged at night, EVs add load to the grid when it is historically most underused. Power is the most expensive at peak demand hours, like late afternoon in



the summer and early morning in the winter. Nighttime EV charging spreads the load across the 24 hour-day cycle and helps to flatten the expensive, peak demand times. This is an area we will continue to research.

We hope that you join us in celebrating National Drive Electric Week September 25–October 3 this year. Follow Randolph EMC on social media, where we will share lots of information about electric vehicles and Drive Electric events happening locally. In the meantime, you can learn more at [NCDriveElectric.com/RandolphEMC](https://www.ncdriveelectric.com/RandolphEMC).

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CheckOut a New Way to Pay Your Bill

Randolph EMC's new program CheckOut by PayGo allows members to pay their electric bill with cash at their favorite local convenience shops, like Dollar General, CVS Pharmacy, Walgreens, Family Dollar and more! Simply ask the cashier to scan your PayGo barcode, tell them how much you'd like to pay towards your bill and the payment will post to your account immediately. A \$1.50 convenience fee applies.

Three easy steps to use CheckOut by PayGo!

1 *Get your barcode on the back of your bill or online*—Print it, email it to yourself, or save it as a picture on your mobile device.

2 *Find locations*—Look for the closest participating retailer that can scan your barcode to post a payment.

3 *Scan barcode at cashier*—When you are ready to pay your REMC bill, simply have the cashier scan the barcode and tell them how much you want to pay. It's that easy!

To get your CheckOut by PayGo barcode online, visit RandolphEMC.com/CheckOut and:

- ▶ Enter your REMC account number without any dashes
- ▶ Press 'Find Your Account'
- ▶ Verify the house number of your street address
- ▶ Press "Get Your Barcode"
- ▶ Print, email or snap a picture of your barcode



Happy Labor Day!

Randolph EMC offices will be closed
Mon., Sept. 6, 2021, for Labor Day.

Educators, the Bright Ideas Application Deadline is Approaching—Apply Now!

K-12 teachers, the 2021 Bright Ideas education grant program application deadline is almost here! To apply for project funding for the 2021-22 academic school year, submit your application on or before September 15, 2021. This year, Randolph EMC will award \$14,000 in grant funding to teachers with innovative, hands-on learning experiences that will enrich the lives of students.

To apply, teachers need to include a proposed budget, outline a plan for implementation and evaluation, as well as have a stamp of approval from the school's principal. All applicants must meet eligibility requirements. For more information and to check your eligibility status, please contact Nicole Arnold, Communications and Public Affairs Manager, at Nicole.Arnold@RandolphEMC.com or 336-625-5177.



To learn more about the program and apply online, visit NCBrightIdeas.com. Stay up to date with the Bright Ideas Education Grant program by following [NCBrightIdeas](#) on Facebook!



Report from the Field: My Youth Tour Experience

With Kristen Jensen, 2021 REMC Youth Tourist

Each year Randolph EMC joins other cooperatives around the nation to select 1,600 of our brightest and best students for the annual Youth Tour. Traditionally in this educational program, students travel to Washington, DC, for a week of educational programming.

Communications and Public Affairs Manager Nicole Arnold interviewed our 2021 winner, Kristen Jensen, a rising senior at Uwharrie Charter Academy, to get some insight into her experience at this year's virtual Youth Tour. Kristen is a student athlete and is especially fond of the subjects of English and History. She also demonstrates leadership in her community through her service with the Ulah Volunteer Fire Department.

Q: When was the Youth Tour this year?

A: The tour began Sunday, June 20, and met through Saturday, June 26.

Q: How did you participate in the Youth Tour this summer?

A: My youth tour experience varied from the typical opportunity to visit Washington, DC, and meet in person. Rather, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were hosted on a virtual platform in which we met other youth tourists throughout North Carolina and multiple different speakers via Zoom. Although this platform was not the original concept of the Youth Tour, the organizers greatly adapted to the circumstances and still provided us with the best and safest alternative possible.

Q: What did you learn about during the virtual Youth Tour sessions each day?

A: We learned a great deal about our country's capital and about the representatives who make the decisions for us. I was beyond thankful for the opportunity given to me by Randolph Electric Membership Corporation to spend a short time learning about a myriad of important topics including different types of cooperatives, political information, financial guidance, and planning.

Q: What are your top two takeaways from the programming this year?

A: Each of the subjects discussed opened my eyes to the importance of sharing the knowledge we possess to create a better world around us. I also really valued that the speakers emphasized the importance of voicing our opinions to create change within in our environments and communities.

Thank you, Kristen, for being an outstanding representative of Randolph EMC's youth!



Randolph EMC's PHP Board Announces

Community Grant Winners

In August the People Helping the People (PHP) Board of Directors announced awards totaling \$20,000 in Community Grants to benefit charitable nonprofits in Randolph, Chatham, Moore, Montgomery, and Alamance Counties.

"For seven years, People Helping People has given back to the community through this grant program," said Communications and Public Affairs Director Nicole Arnold. "The Board is excited to announce an increase in the total amount awarded, \$20,000, up from \$15,000 last year. This amount represents a significant investment in the organizations that help the members in our five-county service area."

The Board of Directors for PHP, a nonprofit program of Randolph EMC, awards grants that contribute to the health and well-being of individuals, financial support for income-challenged families, or education advancement through enriching learning opportunities. Each of the recipient organizations below exemplify a mission that aligns with one more of these goals:

Spirit Horse Ranch Education Center: \$1,000 to support a children's reading program that provides a unique, outdoor learning environment centered around therapeutic interaction with horses.



PHP gave a \$1,000 grant to Spirit Horse Ranch Education Center to support a children's reading program centered around therapeutic interaction with horses.

Habitat for Humanity of Randolph County: \$1,000 to assist with home-building costs for a single mother and child.

Randolph Senior Adults Association: \$2,000 to provide additional funding to meet the increased need for senior adults to receive a nutritious meal.

Boys and Girls Club of the Sandhills: \$1,250 to fund Summer Brain Gain, a STEM and literacy program that fights against learning loss and provides quality learning experiences.

Jordan Memorial United Methodist Church: \$1,250 for a Back to School Bash, an event open to the public in which students receive backpacks filled with school supplies.

West Chatham Food Pantry: \$2,000 to purchase food for Chatham County residents in need.

Arts Council of Moore County: \$2,000 to provide arts education for the most vulnerable youth at six economically disadvantaged schools in the REMC service area.

Three Rivers Land Trust: \$500 to build a trail shelter on the Uwharrie Trail, which runs through Montgomery and Randolph Counties.

Randolph County Family Crisis Center: \$2,000 to replace window blinds at a shelter for the protection and privacy of victims of domestic violence.

Sandhills Student Association: \$1,000 to purchase food, clothing, and hygiene items for at-risk students in Moore County schools.

Montgomery Community College Foundation: \$2,000 to purchase equipment for the Success Studio, a place where residents and students can learn free of cost how to conduct a virtual job interview.

Chatham Literacy Council: \$2,000 to provide instructional materials for Transforming Lives, an English to Speakers of Other Languages program that helps adult learners improve their job opportunities and become self-sufficient members of their communities.

Robbins Area Christian Ministries: \$2,000 to purchase food for residents in need in the Robbins area.

This is the seventh year that Randolph EMC has partnered with CoBank, a cooperative lender, to fund the Community Grants initiative. Through its Sharing Success program, CoBank awarded \$10,000 to People Helping People. Randolph EMC matches this donation annually to fund its Community Grants program. The PHP Board of Directors then oversees the grant-awarding process. Since 2015, Randolph EMC's PHP program has invested \$86,700 in Community Grants.

Let's Beat the Peak Together

As a member of Randolph EMC, you know how to make smart energy choices that help you save money. But did you know that **when** you use electricity can be just as important as **how much** you use?

Throughout the day, energy use fluctuates based on consumer demand. Typically, most households use larger amounts of electricity in the morning when most people are getting ready for their day, and in the evenings when people return from work, cook dinner, wash clothes and watch television.

When people in our community use more electricity at the same time, we call these intervals "peak" hours. These are typically between 6:00 and 8:00 a.m. in winter and 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. in summer. The cost for Randolph EMC to provide power is higher during these times because of the additional demand for electricity.

By shifting some of your energy use to hours when demand is lower, also known as off-peak hours, you can save money on your energy bills and help keep rates lower for our community.

Here are a few easy ways you can shift energy use to off-peak hours:

- ▶ Adjust your thermostat. During summer months, raise the thermostat a few



Wash full loads of clothes in cold water during off-peak hours.

degrees during peak hours.

- ▶ Wash full loads of clothes in cold water during off-peak hours.
- ▶ Run the dishwasher right before you go to bed, or air-dry dishes by opening the dishwasher instead of using the heated dry cycle.
- ▶ Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. (Try to make this a daily habit, whether during peak or off-peak hours.)
- ▶ There are many ways to save energy and money by making a few minor adjustments to your daily routine. You can even be rewarded for this behavior by switching to Randolph EMC's Time-of-Use rate!

We're here to help. Contact our Energy Use Advisors if you have questions about your energy bill or for additional energy-saving tips.

Extend your summer daylight hours with an outdoor security light

Fall is coming soon, but that doesn't mean you have to give up your evening outdoor activities. Randolph EMC's outdoor security lights provide a safe environment around your home in a variety of options for an affordable fee added to your electric bill.

Call your local office or visit RandolphEMC.com for outdoor security light styles and pricing.



Energy Efficiency Tip

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills. By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

Source: energy.gov

A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert

SAFETY ON THE FARM

Dear Members,

The instant a serious accident happens, it seems the world stops turning and what was considered important five minutes earlier becomes irrelevant. Most of us have been in this situation at some point in our lives.

At Randolph EMC, safety is the top priority among our employee team. My message communicated regularly is, "The most important part of your job is working safe and going home to your families every day."

This month, I want to hit on a topic that relates to the safety of our members, and in particular, our farmers. With the increasing size of farm equipment, augers, and spray booms, we are seeing more incidents of farm machinery coming into contact with our power lines and electrical equipment. This is a significant safety hazard that can result in serious injury or death.

I still have a tractor that requires you to shift into a higher gear if you want air conditioning. But many farmers reap the benefits of advancements in agricultural technology. With the help of GPS-guided auto-steer devices, farmers can decrease driver error and maximize productivity. Yet, despite these advances, many safety risks remain.

The week of September 19th through 25th is National Farm Safety and Health Week. In the spirit of this important nationally designated week, I would like to offer you some vital tips to keep in mind. Randolph EMC is a member of the Safe Electricity program. They provide safety information to assist us in promoting safety awareness in a number of ways. Here are some recommendations from them.

- ▶ In equipment with auto-guidance systems, drivers can place less focus on steering, and this can lead some drivers to think that they do not need to be as aware of navigation issues. But even while using a GPS with auto-steering, farmworkers need to keep safety in mind and stay focused on their surroundings.
- ▶ Putting safety first requires alertness, attention, and understanding of potential hazards and safety steps. Potential issues, such as power poles not being correctly plotted in the system, reinforce the need for drivers to stay focused on the location of the farm equipment while in the field and to be ready to take action if necessary.
- ▶ Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- ▶ Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines at all times, in all directions.
- ▶ Look up and use care when moving any equipment, such as extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- ▶ Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- ▶ Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- ▶ Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- ▶ If a power line is sagging or low, contact Randolph EMC immediately.
- ▶ If equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab or equipment. Call Randolph EMC immediately, or 911 if you do not have our number handy, and warn others to stay away until a crew arrives to safely disconnect the power.
- ▶ The only reason to exit any equipment in contact with power





Randolph Electric Membership Corporation provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to more than 32,000 member accounts in Randolph, Moore, Montgomery, Chatham and Alamance counties.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Electric Service

Asheboro (336) 625-5177
 (800) 672-8212

Robbins: (910) 948-3401
 (800) 868-7014

Report Outage (877) REMC-OFF
 (877) 736-2633

Account Info
 & Bill Payments: (877) 534-2319

Business Hours: 8 am – 5 pm, M-F

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Visit Randolph EMC Online

RandolphEMC.com



lines is if the equipment is on fire. If that is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and machinery at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, bunny hop or shuffle to safety as you leave the area.

Many of you have watched our Live-Line High Voltage Demonstration at past annual meetings or community events. To expand our ability in promoting this safety message, the Randolph EMC team has developed a new video of that demonstration. I commend their good work in putting together this top-notch video demonstration so we can share



Live-Line High Voltage Demonstration

it with a much broader audience than we ever could in person.

This and other safety videos are available to view at [Vimeo.com/RandolphEMC](https://vimeo.com/RandolphEMC). After you view the safety demonstration, I encourage you check out the other videos in our library. Here you will find all sorts of informative content—from storm safety guides to energy efficiency tips. There are also videos that highlight the cooperative's community involvement, as well.

Always remember when performing any job or task, safety should be the top focus. If a serious incident occurs, it certainly becomes the top priority at that time. Prevention is the key. We want our members and farmers to go home safe to their families every day.

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert
 Chief Executive Officer

REMEMBER ELECTRICAL SAFETY ON THE FARM

Farming equipment's wider and taller reach can increase the chances of making contact with an overhead power line or a utility pole.

Keep these safety tips in mind to stay safe on the farm:

Safe
Electricity.org



TRAIN OTHERS

Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, about electrical hazards.

SAFETY FIRST

Have daily meetings to review the day's work and discuss safety implications. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required, and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



WAIT TO UNFOLD

Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.

USE A SPOTTER

When working in the vicinity of power lines, always have a spotter on the ground.



DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB

If your machine or truck makes contact with a power line, pole, or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.

CALL 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 to have your electric utility dispatched to deenergize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with feet together as far as you can.



View Randolph EMC's safety video library at [Vimeo.com/RandolphEMC](https://www.vimeo.com/RandolphEMC) for more tips!