



Watts Working

REMC Celebrates Driving Electric with EV Event at NC Zoo

Plug-in electric vehicle drivers, supporters, and intrigued visitors of the North Carolina Zoo attended a recent event hosted by Randolph Electric Membership Corporation to celebrate National Drive Electric Week.

Several local and state dignitaries, Zoo executives and members of the public gathered at the Zoo's North America parking lot for a ribbon cutting to celebrate the expansion of the Zoo's electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and provide a hands-on opportunity for the public to learn about EVs.

"It was exciting to be part of this event and to educate the public on the advantages of electric vehicles," said Zoo Director and CEO Pat Simmons. "The event highlighted the evolving electric grid options in our state and aligns with the Zoo's commitment to sustainable green practices that reduce our impact on the natural world."



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Plug-in vehicles by Chevrolet, Ford, Nissan, Polestar, Tesla, and Volvo were on display for event attendees. Representatives from the Triad Electric Vehicle Association were also present with their EVs, along with other electric transportation options, including two-wheeled personal transporters, hoverboards, and electric bikes and golf carts.

This event also gave Randolph EMC the opportunity to share how the co-op is working with EV owners to evaluate their vehicles' impact on the electric grid. The Randolph EMC Electric Vehicle Utility Program (REVUP) offers members of the cooperative a \$500 rebate on a Wi-Fi enabled Level 2 EV Charger for their home, as well as a special time-of-use rate that encourages them to charge during off-peak hours when the demand for electricity is not as great.

"More of our members are asking about the benefits of EV ownership," said REMC's Director of Innovative Energy Solutions Michael Trent. "Randolph Electric is dedicated to making the central portion of North Carolina convenient for EV drivers by installing charging stations throughout our five-county service area."

About 80 percent of EV charging is done at home, however people consistently report one of the top reasons they're hesitant to switch from gasoline to electric is 'range anxiety,' or the fear that they'll run out of power before they reach their destination. To make EV adoption truly feasible, drivers need a convenient and accessible charging infrastructure. That's why Randolph EMC and the other 25 N.C. cooperatives are working together to create a network of charging stations throughout the rural areas of the state.



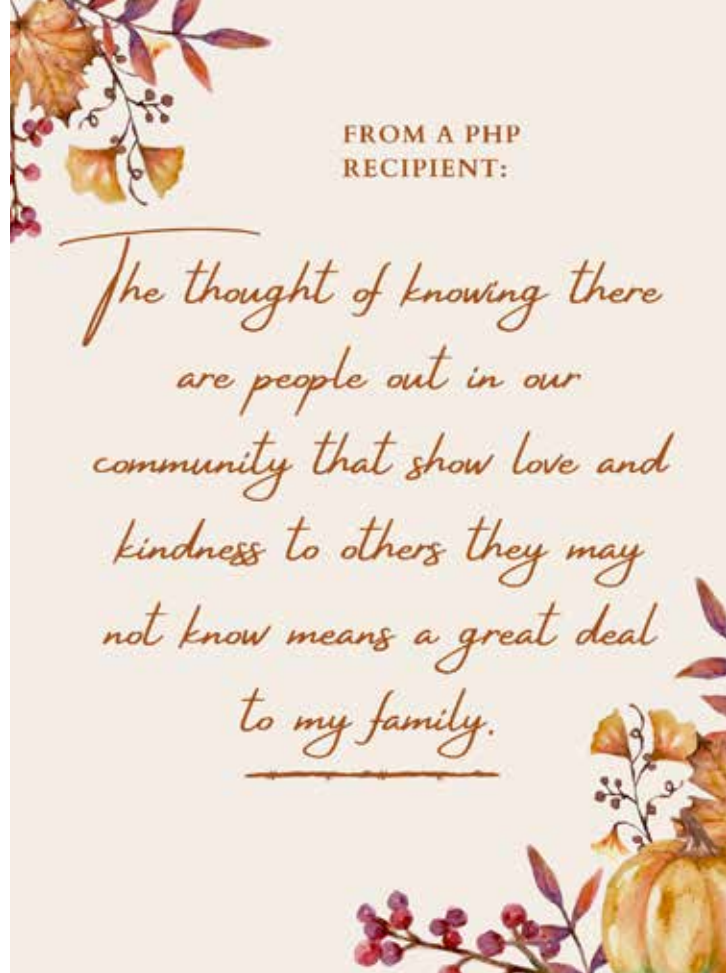
If you'd like to learn more about electric vehicles, visit Randolph EMC's comprehensive info site at RandolphEMC.com/EV.

Pay It Forward This Thanksgiving with PHP

The holiday season is the natural time to reflect upon all the things we have to be thankful for. It's also a perfect time to consider ways of helping those who are less fortunate than us so that they can have happy holidays, too. One easy, convenient way to help is through participating in Randolph EMC's People Helping People (PHP) program. PHP offers co-op members the option of having their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar every month, with those extra few cents going to benefit people in need within the co-op's service territory. On average, a member participating in PHP donates about \$6 a year by having his or her bills rounded up.

Co-op members may not recognize the impact that their small sacrifices can make. Many members send notes of gratitude after receiving a donation. One recipient said, "I was recently diagnosed with lung cancer. Requiring many expensive medical treatments to help with my illness, I applied for assistance through REMC's People Helping People Program. With approval from the PHP board, I received a check to help with my medical treatments. Thank you to the People Helping People program for your love and generosity, as your support has helped me during this difficult period in my life."

We would like to send a big "thank you" to all the co-op members who help their fellow members and communities through the People Helping People program. The easiest way to sign up for the program is to enroll online when you sign into your account on the Randolph EMC Member Service Portal. A member service specialist can also add PHP to your account.



FROM A PHP
RECIPIENT:

*The thought of knowing there
are people out in our
community that show love and
kindness to others they may
not know means a great deal
to my family.*

Extend Daylight Saving Time with an Outdoor Security Light!

Daylight Saving Time ends on November 7, 2021, 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.

HAPPY
Thanksgiving

Randolph EMC offices will be closed
Nov. 25 & 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Teach Children About Electrical Safety

Children often do not understand the danger of electricity and electrical equipment. In their innocent and imaginative minds, what can be potentially dangerous may go unnoticed or even appear enticing and fun. Take an opportunity to point out overhead power lines and any other electrical equipment to children and share these tips to keep them safe:

- ▶ Immediately seek shelter if lightning or thunder is present while playing outdoors.
- ▶ Never touch an electric appliance while in a pool or hot tub; keep all electrical appliances at least ten feet away from pools, ponds, and wet surfaces; and never swim in a pool or lake when a storm is brewing.
- ▶ Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- ▶ Drones, kites, or flying toys should be flown only during good weather conditions in large open areas, like an open park or a wide field.
- ▶ Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment is high voltage and could kill you.
- ▶ Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. These are often green metal "boxes" on cement pads and contain transformers.
- ▶ Never go into an electric substation, which contains high-voltage equipment. Never attempt to retrieve a pet, ball, or any toy from these areas. Call your electric utility instead.
- ▶ When designing a tree house or outdoor play area for children, take preventive precautions before starting your project.
- ▶ Do not install playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Installation of either will require digging; call your local underground utility locating service to have buried lines marked, so you can avoid serious injury and damage.
- ▶ Flooded areas are never safe spots to wade or play in, and if there has been severe weather, may be in contact with energized electrical equipment or fallen power lines.
- ▶ Make sure your family members know to stay away from downed power lines and wires and tell children to report any fallen or dangling wires to an adult. Downed power lines are dangerous; always assume any power line is energized and stay far away. Call your local utility immediately if you or your child encounters a downed power line.

Parents, keep these additional tips in mind when electrical dangers could be present:



Debit Card,
Credit Card,
& E-Check
Accepted

Pay with the
Randolph EMC
Mobile App
for a Chance
to Win a **\$50**
Bill Credit!

PLUS...

Each payment enters you
into a drawing for a Smart
Home Grand Prize Package!



Download
now!



3 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking for easy ways to lower your energy bills this winter? Here's a few tips from the Department of Energy:



Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep cold, drafty air out.



Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.



Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.



COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

- Clean oven burners regularly.
- Match the pan size to the burner you're using.
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible.

MAKE CASH PAYMENTS WHERE YOU SHOP



Walgreens FAMILY DOLLAR

DOLLAR GENERAL CVS pharmacy



1 GET

Get your Barcode Online or on the Back of Your Paper Bill



2 FIND

Find Participating Store Locations Near You



3 SCAN

Scan the Barcode at the Register and Pay Your Bill*

*\$1.50 Convenience Fee Applies

Get Your Barcode & Find Locations at RandolphEMC.com/Checkout

A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert



FOOTING THE BILL FOR BROADBAND EXPANSION SHOULDN'T FALL TO RANDOLPH EMC MEMBERS

Dear Members,

As I write this article at the beginning of October, we are celebrating National Co-op Month to recognize what makes co-ops different and the difference co-ops make. We did a deeper dive in October's AWARE column about Co-op Month. Cooperatives are local, independent, and governed by a board of directors elected by their member-owners. Cooperatives of all kinds exist not only to provide a service but to help their members and communities thrive.

I don't think anyone would disagree that rural North Carolina needs better access to broadband internet. Many of the communications co-ops in the state—like our local sister cooperative, Randolph Communications—have taken on the task of bringing future-proof fiber optic cable to rural homes and businesses. They are to be commended for their excellent work, extending their network even outside their initial footprint.

As a member-owner of Randolph

EMC—aside from also being your CEO—it concerns me to see some of the recent advertising spots from for-profit cable companies blaming the lack of rural broadband on electric utilities. These ads claim that electric cooperatives are blocking cable companies from using utility poles for broadband. But what are those ads not saying? That some for-profit cable companies want our members to bear the cost of extending their services.

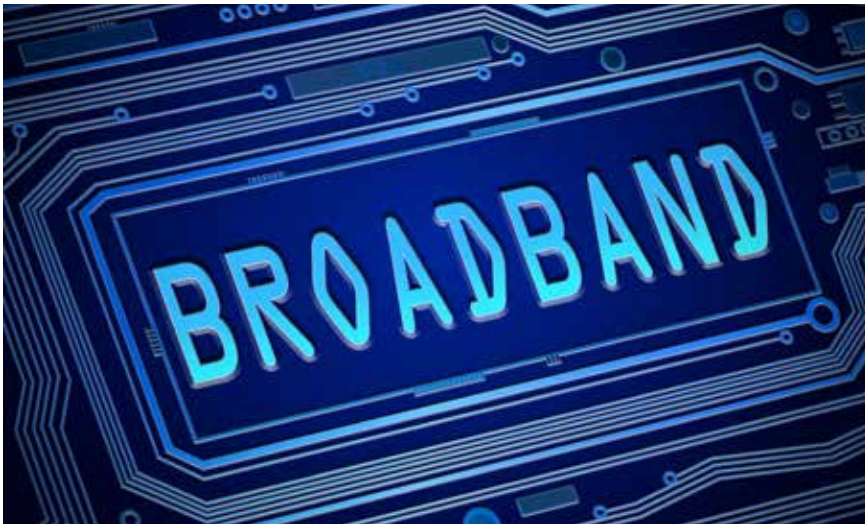
To deploy broadband, some cable companies choose to install their equipment and fiber optic cable onto the cooperative's existing utility poles. When a pole is incapable of safely accommodating these additions, the cable company can request that the pole be replaced or upgraded, if possible.

Under current law, companies attaching to the pole pay the full cost of replacing or upgrading these poles. They want to change that. This year they have pushed a proposal at the North Carolina General Assembly that would require electric co-ops' member-

owners to foot a significant portion of the bill for replacing and upfitting poles. Shifting these costs would reduce cable companies' costs and increase their profits at our members' expense. This is especially troubling considering there is more government funding available than ever before to support broadband infrastructure expansion.

This profit-driven proposal would ultimately raise electric bills for Randolph Electric members and co-op members across our state's rural communities. Cooperative businesses are different from for-profit companies whose profits benefit shareholders. Randolph EMC provides electric service at cost, which means any additional expense to the co-op is really an additional expense for the members who own it.

The large, Fortune 500 cable companies who have demanded that our legislators pass on pole replacement costs have already won millions of dollars in federal grants to fund the expansion of broadband services. Ironically,



these grant funds were meant to prevent the end-user—our rural members—from having to pay for the cost of broadband deployment.

Randolph Electric and the other 25 electric cooperatives in North Carolina have fought for our members for more than 80 years on issues that impact rural people, their pocketbooks, and our ability to serve communities with affordable, reliable, and sustainable electricity. This year, we have fought especially hard to prevent unnecessary broadband deployment costs from being passed on to you, our member-owners.

Randolph EMC has also worked diligently with partners in the General Assembly to close broadband service gaps in ways that are efficient and affordable. We appreciate the support we have received from our local legislators this far in the process. In 2021, we were proud to support two legislative advancements that removed hurdles to broadband deployment: The Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (“GREAT”) and Electric Co-op Rural Broadband Services laws. Additionally, co-ops worked with lawmakers to propose an accelerated timeline for replacing utility poles.

As I mentioned before, Randolph EMC has a great working relationship with our sister co-op, Randolph Communications, as they expand their fiber network into underserved areas. Whenever feasible, we coordinate our schedules to lay their fiber cable in our underground power line ditches, which helps provide efficiency for our members and theirs.

We know firsthand how important it is to make high-speed internet accessible to underserved communities. There is no indication that the for-profit cable companies have similarly volunteered to accelerate rural broadband deployment to these areas.

Cable companies have ignored rural North Carolina for years while co-ops have been here for generations, always advocating for what is right and fair for our member-owners. No matter the outcome of this or other legislative issues, we will continue to support the best interests of our members. It is an honor to do so.

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer



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



WHY IS MY POWER OUT ?

A storm or a squirrel may be to blame



When the power goes out, we work hard to resume service as quickly and safely as possible.

Here are some common reasons the power goes out:



STORMS:

Mother Nature can interfere with power delivery.



TREES AND VEGETATION:

This is why we work so hard to keep power lines clear.



ANIMALS:

Curious animals can cause damage, especially squirrels.



ACCIDENTS: Run-ins with a utility pole or other equipment can cause an outage.



PUBLIC DAMAGE: Unsafe digging, equipment or line damage, vandalism or theft can all interfere.



EQUIPMENT ISSUES: We maintain and inspect equipment regularly, but sometimes malfunctions occur.

Remember to report all outages to 1-877-736-2633.

Enroll in our SPOTT Alerts Outage Texting Program to stay connected during the restoration process. Learn more at RandolphEMC.com/SPOTT.