

# Watts Working

## Spring cleaning delivers safe, reliable power

Spring gives us a chance to thaw out after a chilly winter. Many of us take advantage of longer daylight hours by doing a little spring cleaning and yard work. But the seasonal shift isn't all good news. The rapid change from harsh, cold air to warmer temperatures can trigger severe weather. To protect our lines and keep power flowing safely to your home, Randolph EMC maintains our rights-of-way. Think of it as spring cleaning for power lines.

Right-of-way (ROW) maintenance keeps tree limbs and other obstacles away from high-voltage power lines. It's an important part of the service we provide to you, our members, for three reasons: safety, reliability, and cost.

Our primary concern is the safety of our workers and members. Properly maintained ROW keeps our crews safe when they are restoring service and maintaining our system. Keeping trees clear of power lines also keeps your family safe. From making sure a child's tree house doesn't hit power lines to creating a safe environment while doing yard work, a well-maintained ROW helps avoid tragedy.

If severe spring weather blows through, a well-maintained ROW leads to fewer outages and faster response time. Trees are

less of a threat. When trees *do* fall, crews are able to restore service more quickly than they could with poorly maintained areas.

As a not-for-profit company, REMC strives to keep costs affordable for you, our members. Maintaining our ROW is an important part of controlling costs. Fewer and shorter outages save money for everyone. When crews work in well-maintained areas, we can reduce risks for employees and equipment too—another way to keep costs low.

Safety, reliability, and cost: this is why we believe in ROW "spring cleaning." If we compromise on one of these areas, it impacts the others. At Randolph Electric, we aren't willing to compromise. Maintaining our ROW is a priority for your safety, comfort, and pocketbook.

**View REMC's right-of-way clearing schedule online at [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com).**



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### THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- B** Take action at [Action.coop](http://Action.coop)  
Co-op Connections Savings on Vision Care
- C** Last Call for Youth Program Applications  
Prepare for Summer Heat
- D** Dale Lambert's AWARE Column

# Stop Your Electric Bill from Going Up



Tell the government you can't afford costly regulation.



Visit [Action.coop](http://Action.coop)

## SAVINGS YOU CAN ACTUALLY SEE.



SHOW YOUR CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD AND **SAVE 10-60%** ON HEALTH-RELATED SERVICES, INCLUDING **VISION & DENTAL CARE.**

THE BEST PART? IT'S FREE TO MEMBERS OF RANDOLPH ELECTRIC. DISCOVER ALL THE WAYS YOU CAN SAVE TODAY AT [WWW.RANDOLPHEMC.COM](http://WWW.RANDOLPHEMC.COM).

**REMC Welcomes Time Square Pizzeria to Co-op Connections!**

**Enjoy 10% Off Your Total Bill**

(not valid with any other offer)

1220 E. Dixie Drive, Asheboro (Wal-Mart Shopping Center) | 336-626-2636  
[www.facebook.com/timesquarepizzeriasheboro](http://www.facebook.com/timesquarepizzeriasheboro)

## SWAP SHOP

### FOR SALE

Yuasa dial indicator 300-005 w/ base. Palmgren arbor press, 3 ton, never used. All for \$250. 336-879-5298.

1962 Ford Falcon, 2 door, less than 5,000 miles on rebuilt motor, 4 new tires, asking \$5,000. 910-464-2365.

Lightly used 8-piece dining room set by Broyhill with hidden leaf, 6 chairs, & matching cabinet. Very good condition, light in cabinet works. \$900. Eastwood area, Moore County. 910-947-5826.

Camper shell, fiberglass, fits Ford w/ 6.5 ft bed, EC, \$500. 336-460-0704.

Christmas items, wreaths, trees, etc. Decorative rugs, camping gear, clothes & shoes for men, women, children. 910-464-3894.

Whiskey barrels \$150 ea. Real oak 53 gallon barrels in A-1 condition. Great collector items. Possible local delivery. 336-302-4840.

3 mobile home doors: back, front & storm, frames included. \$100 ea or all for \$250. 336-381-3175.

2003 Montana 5th Wheel 30' fiberglass camper, like new. \$12,500. 910-439-5940.

York Piano & bench, \$150. 910-220-5718.

14 quarts Castrol 20/50 conventional motor oil \$30. 336-879-5468.

Craftsman Generator 5000 watts, used one day, \$250 firm. 1991 Class C Tioga Montana RV \$2,500. New handmade quilts, full, queen, & king, \$75 ea.. 336-625-4548.

1990 Ford F-700 Dump Truck, 14ft dump bed, 429 gas engine. 910-464-3459.

Leonard camper top, fits long bed truck, white, good shape. \$200. 336-498-3423.

1978 Chevy Dump truck, good hydraulics, no special driver's license needed. \$2,400. 910-603-3410.

Hardwood \$50 per load. Will split wood at your location too, Asheboro area. 336-302-1041.

1974 Ford 6400 2 Ton dump truck, 390 Engine, runs well, \$2700. 336-879-2826.

Wood \$75-\$100/load. (need wood splitter). 336-824-8445.

### FOR RENT

Mobile home space near High Falls, private lot. 910-464-3459.

SW mobile home, 3 bedroom on private lot near High Falls, \$450 deposit, \$450 per month. 910-464-3459.

**Members, email SwapShop items to [General@RandolphEMC.com](mailto:General@RandolphEMC.com)**

#### Electric Service

Asheboro .....(336) 625-5177  
 .....(800) 672-8212  
 Robbins: .....(910) 948-3401  
 .....(800) 868-7014  
 Power Failures: .....(877) REMC-OFF  
 .....(877-736-2633)  
 Bill Payments: .....(877) 534-2319  
 Office Hours: .....8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 ..... Monday-Friday

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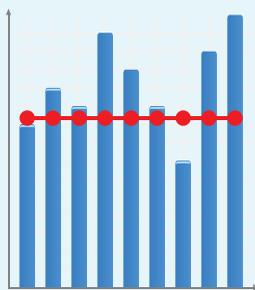
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## Budget Billing Helps You Plan

As we've seen in recent months, the weather can often take us on a roller-coaster ride, and the unpredictable ups and downs can be reflected on our electric bills.

Randolph EMC's Budget Billing program helps take the bumps

out. By averaging your energy costs based on your previous 12 months of consumption, your electric bill remains constant every month. Budget amounts are reviewed annually, and adjusted to reflect changes in your energy use or the cost of electricity. You are always



responsible for the actual balance on your electric bill, but you pay the budget amount monthly.

The program allows you to plan ahead for your energy expenses. There is no charge to join Budget Billing, and you may cancel at any time.

Think this sounds like the plan for you? Give us a call and we'll be glad sign you up or answer any questions you might have about the program.

Also, ask about our FlexPay program to see if it might be right for you. You'll have control over the amount you pay each month by paying in advance!

## Last Call for Entries...

Rising Juniors & Seniors, apply by **March 15th** to win a trip to **Washington, D.C., June 14-20**



Rising 6th-8th Graders, apply by **March 31st** to attend the **Roy Williams or Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camps** this summer.



**Applications Available at [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com) or at Your Local REMC Office**



## TOGETHER WE SAVE

### Prepare for Summer Heat, Increase Energy Savings

Adding a few items to your list of spring chores can help make your home more energy efficient and deliver electric bills that won't make you sweat when temperatures soar.



#### Start with your air conditioner.

Spring and early summer are good times to make sure that your air conditioning unit is ready to work when you flip the switch:

- Get help from a professional who can inspect and service your unit.
- Give your air conditioner a do-it-yourself cleaning. Shut the unit off, and clear away leaves and yard debris outside. Inside the unit, clean or replace filters that can restrict air flow and reduce overall efficiency by making the air conditioner work harder on hot summer days. Dust the fan blades if you can do so safely. Make sure air can flow freely over the inside and outside coils. Vacuum registers to remove any dust buildup.
- Check weather stripping. When using window units, ensure that weather stripping is in place. Placement should be between the middle of the top window pane and the bottom pane.



#### Check out your roof.

See how well your roof has weathered the winter. Few things can shorten the life of your home faster than a roof leak and even a minor one can damage your attic insulation before you know it. A roofing professional can assess and repair things like loose or missing shingles and leaks and clear gutters.



#### Make your electric cooperative a resource.

The energy advisors at Randolph EMC can help you determine the right steps for your home, including whether an energy audit will help find more savings. You can also visit [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com) to find out how little measures around the house can add up to big energy savings as temperatures outside climb.

# AWARE

*a word about*  
**Randolph Electric**

by Dale Lambert, CEO

## Dear Members,

Many times weather events have catchy names. I vividly remember the “Winter Hurricane” that dumped over two feet of snow in portions of the Randolph EMC service area in January, 2000. And there was the June 13, 2013, storm front that caused extensive damage in Montgomery County from a “microburst,” or very intense wind descending from storm clouds.

We now have a new name to add to our weather event repertoire: Polar Vortex. In early January, a low-pressure polar system dipped into the deep south and brought with it record cold temperatures. And cold it was! It seemed as if we had moved hundreds of miles closer to the Arctic Circle. It was a month of broken records and the numbers prove it.

On January 6th, the effects of the low pressure system were apparent with the evening temperatures dipping into the teens. By the morning of the 7th, central North Carolina was in the single digits.

In many cases, cold temperature records are broken with snow on the ground.

The snow insulates the earth and does not allow the natural heat to rise to elevate the temperatures. That was not the case this time, and we can only imagine what the temperatures would have been with a blanket of snow.

Just as a comparison, in January, 2013, there were fourteen days below 32 degrees. For this past January, there were 25 days below 32 degrees.

According to meteorologist Grant Gilmore with WFMY TV in Greensboro, this January had the most single degree days (three) since 1994, which had five days in the single digits. He also notes that over a span of eighteen years, the temperature has dropped into the single digits only three times—2004, 2000, and 1996—during the winter months.

A “heating degree day” is a measurement that reflects the demand for energy needed to heat a building. It is based on measurements of the outside air temperature.

For January 2014, heating degree days were 41 percent higher than January, 2013; 21 percent higher than the previous five-year average; and 24 percent higher than the previous 28 year average.

So the overall theme of this story is, high electricity demand and high energy usage. I’m writing this story the first of February and dread getting my electric bill for January.

### No Surprises with MyUsage.com

Let me get a plug in right here. I used REMC’s MyUsage.com program to track the daily energy usage for my home during this extremely cold weather. MyUsage is a free online service that allows residential members to monitor their daily energy consumption.

With MyUsage, you can:

- View the amount of energy used for the last 30 days, overlaid with the average temperature for each day.
- Sign up to receive an email with your previous day’s energy usage.
- Establish thresholds where alerts will be sent if your home’s energy use exceeds your predetermined setting.
- Download an app for your smart phone.

I strongly encourage you to go to RandolphEMC.com and sign up for MyUsage.com. I may not like my January power bill, but with MyUsage, at least I won’t be surprised when the bill comes!

### Record-Setting Weather

Randolph EMC’s previous all-time peak for demand was 143 megawatts in



January, 2009. We blew through that number four times in January, setting a new all-time demand peak of 159 megawatts on January 30th. Our energy purchases set a new record at 63,777,770 kilowatt-hours, which exceeded our January budget by 20.22 percent.

Even though there was extremely high usage for electricity during the month, one thing stayed constant—the price you paid. Unlike many other energy sources people use to heat their homes, Randolph EMC did not increase the price per kilowatt-hour. All of us who use electricity to heat our homes will definitely pay more, just like everyone else, due to using more energy, but you did not have a price increase on top of it.

As your cooperative builds and maintains the transmission and distribution system to deliver electricity to your homes and businesses, we plan for times like this past January. We have to design the electrical system to meet periods of extremely high demand, even though we rarely reach such levels. I am so pleased with how the electrical system performed during this event. It should prove our goal of delivering dependable electric service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Storms will come and cause power outages. But we are here to provide the level of service you expect, and we expect nothing less from ourselves.

Cooperatively Yours,

Dale F. Lambert,  
Chief Executive Officer