

# Watts Working

## Maintaining a Strong Rural America with the Farm Bill

Every five years, the U.S. Congress considers the Farm Bill, a bill that has huge implications for America's electric cooperatives, including Randolph EMC. The bill sets food and agriculture policy for the entire nation, affecting everything from what crops are grown to funding for food nutrition programs. The Farm Bill is due to be reauthorized by the federal government this year.

The Farm Bill is about much more than agriculture policy. It promotes rural economic development and allows co-ops to finance basic electrification activities, deploy high-speed communications and enhance smart grid technologies. Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), our national service organization, America's electric cooperatives are working to ensure lawmakers in Washington know what rural priorities are for the 2018 Farm Bill. Here are a few.

### Rural Broadband

Increasing high-speed internet access is a priority for many rural communities. Broadband access isn't a luxury—it's a necessity. But 34 million Americans in mostly rural areas lack access to high speed internet. So, co-ops have asked Congress to use the Farm Bill to provide significant funding for broadband loans and grants to all viable Internet providers.

### Economic Development

Co-ops aren't just electricity providers. They are engines of economic development—powering and



empowering the communities they serve. The Farm Bill's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program is an important source of financing for economic development projects in rural communities. Locally, Randolph EMC has utilized these funds to provide low-interest loans for businesses, as well as much-needed emergency equipment to fire departments in our service territory. Co-ops have asked Congress to ensure ample funding for this program in the next Farm Bill and beyond.

### USDA Rural Development

The health of our nation is dependent on a healthy rural America. Rural America grows most of the food, generates much of the power and manufactures many of the goods consumed by the nation. USDA's office of Rural Development operates many different programs that provide fundamental assistance to those rural communities. Co-ops have asked Congress to maintain a strong rural development in the Farm Bill to reaffirm the importance of these programs.

We look forward to working with Congress and other stakeholders to pass a Farm Bill that promotes economic growth in rural America and allows co-ops across the nation to continue meeting the needs of their members.

## INSIDE...

**B** How Extreme Temperatures Affect Bills

**C** Tools to Stay Connected During Outages

**E** 2018 Rural Electric Youth Tourist Selected

**F** Dale Lambert's AWARE Column

**H** Get Security Lighting FREE for 3 Months



# The Big Chill

## How Extreme Temperatures Affect Energy Bills

Chances are, when you received your electric bill following January's record-breaking cold temps, you noticed the bill was higher than normal. No, we didn't raise electric rates, you're seeing how extreme temperatures affect electricity use, and ultimately the electric bill.

As Dale Lambert mentions in this month's AWARE Column on page F, our area experienced 201 consecutive hours with below-freezing temperatures. Such a significant drop in temperatures causes heating systems and water heaters to work harder in order to sustain heat. In addition, many people were shut in due to snow and ice and weren't at work or school. People also used stand-alone space heaters for supplemental heat, which also increases energy use.

When temperatures drop, electric heating systems use more energy in order to sustain the temperature inside the home, usually in the form of auxiliary heat. Auxiliary heat can use more than three times the energy that your heat pump uses, which could result in up to three times your normal energy bill.

According to Energy Services Manager Paul Caviness, "a good rule of thumb is, once the outside temperatures reach 30 degrees below your thermostat's set point, you will notice auxiliary heat running. The lower the temps fall below that 30-degree difference, the more auxiliary heat will run."

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"Even homes with heating systems using natural gas, propane or oil likely used more electricity than usual," Caviness added. "This is because the majority of these heating units also require some use of electricity, such as electric fans that must circulate heated air."

The same can be true for water heaters if they are located in unconditioned spaces such as a garage or basement. If a water heater is located in an area that is cold, it must run longer in order to sustain the temperature of the water. An increase in energy use causes an increase in energy bills.

We encourage each member to take advantage of the following tools we have available to help you manage your energy use:



### Usage Monitoring

Monitor your usage on a daily basis to be better informed about how much electricity you use on a daily basis. Shown in an easy-to-read chart form, you can overlay the day's high and low temperatures and even drill down to see the hourly usage for each day. Sign in to your account on the online Member Service Portal and view your history under the MyUsage tab.



### High Usage Alerts

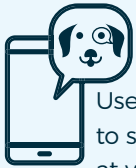
Once you determine the average amount of energy you typically use in a day, you can set a dollar amount close to this as your threshold. When you use more than this amount in a day, you'll receive an alert, which can help identify issues with appliances or act as a notification to scale back on your energy use.



### FlexPay

FlexPay allows members to pre-pay for their electricity, much like putting gas in a vehicle—one gallon at a time or with a full tank. You'll no longer have a due date and can better manage your budget by tracking your daily usage and account balances.

# Stay Connected & Informed During a Power Outage with These Convenient Tools



## SPOTT Alerts

Use the convenience of text messaging to stay connected during a power outage at your service location. Make sure your mobile number is listed in your account, then text TEXTREMC to 1-877-736-2633 to enroll. After that, text this number to report an outage, request the status of an outage, and be notified when power has been restored.



## Outage Map

[Outages.RandolphEMC.com](http://Outages.RandolphEMC.com)

See the number of current outages across REMC's system, along with an estimated number of how many members are affected. The site updates every two minutes to give you the latest information. The outage map is also integrated directly in REMC's mobile app.



## Outage Reporting Hotline 1-877-736-2633

Whenever you experience a power outage, you should report it to 1-877-736-2633. This automated system will recognize your location and immediately alert dispatchers of the outage. It will also tell you the status of the outage if it has already been reported. Keep this number handy if a storm is in the forecast!



## Web & Social Media

Stay connected with REMC online at [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com) and on Facebook & Twitter. We'll post frequent updates and share photos and other emergency information.

[RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com)

[Facebook.com/RandolphEMC](https://www.facebook.com/RandolphEMC)

[Twitter.com/RandolphEMC](https://twitter.com/RandolphEMC)

# YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

*Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!*

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



# Sharing Success with Community Grants

Randolph EMC's People Helping People program was recently awarded \$5,000 as part of cooperative lender CoBank's Sharing Success Matching Grant Program. The Sharing Success program was started in 2012 as a way to give back to co-ops and the nonprofits they support. Under the program, CoBank allocates \$3 million annually to match charitable contributions by cooperatives to nonprofit organizations in their local communities, up to \$5,000 per co-op.

"As a local nonprofit organization established to help Randolph EMC members in times of hardship, People Helping People is a perfect fit for Co-Bank's Sharing Success program," said Jill Vanness, Director of Member and Public Relations for REMC.

"With Randolph EMC's \$5,000 contribution combined with CoBank's \$5,000 match, we can designate these additional funds to extend PHP's charitable reach to help a greater number of members on a broader spectrum," she added.

The member-led PHP Board of Directors reviews the grant requests to carefully select which programs benefit REMC members most. The extra charge that members contribute to PHP on their monthly bills is reserved for individual assistance referrals and is not used in the community grants program.



## Apply for Grant Funds Now!

Registered 501(c)(3) organizations in Alamance, Moore, Montgomery, Chatham and Randolph counties are eligible to apply for funding up to \$2,000. The funds should be used to implement programs or purchase needed equipment to facilitate a program that will help make a positive impact in the communities where Randolph EMC member-owners reside. Priority will be placed on projects that:

- Positively impact and address an unmet need for a significant number of community members
- Have the potential to serve a broad and diverse range of community members
- Contain measurable short-term outcomes within 12 months

For questions, or to learn more, visit [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com) or contact Kathleen Duckworth at (336) 625-5177. Grant applications will be accepted March 1 - May 31, 2018.

## Swap Shop

### For Sale

Queen Sleeper Sofa, made in NC. Camelback style, rolled arms, blue/multi tweed plaid, innerspring mattress that was rarely used, EC, \$150. 910-464-5661.

1991 Bonneville Pontiac. Kenmore 70 Series Clothes Dryer. Coldspot Chest Freezer, full-size. 336-498-2073.

1994 Buick Roadmaster 8 Passenger Station Wagon. Corvette-based 260hp LT1 5.7 L 350 cu in V8 w/224K miles, Firestone radials w/10K miles. 4x8 ft cargo space. Cruise, power seats & windows, roof rack, moon roof, all records. \$3985. 910-464-5661.

1969 Ford 3000 Diesel tractor, 8-speed transmission, power steering, rebuilt pump and injectors, skid plate. \$3,800. 910-947-4743.

Jazzy Power Chair, new, \$1800. Exercise chair, new, \$50. 336-460-5250.

1986 Chevy, 3/4 ton, 6.2 diesel, crew cab, gooseneck & bumper hitches, toolbox, bedliner, well maintained. 336-675-5011.

Rollator walker, red, new, \$50. Propane grill with full tank of propane, never used, \$100. Free baby crib, natural maple wood with mattress. 336-409-5450.

Outside sign on wheels with letters, \$100 OBO. 336-381-3841.

New Honeywell TrueDRY DR65A3000 Whole House Dehumidifier, never unboxed. \$1,000. 336-629-5019.

Three antique wash tubs, \$20 each. Power adjuster for RV hookup. New handmade F&Q quilts, \$125 each. 336-625-4548.

1986 GT Convertible Mustang, red with white top, one owner. \$17,000 neg. Heirloom Quilts made in the early 1940's. \$125 each obo. 336-629-2560.

3,000 Red Sex Sal Link pullets, chickens at laying age 16 weeks plus, vaccinated and debeaked, \$6.90 and up. Liberty area. 336-708-2998 or 336-317-4105.

Cleaned deer corn, 50 lb. bags, \$6 each. Cleaned Feed Wheat, 50 lb. bags, \$8 each. Cleaned cracked corn, 50 lb. bags, \$7 each. 336-622-2480 or 336-736-0390.

FOR RENT: Mobile Home on private lot in the High Falls area. \$500 per month plus \$500 deposit. 910-464-3459.

WANTED: Paying cash for war souvenirs. 336-879-2472.

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





## Roman Ferrer-Diaz Selected as 2018 Rural Electric Youth Tour Delegate

Congratulations to Roman Ferrer-Diaz, a sophomore at Randolph Early College High School, who was recently selected to represent Randolph Electric Membership Corporation as the Rural Electric Youth Tour Delegate in Washington D.C., June 9-15, 2018.

Roman was selected to be Randolph Electric's delegate for the Rural Electric Youth Tour based on his community involvement, academic success and his knowledge about REMC's cooperative business model. Roman is the son of Amber and Roger Pack of Franklinville, N.C., who are proud member-owners of Randolph Electric.

"Once I was awarded the opportunity of serving as Randolph EMC's Rural Electric Youth Tourist, I was immediately excited and honored to represent my community and the cooperative," Roman noted. "I look forward to visiting Washington, D.C. this summer, meeting new people, gaining communication skills and seeing all the major historical attractions."

Roman will join more than 1,500 high school students from across the country to learn about cooperatives, the rural electric program, U.S. history, government and democracy. He will



*Roman learned about the Youth Tour opportunity from Larry Routh (right), his neighbor and District 3 Board Director. Also pictured (L-R) are Dale Lambert, CEO, and Kathleen Duckworth, Communication and Outreach Specialist for REMC.*

meet with congressional leaders on Capitol Hill and tour various national monuments and museums throughout the weeklong program.

"As a rural electric cooperative, Randolph Electric is passionate about supporting community and youth leadership opportunities," said Kathleen Duckworth, Communication and Outreach Specialist at Randolph EMC. "We are proud to have Roman represent us in Washington D.C., and we look forward to watching him grow and learn through this wonderful experience."



## Time is Running Out to Apply for NC State & UNC Sports Camp Scholarships

The countdown is on for rising 6th, 7th & 8th graders to apply for an all-expense-paid scholarship to summer basketball camps at UNC Chapel Hill and NC State.

Download an application at [RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com) and mail it in before March 31!



For more information, please contact Kathleen Duckworth, Communication & Outreach Specialist, at 336-625-5177.

# A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert

## RECENT COLD & SNOW REMINISCENT OF 'THE OLD DAYS'

Dear Members,

"This reminds me of the old times," was the statement a member made to me during the month of January. He was referring to the long and bitter cold spell and snows we experienced during the month. It was one for the record books!

I've heard stories from the "old timers"—including my mom and dad—about how cold it used to be and how much snow our area received in days gone by. My dad told of the time when he was a kid and heavy snow fell throughout the night. The next morning, he jumped off the porch and the snow

was so deep, he disappeared. I'm not sure how old and how tall he was, but I got the impression the snow was real deep.

It's told that in 1929, the snow was so deep it reached the window sills of houses. The farmers were not able to get to their barns or check on their animals. There are stories about Deep River so frozen over, that Ford Model A automobiles crossed the ice at old landings without falling through. As much as I love some of the aspects of "the good old days," I'm glad we are not experiencing those events on a regular basis.

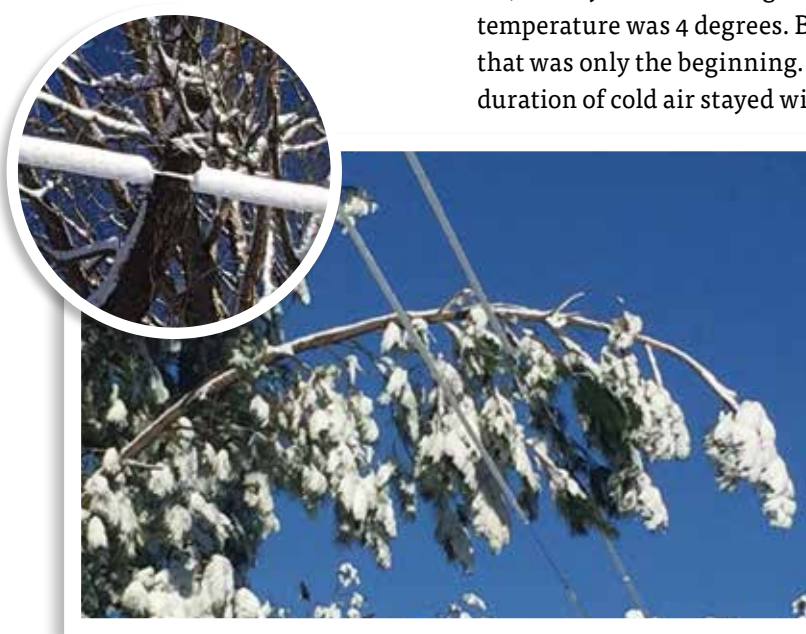
As I penned February's AWARE on January 2, the morning temperature was 4 degrees. But that was only the beginning. The duration of cold air stayed with

us for an extended period of time. According to WRAL News in Raleigh, the frigid temperatures were not just cold, they were record-breaking in a number of ways.

Several historic daily low temperatures were surpassed throughout the region. Raleigh, and I believe most of our service area, broke a 36-year cold weather record.

In 1982, our region went 157 consecutive hours with temperatures below 32 degrees. Well, throw that one out the window by a large margin. The new record, still standing as of early February, is 201 hours with below-freezing temperatures—from the early morning hours of December 31 to January 8.

These unusually cold temperatures also contributed to some bizarre news stories. Kids were blowing bubbles that instantly froze into clear ice balls. There were pictures of alligators in eastern North Carolina frozen in place with just their snout sticking through the ice allowing them to breathe. It was their way of surviving by going into a hibernation-like state. There were news stories highlighting the success of python hunters in Florida due to the large number



of reptiles sunning on the swamp banks trying to get warm. (I'm personally glad we don't have that opportunity around here!)

Randolph EMC also broke a record by setting an all-time peak for load on the system the morning of January 7th. The new record peak is 168 megawatts, compared to our old record of 166 megawatts that was set on February 20, 2015. The electrical system performed exceptionally well during the extreme cold with only a few scattered load-related outages. We build the system for times such as this.

The cold temperatures, combined with the infusion of moist air, resulted in above average snow accumulation for the month as well. The first round began on Wednesday, January 3rd, but resulted in only a few inches of snow for our area. The light accumulation did not cause any power outages but did result in very slick and dangerous roads.

The heaviest snowfall occurred on January 17th and 18th. There were areas in the eastern portion of Randolph EMC's service area where 8 to 10 inches of wet snow fell causing numerous outages.

The wet snow built up on evergreen trees, weighing them down and causing them to lean or fall onto the power lines. It also created a rare occurrence where it accumulated on power lines and created a large, perfect circle of wet snow that weighed the lines down. In some instances, when the snow fell off, it caused the lines to hit together, which resulted in outages.

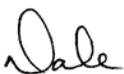
Outages started occurring around 11 a.m. on the 17th. By midnight, all power was restored to the members. However, throughout the night and into the morning hours, scattered new outages continued to occur and our crews were able to respond quickly. The snow storm caused 122 separate outages on the system and affected 2,232 members.

Because we expected extremely cold temperatures and a greater number of outages, we made an early call for additional outside line personnel to assist our REMC and contract crews.

We brought in a total of eight outside crews from Pee Dee EMC, Lee Electrical and Pike Electric. Even though we only needed them for a short time, their presence allowed us to restore power more quickly to our members who experienced outages during single-digit temperatures.

I appreciate the safe and exceptional job performed by your Randolph employee team, our on-system contractors and those who came to assist, not only during this snow event, but for the entire month of January. They battled the elements to keep your power flowing. We know the dependence you place on us. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

Cooperatively Yours,



Dale F. Lambert  
Chief Executive Officer



Randolph Electric Membership Corporation provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to nearly 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: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, M-F

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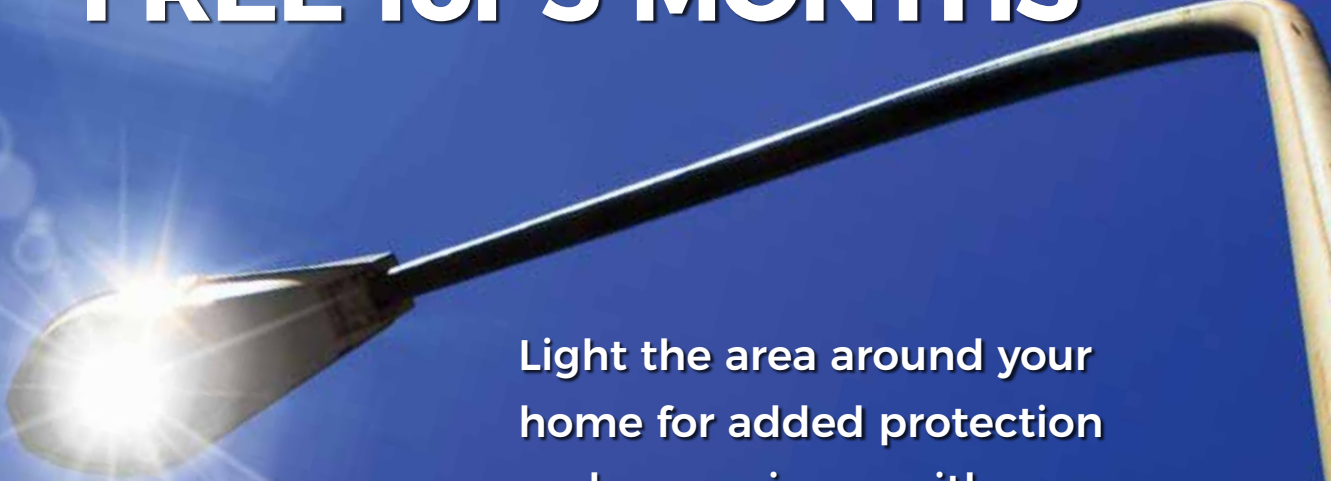
Kathleen Duckworth ..... Associate Editor

[RandolphEMC.com](http://RandolphEMC.com)





# Added Safety & Security FREE for 3 MONTHS



Light the area around your home for added protection and convenience with an affordable, maintenance-free outdoor security light from Randolph EMC.

Your first 3 months are free\* when you add a security light to your account today!

- **Low cost** – You can protect your home and property for less than \$10 per month. No additional electrical usage – the monthly charge includes all electricity needed to operate the light.
- **Free bulb replacement and maintenance** – No need to wonder how to reach the bulb to change it. Randolph Electric personnel will replace bulbs and make all necessary repairs.
- **No light switch to remember** – The light comes on at dusk and goes off at dawn.
- **Safe and secure** – A security light gives you the peace of mind that comes with a bright, dependable light.

LED & Decorative Options Available



Randolph EMC  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

\*Offer applies only to new security light connections.