



Watts Working

New Valuable Benefit Available to Your Randolph EMC Membership

Randolph EMC is partnering with ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union to provide a valuable member service — access to outstanding financing programs for members and their families. ElecTel offers higher savings rates, lower loan rates and fewer fees than you'll find at most other financial institutions. Membership is open to Randolph EMC members and their families.

Save energy while increasing your home's value with ElecTel's Energy Efficient Loan Program

Just in time for cold weather, you can borrow up to \$35,000 for home improvements, including: new windows and doors, electric heat pumps, furnaces, air conditioners, generators, solar projects, water heaters, insulation, ENERGY STAR® appliances and more.

These energy-efficiency loans are available to residential property owners of single-family homes, duplexes, mobile homes and owner-occupied condominiums.

The Energy Efficient Loan Program features:

- Loans with rates as low as a 4.90% APR*
- Up to 100 percent financing of the purchase price, including taxes and installation costs
- Flexible repayment terms
- \$35,000 maximum loan limit; \$5,000 maximum for a mobile home

Contact ElecTel at 800-849-5600 or visit electelccu.org for more information or to apply today!



Upcoming Holiday Closings

Randolph EMC offices will be closed Dec. 24-26 for Christmas.

INSIDE...

B Finance a Backup Generator

C Energy Tips to Brighten Your Holidays

D 2018-19 Bright Ideas Winners

F Dale Lambert's AWARE Column

H Win a \$100 Gift Card when you Autopay



Keep an eye on your electricity use & save on winter costs

The winter holiday season can bring good times, with family and guests enjoying more time in the warmth of your home, cooking, enjoying holiday lights, and all the things that make the holidays special. But it also means your household is using more energy, which increases energy bills. Keep a watchful eye on your energy usage and costs with our free usage monitoring tool!

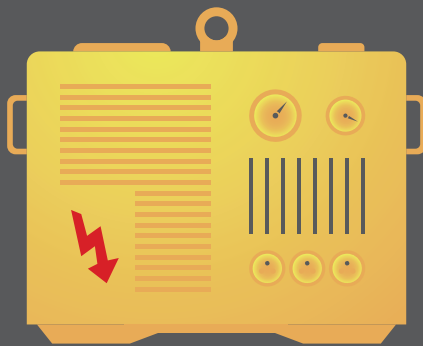
Once you create an account on our Online Member Service Portal, you'll have immediate access to the available history of daily energy usage for your home. You can also see the daily weather temperatures to help you understand the effect weather can have on your power bill.

You can even set up alerts to send yourself an email, text or push notification if your daily electricity usage goes above an amount that you set. This is

very helpful in getting ahead of high bills! When you're notified that your usage is higher than normal, you can take steps to lower or manage your usage so that you control your bill amount.

Knowledge is power — and knowing the amount of electricity you and your family use on a daily basis is a powerful tool when it comes to controlling your costs. While this tool doesn't know "how" you used electricity, it does show patterns. And surveys show that when people monitor their daily usage, they tend to take steps to reduce usage by 5 to 15 percent.

Let us help you manage your electricity costs — during the holidays or any time of year! Visit RandolphEMC.com to sign up today for powerful information that can help you understand and control your usage before winter takes a toll on your pocketbook.



Considering a Backup Generator Purchase?

Members can now apply for an Energy Efficient Loan with ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union to finance a generator! See page A for details.

SAFE DÉCOR FOR A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

It's time to deck those halls! Statistics show that home fires and electrical accidents typically increase during winter months, so keep these holiday lighting tips in mind for a safe holiday season.

Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.



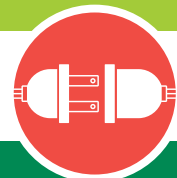
Consider purchasing LED lights, which use less energy and run cooler than traditional incandescent lights.

Never mount or support light strings in a way that might damage the cord's insulation.



Make sure that cords are not pinched in doors, windows or under heavy furniture, which could damage the cord's insulation.

Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International



Five Energy Tips to Help Brighten Your Holidays

Randolph EMC is committed to helping you, and all of our members, use energy wisely. This holiday season, here are some simple ways you can be merry, bright and energy efficient:

- 1** Consider using LED lights to decorate instead of incandescent bulbs. LEDs use less energy and last longer.
- 2** Set holiday lights on automatic timers to minimize the time lights stay on overnight and during the day.
- 3** Use your kitchen appliances efficiently. Run your dishwasher with full loads and opt for the air-dry setting. Don't preheat the oven when cooking large pieces of meat. Try baking multiple dishes in the oven at the same time, and use a Crockpot rather than your electric oven when you can.
- 4** Seal cracks around windows and insulate exposed pipes to keep heat in your home and money in your wallet.
- 5** Turn down the thermostat. Home heating is often one of the highest energy expenses for families. Cutting back on the heat, especially when you have a houseful of guests, could save you a lot this winter.

For more information about how to be energy efficient year-round, visit RandolphEMC.com or follow us on Facebook & Twitter.



Attention, Sophomores & Juniors...

You could win a FREE trip to Washington, D.C.!

Who:

Current High School Sophomores & Juniors

What:

The highlight of your summer! On your all-expense-paid trip, you'll join more than 1,800 other students from across the U.S. in our nation's capital to visit museums & monuments, chat with legislators, enjoy a harbor cruise, & learn more about the cooperative business model.

When:

June 15-21, 2019

Download your application at RandolphEMC.com and submit it to us by January 15, 2019!



Bright Ideas

EDUCATION GRANTS

Congratulations, 2018-19 Winners!

Bright Ideas education grants, sponsored by Randolph Electric and North Carolina's electric cooperatives, provide resources to educators for innovative, hands-on, classroom projects up to \$2,000 that would not otherwise be funded.

This year, Randolph Electric awarded a total of \$12,000 to nine projects that will touch the lives of nearly 1,300 local students.

Proposals can come from any area of the curriculum. Projects must directly benefit students, provide ongoing benefits, and use innovative teaching methods. A panel of previous Bright Ideas grant winners and various counties' teachers carefully reviewed and discussed each application before deciding on the following final awards.

"We're thrilled to award such dedicated and innovative educators with Bright Ideas grants," said Kathleen Duckworth, communication and outreach specialist at Randolph EMC. "Their creative projects will enhance engagement within the classroom setting, help students think 'outside the box' and teach skills that will build students into strong leaders of the future."



Kathleen Gee, Charles McCrary Elementary

Rainbow Ukuleles - \$1,347

Using a color-coded system, students will be systematically taught the history and parts of the ukulele, how to tune, use fingerstyle, read music and play chords.



Stephanie Ross, East Middle

Exceptional Children Greenhouse - \$1,580

In addition to learning many hands-on skills in the greenhouse, students will work with developing peers who are trained to work with students with special needs in order to teach them things like social skills, following directions, cooperation and developing expectations together.



Lauren deSerres, Chatham Central High

Storage for Clay - \$760

Bright Ideas funding will help the classroom purchase Brent EX ceramic ware carts with shelves and a plastic cover to store and protect sculpture projects in the art classroom.



Carrie Robledo, Highfalls Elementary

Going Global with STEM – \$1,500

Second grade students will participate in Level Up Village's course, Global Storybook Engineers. In this course, together with their global partner, students will learn fables, stories and myths from different cultures, and then explore how they can re-engineer the outcome using household materials.



Terry Maness, Green Ridge Elementary

STEAM bins – \$1,500

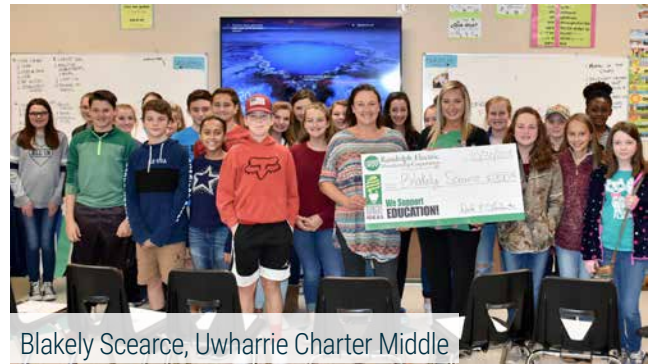
Funding will help make for a learning environment based on the needs of the whole child and not just focusing in on specific learning standards. Students will be able to weave together and to communicate their understanding of STEAM concepts throughout the school day.



Lee Waln, West Middle

Makey Makey – \$1,617

Using a Makey-Makey board, students will use technology to interact with their environment in imaginative new ways.



Blakely Searce, Uwharrie Charter Middle

Sphero SPRK – \$1,800

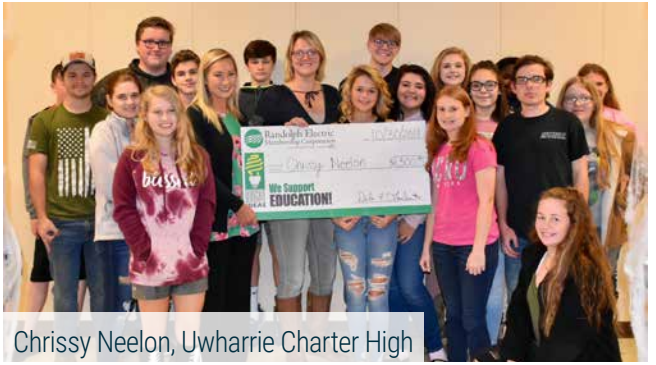
Students will learn programming with MacroLab and OrbBasic followed by multi-day STEAM challenges. These multi-day experiments foster creative problem-solving and teamwork.



Jennifer Walker, Uwharrie Charter High

Mini Movie Masters – \$600

Students will write scripts, create scenes, characters, backgrounds and props, and finally put everything together into films.



Chrissy Neelon, Uwharrie Charter High

Fire and Fusion – \$1,300

Students will begin an Enameled Jewelry Unit by learning about how enameling was used by cultures in the past and how the process has advanced into the technological and scientific process that we use today.

A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert

REFLECTING BACK ON A YEAR OF STORMS

Dear Members,

As I reflect on 2018, it can be defined as a year of extreme weather and storms for our members. The year kicked off with a blast of extremely cold temperatures. As you will recall, the whole month of January was bitter cold, which resulted in a record peak demand for our system.

On January 2, the outside temperature that morning was 4 degrees according to my truck and we went on to break a 36-year-old record. The new record now is 201 consecutive hours with temperatures below freezing, which lasted from December 31 to January 8.

January also brought a couple of snowstorms. One wet snowstorm that dropped 8 to 10 inches on us weighed down trees, causing scattered power outages.

This summer, continuous storms pounded our service area. These storms resulted in members experiencing a 42 percent increase in the number of outages when compared to 2017. The strong intensity of the storms resulted in heavier damage to the electrical system from broken poles and damaged lines, which caused a 130 percent increase in outage minutes compared to last summer.

Last month I provided you the details about the impact Tropical Storm Florence had on our members. Well, it's goodbye Florence, hello Michael!

I'm as tired of writing about storms as much as you're tired of reading about them — and experiencing them. But since over one-half of our members experienced an outage from Tropical Storm Michael, I feel obligated to give you an overview of this storm's impact on our system and our response. Two tropical events, less than a month apart, is more than we want to experience. But we were very fortunate compared to those who experienced the storms as they made landfall.

Unlike Florence, who was like the relative that would never leave, Michael was a fast mover. The remnants of the eye of Tropical Storm Michael passed over the center of our service area. All was good up until that point, with only a few scattered outages.

But Michael was not done. The focus of concern for our storm center was the high-wind band on the back side of the storm. It came in fast, blew hard and left a lot of damage. Overall, Michael caused more damage to the system and more members were out of power than from Florence.



The first Michael-related outage came in on Thursday, October 11, just after 10:00 a.m. The last outage was restored on Sunday, October 14, at 5:30 p.m., with most members' power restored by Saturday, October 13. A total of 16,856 members experienced an outage from Michael, which translates to 52 percent of our members out of power. This compares to 46 percent of members out of power from Florence.



SIGN UP TODAY FOR RANDOLPH EMC'S

\$100

Gift Card

AUTOPAY GIVEAWAY

Set It & Forget It for a Chance to Win a \$100 Gift Card Each Month!

Randolph Electric's convenient autopay options make it easy to pay your bill on time, avoid late fees and save on postage! These options also offer cost savings for the cooperative. As a thanks for participating, we're giving away one \$100 Gift Card each month for the rest of 2018!

Enroll your account(s) in Bank Draft or schedule Recurring Payments* using your credit or debit card or checking account and you'll receive one entry per account into our monthly drawing. Don't worry—if you're already participating in automatic payments, you'll be entered to win, too!

Log on to your account at RandolphEMC.com or give us a call at 1-800-672-8212 to speak with a Member Service Specialist for assistance.

*One-time payments made over the phone, online or in-app are not eligible for drawing

Autopay Your Way:

Bank Draft

Have your bill paid automatically from your checking or savings account on the due date

Recurring Payment

Automatically pay your bill on or before your due date each month using a credit or debit card or e-check.