

Watts Working

Making Our Communities Merry & Bright

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 great 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. Simply navigate to the "Services" tab, click

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on “People Helping People” and select the account(s) you would like to enroll. You may also mail in this form to PO Box 40, Asheboro, N.C., 27205, or call your local office to have a Member Service Specialist add PHP to your account.

To contribute to PHP, complete the form on the right and mail to:

Randolph EMC
People Helping People
P.O. Box 40
Asheboro, NC 27204

Yes, I want to join People Helping People!

By filling out this form, I agree to round up my REMC electric bill to the nearest dollar each month for a minimum of 24 months.

Name (as it appears on your account)

Service Address

City

State

ZIP

Phone

Email

Remembering Former Director Jimmie Garner

Former District 8 Director, Mr. James Hoover “Jimmie” Garner, 90, passed away October 13, 2019, at FirstHealth Hospice House, Pinehurst, N.C. Mr. Garner served as a member of the Randolph EMC board of directors from July 1965 until September 1989. During his tenure on the board, Mr. Garner served as both Secretary-Treasurer and Vice President. Mr. Garner was a native of Moore County where he led a long career in banking, eventually serving as President and CEO of FirstBank.



Mr. Jimmie Garner upon his retirement from the REMC Board in 1989.

Randolph EMC is grateful for Mr. Garner’s many years of devotion to the cooperative’s service mission and the leadership he provided as a member of the board of directors. We offer prayers and condolences to his family.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they’re not in use.

Source: energy.gov

Upcoming Holiday Closings

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



Maximize your budget

with energy-saving solutions this holiday season

The holidays can be a busy and expensive time—between finding gifts, cooking meals and planning family activities—your schedule and your wallet can be stretched thin. The good news is that Randolph EMC offers multiple programs to help you reduce energy use and save money during the holidays and year-round.

FlexPay: Our FlexPay service allows you to pay for electricity before you use it, putting you in control of how much you spend on electricity. During the holiday season, FlexPay can help you manage your budget by allowing you to monitor your power use and pay smaller amounts for electricity as you go.

Usage Monitoring: Managing your energy consumption is easier than ever before with our Online Member Service Portal and Mobile App. Track how much electricity you've used and determine if adjustments need to be made to save energy and lower your bill.

Usage Alerts: Sign up to receive text or email alerts when your energy use has reached a certain level so there are no surprises when your bill arrives.

Energy Advisors: Take advantage of our free consultation with a cooperative energy expert to help identify ways to improve your home's energy efficiency and lower your bill.

Visit RandolphEMC.com for more information about how we can help you save during the holiday season and stay in control of your energy budget all year long.

Hey, Sophomores & Juniors

Christmas break is good time to apply for the 2020 Youth Tour!



Every summer, electric cooperatives from across North Carolina send local high school students to Washington, D.C., to attend the NC Youth Tour. We are now accepting applications from local sophomores and juniors to represent Randolph EMC on the 2020 tour. This week-long trip gives students the opportunity to learn about leadership, our nation's history and the cooperative business model, while making life-long friends! Apply by January 10, 2020, for this once-in-a-lifetime free trip. For more information, visit RandolphEMC.com/YouthTour.



Electronics Gift Guide

This holiday season, give the gift of tech! If you're searching for the latest gadgets and electronics to gift but don't know where to start, we've got you covered.

Here's a list of ideas for your tech-savvy friends and family members, and with a range of prices and interests, there's sure to be something for everyone.

Gifts for those on the go

We all have that one friend who never stays in one place, so they'll appreciate gifts that keep them charged and entertained while on the go.

A portable charger (or power bank) can keep their smart phones and tablets juiced, and the good news is this gift won't drain your wallet. You can purchase portable chargers online or at local retailers for as low as \$20. Typically, these compact devices can fully charge an iPhone three times before running out of steam.

A Bluetooth speaker is another great gift to keep those on the go entertained. Whether they're listening to their favorite tunes or watching the latest flick, Bluetooth speakers can clarify and amplify volume to satisfy any media enthusiast. Prices range depending on features, but you can purchase a quality Bluetooth speaker online or at local retailers for as low as \$30.

Gifts for the chef

Every foodie knows that temperature matters when mastering the perfect cut of meat. A Bluetooth-connected thermometer can help your chef ensure a delicious (and safe-to-eat) meal. Just download the associated app and keep an eye on the grill right from your smart phone or tablet. Prices vary from \$30 to \$200, but you can purchase these handy gadgets

online or at any big box store, like Wal-Mart or Target.

A digital kitchen scale is a must for any culinary pro. No more guessing — the easy-to-read digital screen ensures the exact weight or amount required for that perfect dish. Prices vary depending on the weight the scale can handle, but you can find a 13-pound max weight scale for about \$20 on Amazon.com.

Gifts for the pet owner

Let's face it — pet owners would be lost without their fur babies. Luckily, pet tracking products continue to advance, so pet owners can always keep a watchful eye on their furry friends. Most trackers simply attach to your pet's collar. Prices vary depending on the tracker's capabilities, but some features include water resistance, health monitoring and exceptional battery life. You can purchase pet trackers online or at your local pet store.





Speaking of keeping an eye on pets, you can also purchase surveillance cameras for real-time monitoring — some cameras even allow you to toss treats to your furry friend while you're away. Additional features include a microphone (so you can talk to your pets), a built-in laser toy (for our feline friends) and the ability to snap a photo or take video from your smart phone. Prices vary depending on the bells and whistles, but you can purchase a pet camera for as low as \$40 on Amazon.com.

With so many electronics available today, you're sure to find the perfect gift for your tech-savvy loved ones. Happy shopping!



'Tis the Season for Energy Efficiency & Safety

As the weather gets colder and the days get shorter, more time is spent inside your home enjoying holiday traditions with family and guests. We want to help make your holiday season as safe and energy efficient as possible with some tips to keep in mind as you deck the halls:

-  Consider using LED lights to decorate instead of incandescent bulbs. LEDs use less energy and last longer. Only buy lights that contain the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label to ensure they meet adequate safety requirements.
-  Set holiday lights on automatic timers to minimize the time lights stay on overnight and during the day. Don't leave a lit Christmas tree unattended and always turn off tree lights before going to bed or leaving the house.
-  Before putting up holiday decorations, check all lights for frayed wires, damaged sockets or cracked insulation. Make sure outdoor cords, plugs and sockets are weatherproof. Never let a cord run through a puddle, even if it says it's weatherproof.
-  Don't overload electrical outlets. This is especially common during the holidays when people tend to use more electricity, and it increases the risk of a fire.

For timely tips on how to be safe and energy efficient year-round, visit follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



Did you know?

Space heaters are responsible for 32% of house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association



When using a space heater, keep these 5 safety tips in mind:

- 1** Place your space heater on a level, non-flammable surface.
- 2** Make sure your space heater has an auto shutoff function.
- 3** Never pair your space heater with an extension cord.
- 4** Never leave a space heater unattended when in use.
- 5** Purchase space heaters that are cool to the touch.

A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert

KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON



Dear Members,

For the last four months, we have been reviewing and responding to survey questions that were posed to members in advance of our annual meeting this past June. The survey was provided to all members who had an email address listed on their account. A total of 573 members responded to the survey and provided their input.

Due to space limitations, I will not go into detail on all the subjects we have covered the last few months. If you would like to review any past articles, please go to RandolphEMC.com and look under the News Center tab for Watts Working Newsletters.

Last month, we looked at the survey question that asked the members to rate how important low carbon (CO₂) emissions and renewables should be. Almost 70 percent of those responding to the survey said it should be important to the cooperative.

The great news I shared was that Randolph EMC has a diverse, low carbon generation fuel mix. The energy you use annually is comprised from 55 percent nuclear generation, which has zero CO₂ emissions, 29 percent is from natural gas generation, 6 percent from coal, 5 percent from renewables, 4 percent from market purchases that are made on an as needed basis and 1 percent from hydro.

To give you a comparison, we looked at the latest data from the Energy

Information Administration (EIA). Their data showed that nationally, electricity generation from fossil fuels was much higher at 63 percent, which results in higher CO₂ emissions, nuclear was 19 percent and renewables, which hydro was the largest generation source in this group, stood at 17 percent.

This month, I want to go deeper into this subject with a logical, and for some, a potentially controversial question. "Why doesn't Randolph EMC just get all or a significantly higher percentage of our electricity generation from solar and renewable energy?" The fact is, there are groups and individuals that today are promoting this very concept.

A few years ago, I was asked to testify before some members of the North Carolina House Energy and Public Utilities Committee on this subject. As I recall, there were about 20 or so individuals that provided statements to the committee. Most of the speakers were promoting a 100 percent renewable electricity generation portfolio going forward for our state. A statement made by one of the individuals was similar to this, "Going forward, only solar and wind generation should be constructed to supply power for North Carolinians. Renewable generation can meet all our future needs."

When it came my turn to speak, I went off-script and made this statement

to bring perspective to the realities of solar and wind generation. "The belief that wind and solar can meet all our future power generation needs may be a viable concept, if you're not the one responsible for having to keeping the lights on 24/7."

Now before you jump to any conclusions, I am a solar and wind generation proponent and I will be transparent to show you this statement is not just lip service. I was one of the first members to sign up for Randolph EMC's SunPath Community Solar project three years ago and am still participating today. I paid money out of our family's budget to become an active solar recipient.

Many years ago, Randolph EMC agreed to provide the opportunity for members to make a monthly contribution of \$4.00 through their power bills to support NC GreenPower. These donations are used to support the installation of green resources such as solar and wind in North Carolina. This fund also assists with the installation of solar photovoltaic demonstration projects at North Carolina's K-12 schools. I have supported this effort for years through my monthly power bill and continue to do so.

But, I'm also the CEO of your electric utility and you have expectations that your Board of Directors and management team will make sound, long-term decisions to provide

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



you electricity when the sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing at the most economical price possible. We must work in the world of reality and not what we, and others, may wish the world to be.

As I mentioned last month, Randolph EMC has around 80 solar projects connected to our distribution system. We believe your cooperative has more solar interconnected to our grid, percentage-wise, based on load, than any other utility in the state. Most of this generation is from large, utility scale projects that are installed throughout our territory. Having this significant level of solar generation provides us with real-world data that shows their operating characteristics.

October is normally a very low-load month due to mild temperatures and that was true for this past October. October 15 was a mild temperature day and very sunny. At the highest point of the day, 12:00 noon, 45 percent of the energy (kilowatt-hours)(kWh) flowing on the Randolph EMC system was provided by all of the solar generators interconnected to our system. That same hour, Randolph EMC's system demand peak was only 47 megawatts (MW), due to the low need of electricity for your homes and businesses. At this time, solar was contributing about 21 MW (44 percent) of the 47 MW needed.

Now let's look at the two highest points of load—when members needed power the most—for the year-to-date for 2019. On January 22, at 7:00 a.m., we hit the highest peak for our winter load at 124 MW. At the same hour on that day, the solar generation's contribution to assist the cooperative in serving your load was zero percent. It's obvious why: the sun was not shining on the solar panels during this time.

Our summer peak for the year was on July 17, at 6:00 p.m., at 123 MW. At this same hour, all the solar we have interconnected was only contributing 13 MW, or 11 percent, of the capacity electricity needed at the time of the

peak. Again, the reason was the sun was not shining directly down on the solar panels due to being low in the sky at this hour. But yet, in the middle of day when our system did not need to supply as much electricity, solar was generating significantly more energy.

That's the dilemma with solar generation. If solar generation was as viable to supply power to serve a utility's load as many say that it is, we would already be doing it. But we must always have reliable electricity generation resources in place to meet the load at any time of the day or night and when you need it the most.

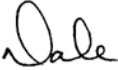
The price of solar generation has come down considerably in the last few years and we're all about keeping rates as low as possible. You own us and as member/owners, you're the only people we are beholden to. But I don't believe you would be satisfied if we only provided you electricity when the solar panels were producing.

Please stay tuned for the next month or two as we wade in a little deeper on this topic. We'll look at the viability of wind generation for our region and state, the future possibilities of energy and battery storage and at the different perspectives of the value of solar generation when members install it at their homes.

As we enter this Christmas season, our hope is that your holidays will be filled with joyous and memorable times spent with family and friends.

We all seem to be pressed for time more than usual during the holidays. Please take time to remember the true reason for the season—the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas to all!

Cooperatively Yours,



Dale F. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer

Solar Power for You



No Rooftop Required.

With SunPath Community Solar, Randolph EMC member-owners have the exclusive opportunity to subscribe to the energy produced by the cooperative's solar panels instead of installing and retaining ownership of a solar energy system at home. Participants then receive a credit on their bills for the energy produced by the number of panels in their subscription.

Two Ways to Subscribe

Monthly: \$2.85 per panel

Members pay a monthly per-panel subscription fee and receive a credit for the amount of the energy produced on the same bill. A one-year commitment is required, which renews annually.

Subscriptions are available on a first-come, first-served basis—sign up now while panels are still available!

Full-Term: \$491 per panel

Members pay a one-time, up-front fee per panel for the rights to that panel's energy output. A credit for the energy produced will post to each bill for the next 20 years.

Learn more at RandolphEMC.com or call us at 800-672-8212 to subscribe today!

Some Advantages of Community Solar



More affordable than on-site installation



No changes to your property



Maintenance free



No red tape with zoning restrictions or homeowners' associations



Get the most out of the sun's potential with prime placement at our site



Perfect for renters who want to be involved with renewable energy