

Watts Working

We're Lovin' It!

Randolph EMC Provides New DC Fast Charge Station for Electric Vehicles at Asheboro McDonald's on East Dixie Drive

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation (REMC) has partnered with North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, its power supplier and state association, to install a DC Fast Charge Electric Vehicle Charging Station at the McDonald's on East Dixie Drive near Randolph Mall in Asheboro. Part of an expanding statewide cooperative charging network, the new DC Fast Charge station is now available for public charging.

"Asheboro is located in the center of North Carolina, and until now, this area was a desert for fast-charging options for EV drivers traveling in any direction, said Dale Lambert, CEO of Randolph EMC. "This is the first public DC Fast Charge Station within a 30-mile radius, and our hope is that, in addition to providing a much-needed service, this station will help draw visitors and economic activity to this area, while also supporting the environmental and cost-saving benefits of electric vehicles. I commend our Board of Directors for recognizing that a reliable charging infrastructure is the cornerstone to making electric vehicle adoption possible for drivers across North Carolina, as well as the nation," he added.



The McDonald's station is part of a \$1 million investment North Carolina's electric cooperatives are making in rural electric vehicle charging infrastructure across North Carolina. Randolph EMC and the NC Zoo teamed up in 2018 to provide four Level 2 charging stations at the zoo. These stations generally take four hours or less to fully charge a vehicle and are commonly found in public locations, including shopping centers, multifamily communities and workplaces.

DC Fast Charge stations provide a very quick charge and are capable of charging a depleted electric vehicle's battery to 80 percent capacity in under 30 minutes. DC Fast Charge stations are usually located in high-traffic public areas or along major highway corridors.

[Continued on page B](#)

B Options for Smart Thermostats

C Teachers: Apply for your Bright Ideas Grant

C Preparing your supply kit for Hurricane Season

D Dale Lambert's AWARE Column



"The restaurant's proximity to Interstate 73/74 and local attractions, shopping facilities, and hotels, combined with their 24-hour service, free Wi-Fi and diverse menu at affordable prices offers EV drivers a safe place to recharge with several convenient amenities. We're extremely appreciative of the collaboration we've had with McDonald's to provide this service for locals and travelers, alike," said Michael Trent, REMC's Director of Innovative Energy Solutions.

"Randolph EMC offers a variety of benefits and incentives to electric vehicle owners, including a home charger

rebate and special time-of-use rate to encourage off-peak charging. EV owners also receive a federal tax credit, and co-op members have access to a low-interest EV loan and special rebate when purchasing a new Nissan LEAF.

Driving electric offers significant cost savings, more convenience and less maintenance, a better driving experience, a healthier environment, a stronger local economy and a more efficient electric grid. To find more information about local EV benefits and the impacts of driving electric, including how much you can save on transportation costs, visit NCDriveElectric.com/RandolphEMC or call Randolph EMC at (800) 672-8212.

Smart Thermostat Options

A Comparison of the Market's Smartest & Most Popular



Heating and cooling costs account for around half of a user's energy bill according to the U.S. Department of Energy. So when it comes to reducing energy use and cutting home energy costs, the most impact can be made by programming the thermostat. The right thermostat settings could yield energy savings of 8-15%, and new technology is making it easier than ever to achieve those settings.

Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and may be controlled remotely through a tablet, smartphone or voice control. Some models use multiple sensors to monitor temperatures in various parts of the home for more balanced heating or cooling, track user temperature preferences and use the data to

optimize your heating and cooling schedule, and some are designed for complex multi-stage systems that will control heating, cooling, dehumidifier and ventilation systems.

If you're interested in controlling your thermostat with your voice or an app, or in being hands-off and letting it learn your habits, you should consider a smart thermostat. To narrow your choices, factor in smart features, price and attributes that matter most to you, such as color, size or style, and make sure the chosen product supports your HVAC system.

The Nest 3rd Generation Learning Thermostat and Ecobee4 are the most popular and sophisticated devices in this category. Both devices are usually priced around \$250, but consumers can easily recoup their money in energy cost savings.

There are many similarities between the two thermostats:

- ▶ Can be adjusted via computer, tablet, smartphone, Google Assistant or Amazon Alexa device
- ▶ Can interact with other smart devices and utilize geofencing—using your phone's GPS to determine if you're home, then automatically

adjusting the temperature.

- ▶ Offer for-purchase, remote sensors that allow the thermostat to take readings from any room throughout your home and adjust the temperature accordingly.

While many of the features are similar, there are a few that are notably different and can help you determine which is right for you:

Nest:

- ▶ Powered by a rechargeable battery
- ▶ Is a learning thermostat and automatically learns your schedule
- ▶ Continually learns and responds to your adjustments
- ▶ Records 10 days of energy use data that shows you a visual of the times your system turned on and off during those 10 days
- ▶ Sends a monthly email report that includes a summary of your energy use compared to previous months and other Nest users

Ecobee:

- ▶ Must be hardwire installed
- ▶ Utilizes a touchscreen
- ▶ Can analyze HVAC data for 18 months

Continued on page C

Educators: Apply Early for a Bright Ideas Grant & You Could Win \$100

It pays to apply early for a Bright Ideas education grant! Teachers who submit their grant application by the Aug. 15 early bird deadline will be entered into a statewide drawing to win one of five \$100 gift cards.

The final deadline to apply for a Bright Ideas grant of up to \$2,000 from Randolph EMC is Sept. 15.

The Bright Ideas education grant program is celebrating 25 years of making creative, innovative projects possible in North Carolina K-12 classrooms. Since the program began in 1994, educators statewide have received more than \$12.2 million in Bright Ideas grant funding for nearly 11,700 projects benefiting 2.3 million North Carolina students.

To learn more about the program and apply, visit ncbrightideas.com.

Hurricane Preparedness

Your co-op is ready for storm season. Is your supply kit ready?

Here are some steps to do today to get prepared:

1. Stock up on batteries, canned food, first-aid supplies, drinking water and medications.
2. Don't forget supplies for babies and pets.
3. Have your evacuation plan ready.
4. Store valuables and papers in waterproof containers.
5. If you have a generator, make sure it is properly connected, in working order and review the instruction manual.
6. Update your phone numbers and email addresses on your Randolph EMC account and follow Randolph EMC on Facebook and Twitter to make sure you receive important updates through our storm response.

NC Renewable Energy Charge Adjusted

The monthly NC Renewable Energy Charge was adjusted for each rate class in the following amounts, which became effective May 1, 2020:

- Residential: \$ 0.81
- Commercial: \$ 6.07
- Industrial: \$ 13.88

Continued from page B

► All temperature and motion data from the thermostat and sensors is recorded, and can be accessed online by the owner to help you monitor total energy use, how the weather influences your use, and how your home efficiency compares to other users in your area

For those looking for a smart thermostat with fewer bells and whistles, the Honeywell Lyric T5+

is one of the market's most popular, priced around \$135. While it can't sense your presence or learn your schedule, it does have the geofencing feature and can interact with other smart-home devices, such as turning on lights when you arrive or leave home.

Whichever fits your lifestyle and preferences, a smart thermostat is a good investment that can help you save energy and money in a more convenient way than ever.



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



A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY

Dear Members,

The drawback of this newsletter is the delay from when it is written to when you receive it. A lot can happen in a month, as we have been reminded so vividly recently. One month, life is normal and the next month, we are in lockdown.

Last month, I was optimistic we would be transitioning back to our pre-COVID-19 "normal" lives. Governor Cooper has just announced a three-phase approach to reopening our state and moved us to phase 1, which is in effect until May 22nd. Based on conditions at that time, determinations will be made on the next steps to take.

I think everyone agrees we need to reopen our churches, businesses, and restaurants and get our economy going as quickly as possible. But we must also take precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19 until additional testing and treatment for those affected and a preventive vaccine is available.

Your cooperative has taken numerous steps to protect members and employees while still providing the critical service you expect. We were tested on the morning of April 13, when a strong storm moved through, packing high winds and heavy rain. Over 3,600 members lost power. But by that evening, power had been fully restored and we had sent crews to assist two neighboring electric cooperatives. Crews worked there for two days until power had been fully restored to their members.

I was very pleased how our team was able to take your calls, coordinate the

line crews and provide updates through social media and on our website while many were working remotely. This was a testament to the great job the team did initially when setting us up for working remotely while still being connected and highly operational.

I noted last month some steps the board of directors and leadership team had taken to assist members during this COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has caused significant hardships for many of our members.

Your Board of Directors accelerated the retirement of capital credits by two months to get the money into your hands when you needed it most. Well in advance of any executive orders, your Board also determined to suspend non-pay disconnects and charging late fees on past due bills.

Even though we have suspended disconnecting power for non-payment, outstanding electric bills will eventually have to be paid. My concern is that when we transition back to normal operations, some members will have past-due amounts that will be difficult to pay.

If you're falling behind on payments, give us a call. Our member service specialists are ready and available to work with you to set up payment plans that meet your needs. I also encourage you to explore your options for obtaining financial support from local agencies.

The recent CARES Act allocated \$900 million to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). This program is administered by local

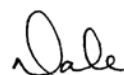
Departments of Social Services and offers qualifying families assistance with their energy costs. North Carolina 2-1-1 is another great resource provided by United Way of North Carolina. Simply call 2-1-1 or visit [NC211.org](https://www.nc211.org) to obtain free and information on health and human services and resources within your community.

Please remember that Randolph EMC is a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative. There are no shareholders or third parties to carry the load of unpaid electric bills. The bottom line is, any unpaid electric bills affect capital credits allocations and the eventual retirement dollars for all members. As a co-op, we truly are all in this together.

We are currently having discussions on rescheduling the Annual Meeting and when to open the offices back up for access for the members. Please continue to stay connected to us through [RandolphEMC.com](https://www.RandolphEMC.com), Facebook and Twitter for the latest information. As soon as these determinations are made, we will share them with you.

These are unprecedented times. We have come a long way together in a short period of time. We still have a ways to go before we can all get back to "normal." But by continuing to work together, we will show the true meaning of the cooperative difference. Please stay safe.

Cooperatively Yours,



Dale F. Lambert
Chief Executive Officer

