

# Watts Working

## 2023 Youth Tour

### *Colton Freeman Goes to Washington*

Approximately 1,800 high school students gathered in Washington, D.C., from June 18–23 as delegates to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.



Dozens of North Carolina students, including one representative sponsored by Randolph Electric (REMC), took part in the week-long opportunity.

North Moore High School student Colton Freeman was selected as a delegate to the Tour by REMC after completing an application and interview.

“The Youth Tour emphasizes the importance of civic engagement,” said Communications and Public Affairs Manager Nicole Arnold. “We hope the experiences and skills that delegates gained during the trip will benefit them on their journey to becoming our next great leaders.”

On the seven-day tour, students learned about United States history at the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial and many of the Smithsonian museums. The delegates paid their respects to soldiers who lost their lives in service to the nation at Arlington National Cemetery. They also visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Several



members of North Carolina’s congressional delegation answered policy questions in a meeting on Capitol Hill.

Applications for the Youth Tour are open to rising juniors and seniors and are due in January. To learn more about our tourist, listen to our latest podcast. Find out more about the Youth Tour at [randolphemc.com/youthtour](https://randolphemc.com/youthtour).



## NC Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour

**B** Every Shot Counts

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**D** Bright Ideas Grant Deadline Almost Here

**F** A Word About Randolph Electric

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# Every Shot Counts

Scholarship Winners Train with Top Basketball Programs



## 2023 WOLFPACK WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CAMP



*Two local students practiced alongside athletes and coaches from top-ranked college basketball programs this summer, thanks to REMC's Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships.*

**Jada Brower** from Uwharrie Ridge 6-12 attended the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State University in Raleigh, led by head coach Wes Moore.

**Ethan Thomas** from Southeastern Randolph Middle School participated in the Carolina Basketball School, led by head coach Hubert Davis, at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Touchstone Energy Sports Camp scholarships are available each year as part of REMC's commitment to supporting youth and education in our community. Congratulations to Jada and Ethan, this year's sports camp representatives.

"Jada and Ethan are outstanding students, athletes and community members," said REMC Communications and Public Affairs Manager Nicole Arnold. "We are proud to partner with two prestigious North Carolina universities to help provide such a unique leadership and learning experience for our local students and future leaders."

The campers joined more than 50 electric co-op scholarship winners statewide at the camps, where they stayed overnight in dorms and experienced life as college students. At both camps, coaches and student-athletes worked directly with campers to develop basketball fundamentals and practice skills such as teamwork that will help them excel on and off the court.

# Randolph EMC's PHP Board Awards 2023 Community Grants

In August, the People Helping the People (PHP) Board of Directors announced awards totaling \$20,000 in community grants to benefit charitable nonprofits in Randolph Electric's five-county service area.

"For nine years, People Helping People has given back to communities in Randolph, Chatham, Moore, Montgomery and Alamance counties through the Sharing Success grant program," said REMC Communications and Public Affairs Manager Nicole Arnold.

"The board is excited to announce these awards, which represent a significant investment in the organizations that help our members."

The board of directors for PHP, a nonprofit program of Randolph EMC, awards grants that contribute to one or more of three focus areas: the **health** and well-being of individuals, **financial** support for income-challenged families or **educational** advancement through enriching learning opportunities. The 19 recipient organizations listed here demonstrate a mission aligning with these goals.

Randolph EMC partners with CoBank, a cooperative lender, to fund the Community Grants initiative. Through its Sharing Success program, CoBank awarded \$10,000 to People Helping People earlier this year. Randolph EMC then matched this donation to fund its Community Grants program. The PHP Board of Directors oversees the grant-awarding process annually. Since 2015, Randolph EMC's PHP program has invested \$126,700 in Community Grants.

## Financial Focus

Habitat for Humanity of Randolph County  
Union Taylors Community Action Center  
Operation Red Sleigh

## Educational Focus

Chatham Literacy Council  
Arts Council of Moore County  
Spirit Horse Ranch Education Center  
Partners for Children and Families  
Montgomery Community College Foundation

## Health Focus

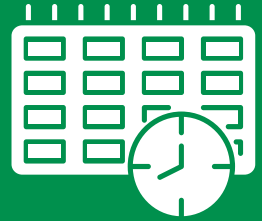
West Chatham Food Pantry  
Jordan Memorial UMC  
Sandhills Coalition  
Randolph County Family Crisis Center  
Communities in Schools of Montgomery County  
Sandhills Student Assistance  
Randolph Senior Adults Association  
Mt. Gilead Food Pantry  
Our Daily Bread Kitchen  
Robbins Area Christian Ministries  
Friend to Friend





**9 a.m. to Noon**  
**Friday, Sept. 29**  
**North Carolina Zoo**

**DEADLINE  
ALMOST  
HERE**



**Bright Ideas applications  
due Sept. 15**

Teachers, you have until Friday, Sept. 15, to submit an application for the REMC-funded award. The education grants support local teachers with creative ideas to engage students and improve learning in K-12 classrooms. To find the application or learn more about the program, visit [ncbrightideas.com](https://ncbrightideas.com).

## Energy Tip

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.



Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

*Source: [energy.gov](https://energy.gov)*

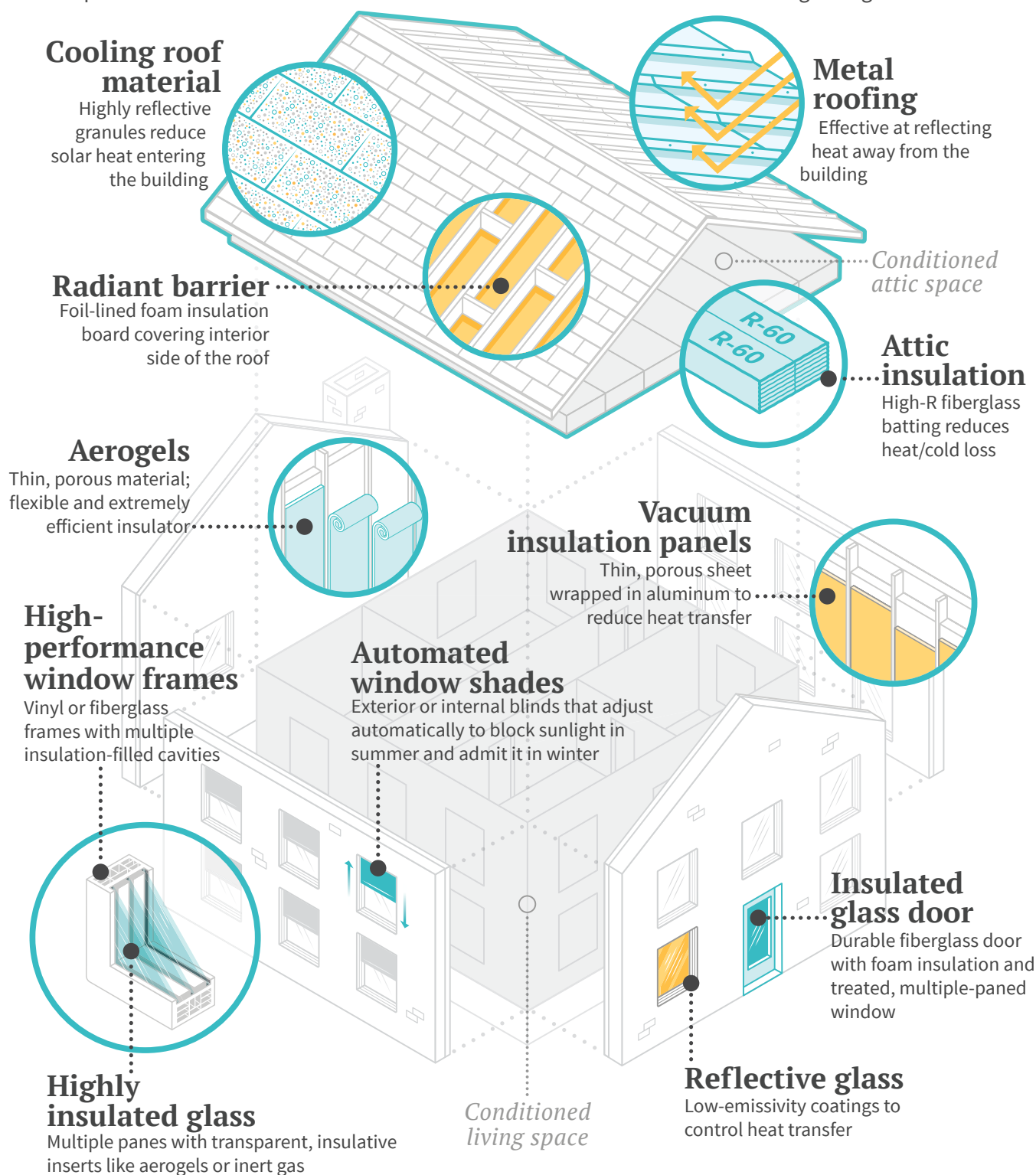
## *Happy Labor Day!*

Our offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 4, for the holiday.



# Envelope Advances

Improving a building's efficiency can usually be accomplished with simple methods like caulking, sealants and insulation. But the movement toward ultra-efficient homes and businesses has brought amazing innovations to the building envelope—walls, windows, roof and foundation—that minimize the energy it takes to keep the inside space conditioned and comfortable. Here are some of the latest advances in this growing field.



Source: NRECA; Design: Kevin Kepple

# A Word About Randolph Electric

From CEO Dale Lambert



## WHEW, THAT WAS A HOT MONTH!

Dear Members,

I had a conversation with our Energy Efficiency Specialists, Brooke and Douglas, in late July and here's how the dialog went. Just so you know, I complain about my power bill, too. I have also been known to occasionally give them a hard time.

*Me: "Wow, I can't believe how many High Usage Alerts I'm getting for my home for the month of July. That tells me I'm going to have a high power bill. Have you increased rates or something?"*

*Brooke: "No, the rates are the same as June. The co-op hasn't made any rate adjustments that would have impacted your bill."*

*Me: "Well, something's going on. I keep getting these text alerts and email alerts almost daily telling me I'm using a lot more energy than usual."*

*Douglas: "Well, have you considered the temperature setting of your thermostat or the above average temperatures we're having?"*

*Me: "No, we tend to like being cool at the Lambert home. I just want to complain to somebody."*

*Brooke: "If you'll give us 100%*

*control of your thermostat, we can assure you we will solve your issue of getting those daily high usage alerts."*

*Me: "That's OK, I like being married to a happy wife who likes it cool, so I will just pay the bill."*

For the first six months of 2023, every month was milder than the historical average. January and February were warmer than normal. Temperatures for March and April were closer to average but still milder, and May and June were cooler than normal. That's good when it comes to paying the power bill.

But then came the month of July. I'm hoping by the time you read this, the temperatures and high humidity have subsided. But even though this July was not a record, it was a hot month by any standard.

Based on National Weather Service data from the Raleigh-Durham Airport, 26 of the 31 days for the month were 90 degrees or above. There were several days in the month when the heat index (the feel-like temperature) was well above 100 degrees. These are not the days you should volunteer to help a neighbor

gather 1,000 square bales of hay.

I mentioned earlier about how I receive high usage alerts. If you are not already utilizing this free offering, I strongly encourage you to enroll. We currently have 7,881 members using high usage alerts. These alerts are sent when the member's daily usage exceeds an established threshold.

We also have 3,136 members participating in Energy Usage Alerts. These members receive daily notifications of how much energy they used in the past 24 hours.

During winter several years ago, I started getting high usage alerts even though it was not extremely cold. That prompted me to investigate for a potential problem. I found my heat pump had stopped working and our home was being heated solely by heat strips. Because I had signed up for high usage alerts, we identified the problem in only a few days. This kept us from wasting power for weeks, and realizing there was an issue only when my high power bill arrived in the mailbox.

Our team goes the extra mile by attempting to identify problems that members may have before



they know it. We look for abnormal usage that may indicate a problem at a member's home. This type of problem may lead to wasted power, resulting in high power bills.

By using data analytics over the first six months of 2023, we identified 86 issues at members' homes from a combination of HVAC units, water heaters and well pumps operating improperly. These issues were identified before the members knew they had a problem. Our team's efforts saved those 86 members an estimated 231,450 kilowatt-hours that would have been wasted. This resulted in saving \$27,588 that otherwise would have been paid through their power bills. Instead, these members were able to keep this money in their pockets.

Since energy usage fluctuates due to temperature changes from month to month, Levelized Billing is a good option to consider if you are seeking power bill stability throughout the year. From our website, here is a description of how Levelized Billing works:

Want to smooth out most of the fluctuation in the amount you pay for your monthly electric bill and not worry about a settle-up month? If so, sign up for Levelized Billing. You qualify if you have been a Randolph EMC residential member for at least 12 months and have a good payment history.

**No Surprises**

Levelized billing prevents drastic changes in your bill, even during the coldest or hottest months of the year. A levelized bill averages the previous 11 monthly bills and the current month's bill.



**No Settle-up**

Because the levelized billing amount is recalculated each month based on a rolling average, the need to "settle up" balances annually is eliminated. Reconciliation of your account will be necessary only if you move or decide to stop participating in the program.

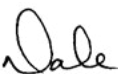
**Join Anytime**

If Randolph EMC has been providing electricity to your service address for at least one year and your account is current, you are eligible to participate in levelized billing. We will simply calculate your levelized payment based on the average billing for your home.

You can learn more about this service and sign up on our website. Just type in "Levelized Billing" in the search feature at the top of our site.

Our goal is to provide the tools you need to track your energy usage, be alerted to equipment problems as soon as possible and to provide monthly payment stability. By signing up for High Usage Alerts, Energy Usage Alerts and Levelized Billing, you can take control of your power bills during hot and cold months and all year long.

Cooperatively Yours,

  
Dale F. Lambert  
Chief Executive Officer



Randolph Electric Membership Corporation provides safe and reliable power with exceptional value to more than 33,000 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

**Board of Directors**

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- Billy Maness..... Vice President
- Lee Isley .....Secretary-Treasurer
- Scott Cole..... Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
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- Jay Albright..... District Vice President
- Dennis Mabe ..... Vice President of Engineering & Operations
- Fred Smith..... Vice President of Economic Development & Compliance
- Nicole Arnold ..... Editor

Visit Randolph EMC Online  
**RandolphEMC.com**

# Considering Home Solar?

1

## Contact Randolph EMC

To fully understand the process, contact your trusted Home Energy Advisors. This will help you get the best return on your investments.

2

## Learn your home's energy use

Review kWh usage for the past 12 to 24 months on your electric bills and calculate the average monthly usage.

3

## Location, Location, Location

Start considering panel location. Assess the age, size and condition of your roof as well as available ground space.

4

## Get several quotes

There are costs other than equipment, such as permitting, installation and inspection. Make sure all costs are included in quotes.

5

## Do your homework

Ensure the contractor has installers who are trained and certified to install solar. Be leery of big promises, such as eliminating your electric bill. In most scenarios, that's simply not true.