

Wake ElectriConnection

“the power to make
a difference”

a newsletter for members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation

May 2007

 Wake Electric Membership Corporation

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

IT'S A HUNDRED DEGREES IN HERE!

If you are like a lot of Americans who are trying to save money on the electric bill, you try to wait until you absolutely, positively cannot take the heat inside your house anymore. By this point, the dog has hunkered down to the lowest, coolest spot on a bare floor and he's panting, the kids' hair is hanging lank and limp and they're lolling about sweating on the furniture, begging—"Mom, dad, can we please turn on the air conditioner now?!?"

But wait! Easy does it there Cools McGhee with that trigger finger aimed at the thermostat!

If your home is too hot in the summer, there are many ways you can help keep heat out of your house. Planting trees, for instance, is one of the best ways to diffuse the hot summer sun before it enters your home. But a surprising amount of heat comes from inside your home.

The biggest sources of internal heat gain are lights and appliances. Reducing their use will save electricity and keep your home cooler. In humid climates, moisture that is released by cooking, bathing, and other activities will also make it harder for air conditioners to cool your home. A drier home feels more comfortable.

Here are some easy ways to keep cool in the summer:

- Replace standard incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. The electricity used

by standard bulbs produces 10 percent light and 90 percent heat. Also, compact fluorescent lights are cheaper to operate.

- Schedule heat-producing chores like baking or doing the laundry after the hottest part of the day.
- Install an insulating jacket on your water heater.



- Use kitchen and bathroom fans to remove heat and moisture during and after cooking and bathing.

- When replacing appliances, buy those with the Energy Star® label. These appliances conserve energy and release less unwanted heat.

- If you are home during the day, use a room fan to create a cooling breeze. If you live in an area where evenings are cool, don't forget about the cheapest cooling method of all. Open your doors and windows, or run window fans. This will move cool evening air through your home for almost no cost.

Addressing all of these points can add up to big savings on your electric bill. It's not a question of *should* you do your part to cut back on energy consumption. It is a fact that you *MUST* if you want to save money and energy.

For more information about energy costs in your home, be sure to visit www.wemc.com.





N.C. State and Carolina— *Here we come!*



Chelsea

Since discovering that he'll be meeting UNC-Chapel Hill's head basketball coach Roy Williams this summer, Christian Willis, 13, of Wake Forest, has become the envy of all of his classmates. Willis, a student at G.C. Crawley Middle School in Creedmoor, was recently awarded a much-coveted scholarship to attend Carolina's popular Roy Williams Basketball Camp this June. Chelsea Townsend, 12, of Durham, said that her friends at Rogers-Herr Year Round Middle School are quite envious as well. Townsend received a scholarship to attend the Kay Yow Basketball Camp at N.C. State.



Christian

The scholarships, awarded annually by Wake Electric, give students the opportunity to spend one full week learning game fundamentals with college coaches and players on campus. Coach Williams and Coach Yow will visit with the students at the end of the camp.

Willis said that although, unlike many of his classmates, he doesn't want to go into the NBA (he looks forward to one day studying at the Air Force Academy and flying airplanes), he knows the camp experience will be invaluable.

Townsend only recently started playing the sport of basketball. Before finding that she had an aptitude for the sport, she studied dance and played volleyball. "All of that has prepared me to really excel in basketball," she said.

Wake Electric General Manager, Jim Mangum, said that the company sends middle-schoolers to these camps each summer because of status of the programs. "These camps are the best in the nation," said Mangum. "We want to give students in our community the chance to learn from the greats and to take this experience back to school with them."

Wake offers up to \$5,000 in grants to area non-profits

Each quarter of the calendar year, non-profit organizations in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Wake and Vance counties are invited to submit grant applications to Wake Electric's Operation RoundUp program. The Wake Electric Foundation board considers grant requests for non-profits that:

- serve a broad range of individuals
- use funds for educational, charitable, or economic development purposes.

Grant requests can be made for up to \$5,000 and are given out in January, April, July, and October. The

next grant application deadline is Friday, **June 29** at 5 p.m.

The funds for the Operation RoundUp grants come from Wake members who agree to round up their light bill to the nearest whole dollar. For example, if the bill is \$24.91 – the bill will be rounded up 9 cents to \$25.00.

In order to receive an application, sign-up to contribute to RoundUp, or learn if your organization qualifies to apply, visit www.wemc.com.

Your pennies make major dollars for the community!

Over \$50,000 in grants for TEACHERS!



On May 1, we kicked off our Bright Ideas grant application program for area teachers. We will award grants in the fall for innovative instructional projects that teachers will execute during the 2007-2008 school year.

The grants support educational initiatives that cannot be funded by school systems due to financial limitations.

In the 2006-2007 school term, Wake Electric awarded \$50,000 in grants to local schools in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Wake, and Vance counties.

The grants go to North Carolina teachers serving grades K-12. They are awarded for projects in any discipline as long as they use creative teaching techniques to improve instruction. Projects are eligible for grants of up to **\$1,500**.

Since the inception of this program Wake Electric and other North Carolina Electric Cooperatives have presented over \$1.5 million to Tar Heel educators. The statewide Bright Ideas Grant Program was launched in October 1994 by North Carolina's electric cooperatives and has been very instrumental in assisting teachers and principals with programs that they cannot fund through traditional school financing. Teachers who apply by the "Early Bird" date, August 28, 2007, will be entered into a drawing for a digital camera for the classroom. Two digital cameras will be given out, and any of the applicants across the state could win a camera. The drawing will occur in September and the winning teachers will be notified on the day of the drawing. The winning teachers will be announced on the Bright Ideas Web site, www.ncbrightideas.com.

The final deadline to submit all grants is Friday, September 28, 2007. For more information or to apply go to www.ncbrightideas.com. **ONLY ONLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** If you have any questions about the grant program, email Angela Perez, PR/Communications Specialist at angela.perez@wemc.com or call 919.863.6376 or 1.800.474.6300.

Bright Ideas grants are made possible through funding by Wake Electric's Operation RoundUp program. The funds for the Operation RoundUp grants come from Wake members who agree to round up

their light bill to the nearest whole dollar. For example, if the bill is \$24.91 – the bill will be rounded up 9 cents to \$25.00. These pennies add up to major dollars. Partial funding also comes from the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, located in Raleigh, NC. The NCEMC consists of a family of corporations formed to support the state's 27 electric cooperatives.

Students who make at least one "A" on their report card can enter to win a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond!

That's right. Any student making at least one "A" (or the equivalent) in grades K-12 whose parents or legal guardians live in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, or Nash counties, can enter a drawing to win a \$50 U.S. savings bond. All you need to do is mail in your most recent report card highlighting the "A". For information on rolling deadlines, other requirements, where to send the report card, etc., go to www.wemc.com or call 919.863.6376 or 1.800.474.6300. Funds made possible through member contributions to Operation RoundUp

How many light bulbs does it take to change the world?

Just one.

You've read the stories.

You've seen the news.

You've been to the big chain stores and seen boxes and boxes and row upon row of them.

What are they?

Compact fluorescent lamps (also known as CFLs). They have quickly become all the rage as Americans scramble to find new ways to save money on their electric bill. These spiraled little frosted gizmos promise to save a few hundred dollars on your light bill over the course of their life, which is about 9 years. CFLs typically have a life span of between 8,000 and 15,000 hours, whereas incandescent lamps (the light bulbs most of us had in our homes until recently) are usually manufactured to have a life span of 750 hours or 1000 hours. And while Wake Electric has managed to keep your rates the same for many years, we encourage you continue to conserve energy—because we want you to save money and, at the same time, to help fight global warming by conserving energy. CFLs use between one-fifth and one-quarter of the power of an equivalent incandescent bulb, thereby saving significant amounts of energy and reducing the need for electrical generation. These positives mean that we don't need to generate as much power. And that means that we don't use as many natural resources or have to burn as much fuel to keep your lights on.

So in a nutshell, what does all this energy efficiency business mean for consumers?

- Less energy consumption.
- Lower electric bills.
- Lowered greenhouse-gas emissions. Less dependence on coal and foreign oil.
- A step forward in the fight against global warming.

Wake Electric knows that our members care about saving money and about the natural world around them. That's why we handed out hundreds of CFLs to attendees at our March Annual Meeting in Louisville.

Teaching our members how to save money and promoting energy efficiency is nothing new for Wake Electric. It's just one of the ways that we are continuing our long-running program to promote energy efficiency.

For more ideas, be sure to visit our web site at www.wemc.com.

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