

Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

DECEMBER 2008

Win \$150 by simply changing a light bulb!

Wake EMC is encouraging members to replace their old incandescent light bulbs with Energy Star® fluorescent bulbs by December 31, 2008. Two winners will receive a \$150 credit on their electric bill. Winners will be notified in January 2009.

All the member has to do is mail-in or drop-off a receipt that shows a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) purchase made between September 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008. On the back of the receipt, the member must include an account number, name, email address (if applicable), and a telephone number to be entered in our drawing.

Only ONE receipt per member household can be entered. The number/quantity of CFLs purchased does not matter—as long as there is at least one CFL purchase listed on the receipt.

Only two lucky members will win the \$150 credit on their electric bill, but every member that installs a fluorescent bulb in their home or business stands to save

as much as \$30 per year.

All receipts must be received at our office by 5 p.m. on December 31, 2008, in order to be eligible for the drawing.

Receipts may be enclosed in the electric bill or mailed separately and directly to:

Wake Electric
Attention: Change a Light Program
P.O. Box 1229
Wake Forest, NC 27588

WIN \$150 CREDIT!



The WPCA increase begins in January

Effective January, Wake Electric plans to increase the wholesale power cost adjustment (WPCA) by one penny—from 1.5 cents per kWh to 2.5 cents per kWh. The WPCA is an amount that is added to a member's bill each month reflecting increases and decreases in the cost of purchased power from the cooperative's wholesale power supplier.

As the need for more electricity grows in Wake Electric's service territory, this proposed increase is part of our larger effort

to prepare for our energy future, which includes new sources of power, reduced emissions at power plants that generate our power and increased investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency. Increases are also necessary given today's volatile fuel costs.

The average household (that uses about 1,000 kWh per month) can expect to see about a \$10 per month increase on its electric bill. This charge applies to all residential and street lighting rates and will be effective January 1, 2009. The average

street lighting rate will increase from \$8.25 to \$10 monthly, though the cost differences will vary by lighting type.

Wake Electric last changed retail electric rates in June 1997. Under the new retail rates, WPCA charges were zero until late 2000, but have increased steadily since 2002. A WPCA charge of 1.5 cents per kWh has been applied since July 2006. Instead of actually raising rates, Wake Electric has decided to recover additional fuel costs through the WPCA. The primary advantages to

this approach are to avoid base rate changes until 1) there is hopefully some stability in coal prices, and 2) federal energy legislation is approved in 2009 giving the industry a better sense of the direction and structure of potentially significant changes such as renewable energy mandates, carbon dioxide constraints and/or taxes.

For tips on how to save on your electric bill, energy efficiency and additional WPCA information visit our Web site at www.wemc.com.



Wake Electric
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Call to report outages: 919.863.6499 or 800.743.3155
Regular office hours: M-F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Telephone hours: M-F, 7 a.m.–9 p.m., 863.6300 or 800.474.6300
Underground locating service: Call 811

The co-op difference important in today's economy

Many Americans do business with a cooperative everyday. They exist in almost every industry, from energy to news reporting to healthcare. Co-ops are a huge part of the economy here in the United States and serve some 120 million members, or 4 in 10 Americans.

While cooperatives may resemble most companies in some ways, they are very different in others. One of the most important differences is that co-ops are not driven by profit. For-profit companies aim to return a profit to their shareholders. After all, these shareholders have invested their money in the business.

A co-op's mission, on the other hand, is meeting its members' needs for goods or services. Wake Electric, like all electric co-ops, is part of this tradition of doing business, one that has a long history going back to 1752 when Ben Franklin started the first cooperative in Philadelphia.

Wake Electric, like other electric utilities, is, however, going to see its operating costs rise when the price of

doing business goes up. There's no better example of this than right now when the cost of fuel to run power plants is at a record high. We work everyday to achieve operating efficiencies as we face these cost increases. We will work with you to make sure you have the information and help you need to use energy wisely. But if we find it necessary to pass along power supply increases, you can trust that the decision was based on keeping the business financially strong on behalf of all members. We are not driven by the profit motive to make money for outside investors.

At a time when Americans' electric bills are going up around the country—in some places by as much as 40 percent—the co-op way of doing business is an important way to keep costs manageable.

We are not profit-driven and we don't have to impress Wall Street every quarter. Rather, we are service-driven and operate at cost. You can bank on the cooperative difference.



Our Town

Welcome to the newest section of your Wake Electric newsletter, Our Town. This monthly section will be dedicated to local events, people and places in our service territory, which includes Durham, Franklin, Nash, Johnston, Vance, Granville and Wake counties. Why the focus on the local? Because Wake Electric is local. Our offices are located where our members live and work. For Wake Electric, the concept of community and community involvement are more than just buzzwords. They are basic to how we do business, and how we will always do business. We invite you to join us each month in Our Town to celebrate the events, people, and places that make our community so unique. If you have any suggestions for events, businesses, people, or points of interest to consider for a monthly focus, please email Angela Perez, Public Relations Specialist, at angela.perez@wemc.com or call at 919.863.6376 or 1.800.474.6300.

Wake Forest Centennial Celebration



Wake Electric invites you to come ring in the New Year at the 2009 Wake Forest Centennial Celebration. On December 31, your family is invited to participate in an incredible array of First Light festivities sponsored by Wake Electric and Wake Forest Power. The celebration begins at 6 p.m. along South White Street in historic downtown Wake Forest.

The main stage will feature music from The Will McBride Group and The Voltage Brothers. The Voltage Brothers will electrify the night as they perform music from classic rock to swing, and everything in between, including Carolina beach music, disco, funk, hip hop, jazz, Motown, pop and rhythm & blues!

Activities for the children include roaming "Flow Circus" performers, inflatable play areas and a six-foot climbing wall. Kids will also celebrate an early New Year's countdown at 8:30 p.m. Karaoke, contests, caricature artists and great cuisine will be among the many other aspects your family is sure to enjoy.

Besides enjoying the music and entertainment, you can stop by the local vendor booths or one of the downtown shops for food, merchandise and much more.

As it gets closer to midnight, you won't want to miss the countdown spectacular filled with lights, sounds and fireworks that will illuminate the night sky as the 2009 Wake Forest Centennial Year begins.

For more information and a complete schedule, go to www.wakeforestnc.gov\2009centennial.aspx

Bright Ideas worth spreading

The boldest.

The most innovative.

Driven by passion.

These are what the projects presented by this year's Bright Ideas teacher grant award winners have in common.

Like the teachers who were chosen to receive these grants, we at Wake Electric believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and ultimately, the world.

That's why each year we welcome applications from teachers in our service territory to present cutting-edge projects that give us a glimpse into the future that we can create for our children.

All of the teachers who applied for the 2008–2009 Bright Ideas grants represent some of our region's most inspired educators and a community of curious thinkers who want to engage their students with ideas and one other.

From cutting edge math projects to progressive forays into the world of horticulture, Wake Electric has funded 43 area teachers in support of advanced concept learning in the classroom.

Through its Operation RoundUp program and the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, Wake has awarded \$50,000 in Bright Ideas teacher grants for projects that will benefit more than 11,000 students.

Crossing the lines of varied and disparate disciplines, all of these projects have one thing in common: "These projects exemplify the concept of 'thinking outside of the box,'" said Wake Electric CEO Jim Mangum, "in a rapidly changing world where the 'box' is increasingly difficult to define. These award-winning projects represent new and innovative approaches to educating students who already have access to the world thanks to the simplest of today's technology."

However, said Mangum, the very newest projects utilizing new technologies are simply not feasible for today's financially strapped school systems. "In today's economy, Wake Electric understands the needs of our schools. As both stewards of the communities we serve and advocates of innovation, we believe in supporting our schools and teachers through programs like Bright Ideas."

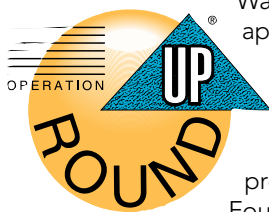
The Bright Ideas winners were recently honored at a banquet held at the Hilton Hotel in Raleigh. Bright Ideas, which is administered by cooperatives across the state of North Carolina, awards grants to innovative educators in any subject or grade at North Carolina certified K–12 schools. Wake Electric's Bright Ideas grant program has awarded more than \$430,000 to area educators since 1994. To learn more about the grant program, visit www.ncbrightideas.com or Wake Electric's website at www.wemc.com.



BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT RECIPIENTS

Virginia Hocutt, Archer Lodge Middle
Valerie A. Radcliffe, Benvenue Elementary
Laura Bryant, Benvenue Elementary
Jacqueline Crudup-Evans, Bunn Elementary
Leah Perry-Lawless, Exploris Middle
Lisa M. Pennington, Franklinton Elementary
Rebecca Bishop, Franklinton Elementary
Lisa Lawrence, Franklinton High
Lucy Hughes, Fuquay-Varina High
Doug Shirley, Garner High
Tammy Bunn, Heritage Elementary
Sharon Mogilski, Hunter Elementary
Chris Monte, J.F. Webb High
Laurie Bowers, Jones-Dairy Elementary
Susan Kuhns, Jones-Dairy Elementary
Nicole Sheldon, Laurel Mill Elementary
Shereka Greene, Ligon Middle
Linda Ferris, Louisburg High
Stacy Rinehart, Lufkin Road Middle
Marti Capforte, Lufkin Road Middle
Rose W. Hayes, Micro-Pine Level Elementary
Betty Jo Wimmer, Middle Creek High School
Tracy Bowers, Millbrook Elementary
Kelly Ferrell, Mt. Energy Elementary School
Kristin Speakman, New Hope Elementary
Michele B. Worley, North Johnston High
Kimberly Ellison, Powhatan Elementary
Elizabeth Logan, Princeton High
Doug Pawlak, Riverwood Middle
Amanda O'Connor, Rollins Elementary
Lauren Hamil, Royal Elementary
Kendra Leal, Royal Elementary
June L. Blackwell, Sanderson High
Sherrie Barber, Selma Middle School
Lanelle Sutton, Smithfield Middle
Deborah Gaul, South Granville High
Cynthia Carpenter, Southern Nash Middle
Lisa Johnson, Timber Drive Elementary
Marta Whitehouse, Wakelon Elementary
Per Rosenbaum, West Cary Middle
Molly Allen, Western Vance Secondary
Shawn Richards, Western Vance Secondary
Valerie P. Hairston, Zeb Vance Elementary
Barnanec Creech, Zebulon Middle

Wake Electric seeks Operation RoundUp grant applicants and announces recent grant winners



Wake Electric is seeking grant applications from non-profit organizations in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Wake and Vance counties.

Through its Operation RoundUp program, the Wake Electric Foundation board is considering grant requests for projects and

proposals that:

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

Grant requests for up to \$5,000 are given out in January, April, July and October. The next grant application deadline is Friday, December 12, 2008. Grant winners will be notified by mid-January 2009.

Wake Electric gave out \$11,000 in grants for the third quarter. The grants were awarded in mid-October by the Wake Electric Foundation to:

- ★ Area Congregations in Ministry, Granville County, for general program administration assistance.
- ★ Family Life Center of Smithfield, Johnston County, for various youth programs.
- ★ God's Vision Ministries, Franklin County, for a tutoring program.
- ★ Cooperative Extension Service, Franklin County, for a 4-H Livestock Show.
- ★ Sanford Creek Elementary, Wake County, for playground equipment.
- ★ N.C. Special Olympics, Wake County, for its 2009 programs.

The funds for the Operation RoundUp grants come from Wake Electric members who agree to round up their light bill to the nearest whole dollar. For example, if the bill is \$104.91—the bill will be rounded up 9 cents to \$105.

For more information, to sign up to participate in funding Operation RoundUp, or for an application, go to www.wemc.com or contact Angela Perez, Public Relations Specialist, at 919.863.6300 or 1.800.863.6300.

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Wake Electric offices will be closed on Thursday, December 25, and Friday, December 26, for Christmas, and Thursday, January 1, 2009, for New Year's Day.

High-School Juniors: Apply to win college scholarship and a trip to D.C.

Washington, D.C., has never been a more exciting place to be than right now! You can visit this thrilling center of change and power this summer and visit congressional leaders face-to-face to talk about the issues that matter to you. And you can win a \$1,000 scholarship for college as an added bonus.

That's right. \$1,000.

Wake Electric seeks applicants for the \$1,000 scholarship plus a one-week all-expenses-paid trip to D.C. on the 2009 Rural Electric Youth Tour from June 13–19, 2009.

Students who attend the Youth Tour will join 1,500 high school students from across the country to learn up-close and personal about the inner workings of American government and politics, and to see, taste and feel all of the history, culture, arts and fun that the city offers. You'll also learn about electric cooperatives and participate in the "Soda Pop Co-op."

Applicants must currently be high school juniors in Wake, Durham, Johnston, Vance, Granville, Nash or Franklin counties.

For more information on the Youth Tour, visit www.youthtour.coop. To download an application beginning December 2008, visit Wake Electric's Web site at www.wemc.com. The deadline to submit applications is Friday, February 6, 2009.

For additional information, call Angela Perez, Public Relations Specialist, at 919.863.6376 or send an e-mail to angela.perez@wemc.com.

The youth tour is funded through voluntary member and employee donations to Operation Round and the Wake Electric Foundation.



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P.O. Box 1229, 414 East Wait Avenue, Wake Forest, NC 27588, www.wemc.com

Published monthly by Wake Electric

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