

# Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

DECEMBER 2010

## The Future of Our Industry: Find a Balanced Solution



Jim Mangum,  
General Manager  
& CEO

**T**here's a lot changing in the electric utility industry. In the Southeast, we are facing a steady growth in demand for electricity while at the same time, it is becoming more difficult and expensive to produce and transmit that power. Even with successful energy efficiency programs, our state will experience increased energy demand requiring the construction of new power plants and transmission.

For decades, electric utilities have relied primarily on abundant and affordable fossil fuels and nuclear energy-fueled power plants to meet growing demand, but looming federal regulations on carbon dioxide emissions may change that. The cost of complying with new regulations could make electricity less affordable for everyone.

Federal regulations on emissions of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, are quickly becoming a reality. It's just a matter of which government branch gets there first: legislative, executive—or both.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), part of the executive branch, is moving forward with regulations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. We know these regulations will drive up energy costs. The EPA staff, which is not elected by the public, does not take into account how their regulations will impact jobs or families.

Wake Electric is committed to environmental stewardship and has a track record to back it up, but compliance with environmental regulations—like all expenses—is ultimately borne by you, the consumer-member. The EPA focuses solely on the environment and is not accountable to the public for unreasonable

environmental policies and how their regulations impact the economy. The EPA will regulate with no concern about the costs to consumers. Congress has a chance to step in and prevent the EPA from implementing these regulations.

Electric cooperatives across the nation believe that any controls on carbon dioxide should be established by Congress, where these proposals' impact can have a full public debate. Congress is in a better position than the EPA to develop a balanced solution to the greenhouse gas problem—a solution that takes into account these regulations' costs and the impact on electric cooperative members like you.

Please consider calling 1-877-40BALANCE today and urge North Carolina Senators Richard Burr and Kay Hagan to prevent the EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions with the Clean Air Act. Encourage our senators to develop balanced legislation for our energy needs—legislation that produces real environmental results without further harming our economy.

It's up to all of us to be engaged in this process to affect the outcome. We at Wake Electric want to ensure that any climate change policy goals adopted are fair, affordable and achievable. This will ensure a bright future for you, your family and generations to come.

Find out more at [www.findabalancedsolution.com](http://www.findabalancedsolution.com).



*Happy holidays!*

Our cooperative family at Wake Electric wishes "you and yours" a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

 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

# Wake Electric awards Operation RoundUp grants to area nonprofits



**W**ake Electric awarded more than \$5,000 in grant monies during the third quarter of 2010 to

deserving nonprofits located in counties served by the co-op. These grants were made available through the Operation RoundUp program.

Operation RoundUp allows Wake Electric members to round up their electric bill to the next highest dollar and donate that amount to the program. For example, as an Operation RoundUp contributor, if your bill for the month was \$91.85, your bill would be rounded up to \$92 and the extra 15 cents would be donated to Operation RoundUp.

Contributing members give an average of 50 cents per month or \$6 per year. The maximum amount that a member would contribute in a year's time would be \$11.88.

Nonprofit agencies located in counties that Wake Electric serves, which includes Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Wake and Vance counties, are eligible to apply. The agency does not have to be a member of Wake Electric.

Grants are open to all project and subject areas that enhance economic infrastructure and job creation, promote service or charitable organizations, and meet emergency needs of individuals within the service area of Wake Electric.

If you are a nonprofit agency located in Wake Electric's service area that is interested in applying

for an Operation Roundup grant, applications for the fourth-quarter grants are due by Friday, December 10. A simple and convenient downloadable application can be found at [www.wemc.com](http://www.wemc.com). Just click on the Operation RoundUp link to find the application.

Since Operation RoundUp began in 1996, the program has awarded more than \$300,000 to area nonprofits.

If you are a member and would like to sign up for the Operation RoundUp program, please call (800) 474-6300 today or e-mail [information@wemc.com](mailto:information@wemc.com). Contributing to the program literally only costs you pennies a month. Those pennies, when combined with those of other contributors, add up to powerful dollars.

For more information about the Operation RoundUp program, please call (919) 863-6312 or e-mail [communications@wemc.com](mailto:communications@wemc.com).

The third-quarter 2010 Operation RoundUp grant winners are:

- ★ **\$2,000—Special Olympics of North Carolina** (Awards, medals and ribbons)
- ★ **\$1,008—Assistance League of the Triangle Area** (Operation School Bell Program- Wake and Durham counties)
- ★ **\$1,000—Hands of Hope Food Pantry** (Purchase of food items)
- ★ **\$1,000—Boys & Girls Club of North Central North Carolina** (Kick-off program materials)

## Wake ElectriConnection

Published monthly by Wake Electric

P.O. Box 1229, 414 East Wait Avenue,  
Wake Forest, NC 27588, [www.wemc.com](http://www.wemc.com)

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### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

When decorating, remember that outdoor "icicle" lights use more energy because they have more bulbs per linear foot than regular light strands. Consider using regular strands of energy-saving LED (Light Emitting Diode) lights. They use less electricity and last up to 100,000 hours.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

## Classroom Technology Awards grant winners for 2010

**W**ake Electric recently awarded almost \$19,000 in Classroom Technology Awards grant monies to deserving teachers in the Triangle and surrounding counties.

Wake Electric annually awards grants to area teachers for one piece of technology each that will enhance classroom teaching and learning. From laptop computers and digital cameras to scanners and software, teachers are able to guide their students in new and creative ways with the help of Wake Electric's Classroom Technology Awards grants.

Public school and community college teachers in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Vance, and Wake counties are eligible to apply. Funding for Classroom Technology Awards grants are made possible by Wake Electric member-consumers and Wake Electric employees through the Operation RoundUp program.

Since the inception of the Classroom

Technology Awards program in 2004, the program has awarded more than \$131,000 in grant monies. This program truly helps today's teachers better reach their students. Research shows that students who are in technology-rich

environments experience positive effects on their achievement in all major subject areas.

Congratulations to our 2010/2011 Classroom Technology Awards grant winners!

Name	School	Grant Amount
Sue Guerrant	Vance-Granville Community College (Franklin Campus)	\$225
Charlene Burroughs	Granville Central High School	\$995
Monica Ball	GC Hawley Middle School	\$1,425
Jodi Berger	Martin Middle School	\$1,500
Tommy Kemp	Franklinton High School	\$1,425
Chuck Sinclair	Franklinton Elementary	\$1,718
Donna Smith	Aycock Elementary	\$600
Michael Gifford	Jones Dairy Elementary	\$1,961
Delana Perry	Southern Nash High School	\$816
Richard Kinsey	Green Hope High School	\$1,230
Richard Isham	River Bend Elementary	\$2,489
Bobbie Lequire	Stovall-Shaw Elementary School	\$1,658
Doug Pawlak	Riverwood Middle	\$1,250
Arron Foster	West Johnston High School	\$2,600

## Wake Electric Lineman Competes in Statewide Pole Top Rescue Competition

**C**ory Lawrence, a serviceman with Wake Electric, had the honor of competing in the 12th Pole Top Rescue Competition for North Carolina's electric cooperatives. Lawrence has been with Wake Electric for 10 years.

Lawrence performed, along with 24 other electric cooperative line workers from North Carolina, on October 13 at the state competition. The event was held on the lawn of North Carolina's electric cooperatives' headquarters building in Raleigh.

Pole Top Rescue competitors participate in a scenario where they must complete a series of events, including placing an emergency radio call, donning climbing gear, scaling 20

feet up a utility pole, rigging a rope, lowering a 105-pound mannequin and beginning CPR.

This year's competition had two categories based on the type of fall restraints used by the competitors. Both categories used 100 percent fall protection, but there were differences in how the competitors were secured to the pole. One group secured themselves in the traditional way with a lifeline and life hook, while the other group used personal fall restraints that protect from falls during the ascent and descent.

Lawrence competed in the personal fall restraints category against 12 other linemen, and came in fifth place by finishing the drill in 2 minutes and 31:18 seconds.





# Travel Safety and How to Secure Your Home Before a Trip



**G**littering lights, fragrant firs, dangling mistletoe, flight delays and snow storms are all a part of the holiday season. Whatever your reason for traveling this time of year, it is important to remember safety.

Although all of your holiday plans have been made and presents have been bought, there is still something important that needs to be done before you leave to visit loved ones—secure your home. Following these tips will protect your home before a trip and make it less vulnerable:

- ★ Even if a garage door is closed, burglars can still find ways to get into the garage and enter your home. Lock the garage door from the inside and make certain all other entrances and windows are locked, too.
- ★ Don't tell too many people that you're going away on vacation. Be sure not to post any information online about when you're away from your house. It's OK to tell a trusted neighbor or family member your plans so he or she can keep an eye on your house while you're gone.
- ★ If you are going away for an extended amount of time, have the post office hold your mail. Accumulated letters and magazines are a sign of an unattended home. Consider having your paper carrier hold your newspaper until you return, too.
- ★ If you have a home security system, call the company to tell them you are going out of town. Also tell them where you can be reached in case of an emergency.
- ★ If you feel apprehensive about leaving your home unattended, have a friend or family member house-sit while you are away.

Millions of Americans pack the nation's airports during the holiday season. To make your airport experience as stress free as possible, follow these simple tips:

- ★ Call the airlines to check your flight status before you leave for the airport. Few things are more frustrating than arriving at the airport and discovering your flight has been delayed or canceled.
- ★ Arrive at the airport early to avoid crowds at security and customs. If you have time afterward, you can eat at a restaurant or shop for last-minute holiday gifts.
- ★ If your airline has the option to print your boarding pass online, do it to avoid long lines.
- ★ Don't forget a photo I.D., which is required for domestic travel, and a passport, which is required for international flights.



## *Holiday closings*

Wake Electric offices will be closed for the holidays on Friday, December 24, Monday, December 27 and Friday, December 31. For emergencies, please contact us at (800) 743-3155.



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THE TV ON FOR  
THE COFFEE  
TABLE. WHY  
HEAT AN  
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