

Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

MARCH 2012

Mark Your Calendar! Join Us for Wake Electric's Annual Meeting on March 23

During this meeting, members will have the opportunity to hear reports on the current plans and progress of Wake Electric, including the new, state-of-the-art technology being implemented at Wake Electric and how

members can utilize it to help manage their energy usage. The annual meeting is also a great opportunity for members to ask senior management questions about their co-op.



Members in attendance will be entered into a drawing for \$5,000 in cash prizes. The Grand Prize will be \$1,000. There are also two second-place prizes of \$500 each, four third-place prizes of \$250 each and 20 fourth-place prizes of \$100 each. There will also be special activities for school-aged children during the meeting.

Just cut out and bring the Official Registration Card located on the cover wrap of this month's Carolina Country magazine to the meeting to be entered in the prize drawings.

For more information on Wake Electric's annual meeting, please visit www.wemc.com/annualmeeting.aspx. We hope to see you there!

When: Friday, March 23, 2012
Time: Registration—5:30 p.m.
Business Meeting—7 p.m.
Location: Louisburg College Auditorium,
501 Main Street
Louisburg, NC

Wake Electric and Sensus Celebrate Local Smart Grid Partnership

Wake Electric has selected Raleigh-based utility infrastructure firm Sensus to replace its current drive-by meter reading system. Sensus offers an advanced metering system that can communicate meter data wirelessly and get new information, such as outage notifications.

On January 12, Sensus CEO and President and Wake Electric member Peter Mainz received a Sensus AMI meter at his residence in an event celebrating this local partnership.

Wake Electric is expected to complete installation of its smart grid system by the end of 2012 with benefits to consumers including increased reliability of service and the ability to view household power usage data on a monthly, daily and even hourly basis by logging on to a soon to be introduced web portal called "Monitor and Manage."

For the utility, benefits include remote monitoring and control of distribution assets for improved operational efficiency and a decreased carbon footprint by removing the need for meter read trucks.

Wake Electric will be announcing more information about the Monitor and Manage web portal at the Annual Meeting on Friday, March 23. Also stay tuned to April's edition of ElectriConnection to see how you can utilize the interval energy usage data to help you save on your monthly electric bill.



Wake Electric meter technician Grady Perry (left) installed a Sensus meter at the home of Wake Electric member and Sensus CEO and President Peter Mainz (right.)

 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.–6 p.m., 863.6300 or 800.474.6300
Underground locating service: Call 811
Dedicated pay-by-phone number: 866.999.4593

Tornado Safety

It's hard to believe it has been almost a year since devastating tornadoes ripped through our state, killing more than 20 people, injuring hundreds of others and damaging homes and businesses. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, tornado occurrences peak in the southeast between March and May, so it's important that we all know what to look for and how to prepare as we enter this season of uncertainty.

Tornadoes, known as nature's most dangerous storms, can be more than a mile wide and create winds that reach up to 300 miles per hour. Tornadoes can develop quickly in the right conditions, which is one of the reasons these storms are so dangerous. Look for these signs that a tornado may form.

SIGNS A TORNADO MAY BE COMING:

- ★ Tornadoes tend to occur in the late afternoon and evening.
- ★ Often there is calm before the storm, and it is not uncommon for a tornado to take place under sunny skies, however, they generally occur at the trailing edge of a thunderstorm.
- ★ Watch for a dark, often greenish sky, large hail and a loud roar that sounds similar to a freight train.
- ★ A tornado WATCH means that a tornado is possible, and to stay tuned as storm conditions develop.
- ★ A tornado WARNING means that a tornado has been spotted or indicated on weather radar and you should take shelter immediately.



THINGS TO DO BEFORE A STORM:

- ★ Develop a plan and determine the safest place to take shelter in your home. The safest rooms are those in the middle of a house, with no windows, such as a lower-level bathroom or basement.
- ★ Prior to peak tornado season, make sure to trim any tree limbs and branches that could be a hazard to your home. Do not trim trees close to overhead power lines; call your electric cooperative instead.
- ★ Remove any debris from around your lawn. Be sure all lawn tools and yard ornaments are put away and secure patio furniture; checking for these hazards may help keep you and your home safe in the event of a tornado.

Knowing what to look for and preparing for a tornado can help keep your family safe this spring.

Bought an Electric Car? Let Us Know About It!



Please contact Wake Electric if you have purchased or plan to purchase an electric vehicle that will be charged at a home or business that is served by Wake Electric. We want to continue to

accommodate the extra load electric cars place on our system and ensure that no safety issues exist.

Please contact us at 919-863-6312, 919-863-6316 or via email at communications@wemc.com. We appreciate your help with this matter.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Adding insulation to your home? An R-value indicates insulation's resistance to heat flow—a higher R-value means more effective insulation. Every

type of insulation has a unique R-value depending on material, thickness, and density. Your ideal R-value depends on whether your home is new or existing, your heating fuel, and where you live. Learn more at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Deadlines Approaching for Scholarship Opportunities at Wake Electric

WAKE ELECTRIC SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR 2012 YOUTH TOUR

Wake Electric seeks applicants for the 2012 Rural Electric Youth Tour, which includes a \$1,000 scholarship for college, plus a free, all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. The trip will be from June 15–22, 2012.

Applicants must be current high school juniors living in Wake, Durham, Johnston, Vance, Granville, Nash, or Franklin counties. Students do not have to live in households served by Wake Electric in order to win.

For more information on eligibility or to download an application, please visit www.wemc.com/youthtours.aspx. The deadline to submit applications to the Youth Tour program is Thursday, March 15, 2012.

WAKE ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Wake Electric is currently seeking students to apply for its prestigious scholarship program. Students can apply for the coveted Fred M. Alford Scholarship (\$2,000), as well as 16 Touchstone Energy Scholarships (\$1,250 each).

Students only need to submit one application to be considered for both scholarship categories.

To find out the requirements for both scholarships and to download an application, please visit www.wemc.com/scholarships.aspx. The deadline to submit applications to the Wake Electric Scholarship Program is Friday, March 30, 2012.

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY SPORTS CAMPS 2012

Wake Electric is providing all-expenses-paid scholarships for a female to attend the Kellie Harper Basketball Camp at NC State in Raleigh and a male to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC in Chapel Hill this summer.

Rising sixth through rising eighth graders are eligible to apply and the application deadline is Friday, March 30, 2012. For more information or to download an application, please visit www.wemc.com/basketball.aspx.

Questions? Contact Wake Electric at communications@wemc.com or (919) 863-6312.




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Cool Savings.**

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To schedule your free pickup
call **877.341.2310**
or visit **www.wemc.com**

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 Wake Electric
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You must be a residential electric customer with a valid account number to participate. Appliances must be secondary units. Refrigerators and freezers turned in for recycling must be in working condition (cooling), 10-30 cubic feet, owned by you and picked up from the residential address listed on the billing account. The \$50 rebate will be mailed/applied within 4-6 weeks after collection. Limit of two appliances per household per year.
*Some restrictions apply.



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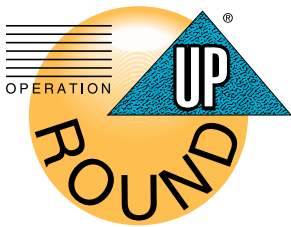
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Local Nonprofit Organizations Receive Operation RoundUp Grants from Wake Electric



Wake Electric awarded more than \$3,000 in grant monies during the 4th quarter of 2011 to deserving nonprofit organizations located in counties served by the co-op.

These grants were made available through the Operation RoundUp program.

Nonprofit agencies located in counties that Wake Electric serves, which include 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.

The next deadline for Operation RoundUp grant applications is Friday, March 9, 2012. A simple and convenient downloadable application can be found at www.wemc.com/oproundup.aspx.

Each quarter, the board of directors for the program's administrative body, the Wake Electric Foundation board, meets to determine who will be awarded funds.

The 4th quarter 2011 Operation RoundUp grant winners are:

Name of Nonprofit Organization	Amount Awarded	County Nonprofit is Located	Info about Grant
Healing with CAARE, Inc.	\$1,000	Durham	Assist with the purchase of a walk-in deep freezer
NC Hunters for the Hungry, Inc	\$1,000	Wake	Funding of food for needy families
YMCA Camp Kanata	\$1,098	Wake	Sponsor three kids for summer camp

The funds for Operation RoundUp grants come from voluntary contributions from Wake Electric members.

Spring Gardening— Don't Forget to Call Before You Dig



If you are thinking of starting a spring garden or any landscaping projects that will require digging, please remember to call 811 before you dig in order to have underground utilities marked.

The national 811 "Call Before You Dig" phone number links residents to a local call center, which then dispatches local utility companies to mark underground utility lines, pipes and cables with paint or flags so you know what's below. In North Carolina, residents should call at least 72 hours before digging will take place.

By calling 811 before every project, residents can help save lives, avoid costly penalties from hitting underground lines and protect infrastructure. It's important to know what's below ground to prevent a potentially life-threatening mistake.

For more information about safe digging and the "Call Before You Dig" process, visit the 811 website at www.call811.com.