

Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

JULY 2012

Local High School Students Use Wake Electric's Newest Technology to Learn Valuable Life Lessons

This spring, Wake Electric's new Monitor & Manage Program took on an unexpected role in a local energy conservation project, helping students at Heritage High School in Wake Forest, NC use technology to learn valuable life lessons.

Teacher Molly Bostic assigned her AP Environmental Science students a personal home energy audit requiring them to monitor their electric usage for a 10 day-period and then determine their average daily electric use and cost. They were also asked to evaluate their homes and consider areas where reduced consumption would result in monetary savings, as well as changes that could be made on a personal and household level to help save on monthly energy bills.

Students whose families are Wake Electric members were able to utilize the Monitor & Manage program to help track and evaluate their electric use. The program is an online energy monitoring system that uses Wake Electric's "smart grid" communications network to collect monthly, daily and hourly energy data reports from each home. Students who were members could log in to their accounts and see the energy consumption at their houses, whereas students whose families get their power from other electric utility companies had to read their electric meter daily instead and record the values, making the project a little harder and not quite as accurate.

"It was exciting for us to hear that our new Monitor & Manage program was an unexpected tool in the classroom," said Scott Poole, manager of customer service. "We are glad our latest technology was an aid in learning, and we hope all of our members will use the program to track their energy use and help make a difference on their monthly electric bills."

"The students in my class who used the Monitor & Manage program seemed to have a better, more comprehensive understanding of their energy usage, since there was more precision and accuracy," said Bostic.

"Students who used the Monitor & Manage program for



Scott Poole, manager of customer service, and Molly Bostic, teacher at Heritage High School.

this project were able to go online the very next day and notice things such as, 'Hey, we ran four loads of laundry yesterday, and look how many more kilowatt hours we used.'"

Bostic also praised the program's ability to relate to the students. "Kids are dependent on real-time information and technology because it plays such an important and large role in their everyday lives," said Bostic. "The Monitor & Manage program is a great tool to reach the younger generation because they like immediate feedback and real-time information."

The co-op is in the process of upgrading existing electric meters to new electronic meters that use advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) technology that makes the Monitor & Manage program possible. The energy usage data collected through the program will be available to all residential members free of charge by the end of 2012. Currently, Wake Electric has upgraded more than 20,000 meters.

For more information on Wake Electric's Monitor & Manage program, please visit www.wemc.com/monitorandmanage.aspx.

Wake Electric Announces Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship Winners

Wake Electric is proud to announce its 2012 Touchstone Energy Sports Camps scholarship winners.

Jakob William Snipes of Selma, NC, was selected by Wake Electric to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill this June 16–20 on a full scholarship. Snipes is a student at North Johnston Middle School and is the son of Bill and Lisa Snipes.

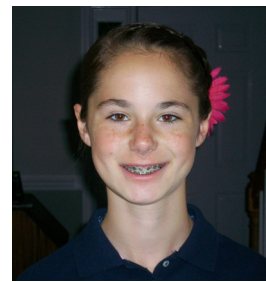
Dara McCluskey of Wake Forest, NC and Olivia Dougherty, also of Wake Forest, NC, were selected by Wake Electric to attend the Kellie Harper Basketball Camp at NC State University on full scholarships this June 24–27. McCluskey is a student



Olivia Dougherty



Jakob William Snipes



Dara McCluskey

at Franklin Academy and is the daughter of Ed and Jan McCluskey. Dougherty attends G.C. Hawley Middle School and is the daughter of Ann Dougherty.

Both camps will work closely with each camper to assist with

the development of fundamental basketball skills and motivate students to set and achieve goals. For more information on the Touchstone Energy Sports Camps program, visit www.wemc.com/basketball.aspx.

Holiday Closing

Wake Electric's offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. In case of an emergency on July 4, please contact us at 1-800-474-6300 or 919-863-6300.



Bright Ideas Early Bird Deadline

Teachers Apply by August 15 for a Chance to Win a \$500 Visa Gift Card

Local teachers can apply for grants of up to \$3,000 through the 2012–2013 Bright Ideas education grant program.

Bright Ideas, sponsored by Wake Electric, strives

to improve education in our state's classrooms by awarding grants to public school teachers in grades K–12 for innovative, classroom-based

projects that would not otherwise be funded. The Bright Ideas grant program is the only one of its kind in our state, exclusively for North Carolina's K–12 teachers.

The deadline to submit applications for the 2012–2013 school year is September 12. But teachers

who submit their application by the early bird deadline on August 15 will be entered in a drawing to win a \$500 Visa gift card.

To learn more about the program and start an online application, visit www.ncbrightideas.com or www.wemc.com/brightideas.aspx.



APPLY FOR A CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY GRANT
Don't forget! Local teachers can also apply for a Classroom Technology grant, also due on September 12. Visit www.wemc.com/classawards2.aspx.

Wake Electric Official Honored

Joe Hilburn, Jr., a member of the board of directors for Wake Electric, has been recognized for 20 years of service to the electric cooperative.

The commendable service awards were presented at the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives (NCAEC) annual meeting on April 19. NCAEC is the trade association for the 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina, including Wake Electric.



Joe Hilburn (left), board of director member for Wake Electric (District Four), receives a service award from J. Douglas Brinson, a Tideland EMC director and president of the NCAEC board.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

Water heating ranks as one of the top three energy-related expenses in your home. Save energy and money by installing a water heater blanket, using low-flow showerheads and faucets, and lowering the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Learn more at EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Update on Monitor & Manage Program and the AMI Meter Exchange

ADVANCED METER INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI) METER UPDATE

Wake Electric has currently upgraded 20,000 meters to our new AMI meters, which represents about 57 percent of our total membership. It is our goal to have all of the residential meters exchanged system-wide by the end of 2012. AMI meters store electric use, outage and voltage information, as well as communicate it back to the co-op office through a secure, wireless communication network.

MONITOR & MANAGE PROGRAM

Once your meter has been upgraded, you will have access to the Monitor & Manage program, an online energy monitoring system that utilizes Wake

Electric's "smart grid" communications network to collect monthly, daily and hourly energy data reports from each home. Interval data reports are available through your eBill account, free of charge. If you haven't created an online eBill account, you may create one at <https://ebill.wemc.com/css/>. The energy usage reports will allow members to better evaluate and manage their energy consumption.

Wake Electric continues to look for better ways to serve its members by leveraging technology to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity.



Home Safety and Efficiency Tips While On Vacation

The days are long and the weather is warm; summer is at its peak, which means many of us are taking off for a much-needed vacation. Whether you're taking in North Carolina's scenery or off on a big adventure, you want to make sure your home is safe while you're away. Before you pack up the car and hurry off to your destination, take the time to follow some simple safety precautions.

- ★ Unplug major appliances such as televisions, computers, washers and dryers. They are more susceptible to power surges than smaller appliances. A power surge causes an increase in the electrical potential energy, which can increase the current flowing to your wall outlet
- ★ Make sure extension cords and power strips are unplugged.
- ★ Turn off the water supply.
- ★ Carefully identify nonessential circuit breakers in your home and turn them off to prevent fires from developing in electrical circuits.

To protect your home from burglary, remember to:

- ★ Ask a friend or trusted neighbor if they will keep an eye on your house while you are away.
- ★ Set interior lights on timers and set exterior lights on motion detectors.
- ★ If you are away for more than week, advise your alarm company or even your local police, if you live in a small town.
- ★ Store jewelry and valuable items in a safe-deposit box.



In addition to making your home safe, you can also make it more efficient. Adjusting temperatures and unplugging appliances can help you be more energy efficient.

You'll enjoy your vacation a little more knowing that your home is safe and energy efficient.



Think lightning can't get into your house and ...

- ⚡ Damage your computer?
- ⚡ Ruin your dimmer switches?
- ⚡ Harm your flat-screen TV?

Think again.

**Protect Your Appliances—
Get Surge Protection Today!**

Today's homes have more appliances and electronics than ever before. Lightning is a dangerous source of raw electricity that can destroy those appliances and electrical equipment in a flash.

Triangle Services Group (TSG) offers Surge Protection that can save your investments by helping to prevent destructive lightning surges from entering your home.

Our surge protection for your whole house includes:

- ⚡ Leased equipment (1 point of entry PEMCO Meter Base Whole House Surge Arrestor)
- ⚡ Cost of only \$5.95 per month added to your electric bill
- ⚡ \$50 installation fee

Are you ready to sign up and start protecting your home now? Call 919.863.6306 or email info@wemc.com.

