ElectriConnection



For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation

ne power to make a difference

AUGUST 2010

re you wasting your money on

World's most expensive DIRT

DUST DOLLARS OFF YOUR ENERGY BILL BY REGULARLY CHANGING AIR FILTERS

he most expensive dirt in the world may lurk in your home's heating and cooling system. If neglected, dust collecting in the equipment's air filter could increase your energy bills by hundreds of dollars every year and result in costly repair or replacement costs.

Dirty filters cause a system to work harder and break down faster. That's because unfiltered dust and grime work into critical parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and, eventually, failure.

As you move around your home you drive dust into the air from carpets, drapes, and furniture. Pets generate dust particles by shedding, grooming, and tracking in dirt from outside.





Regardless of where it comes from, dust trapped in a heating and cooling system air filter leads to several problems, including:

- * Reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs.
- * Costly duct cleaning or replacement.
- ★ Lowered system efficiency.

Every time a system with a dirty filter kicks on, the day of reckoning—total replacement—draws closer. To avoid this expense, change filters monthly when a system's in regular use. Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

While most types of filters must be replaced, a few filters are reusable. They're available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). MERV, a method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system.

To learn more about how to save energy around your home, use the Home Energy Suite calculator at our website at www.wemc.com, visit www.energysavers.gov or go www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Sources: High Performance HVAC, U.S. Department of Energy

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unfiltered dust and grime works into critical parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and, eventually, failure.

How does a dirty air filter cost you?

- Reduces air flow in the home, leading to up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- Leads to costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowers system efficiency

To avoid these expenses, change filters monthly when your heating and cooling system's in regular use. Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

Learn more ways to save at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: High Performance HVAC, U.S. Department of Energy

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 has money to return to former members

Because Wake Electric is a notfor-profit utility, when we make money beyond our operating costs, we return that money to you—our members. That returned money is called "capital credits." Because the formula for distribution is based on prior years of operation, often

Fred T. Adcock, Henderson, NC P.S. Allen, Louisburg, NC Larry E. Ballard, Wake Forest, NC Ed Brown, Franklinton, NC George P. Burkhardt, Longwood, FL Jesse Carpenter, Morehead City, NC Marshall R. Carroll, Durham, NC Frank Coker, NC Richard M. Crews, Wake Forest, NC C-Soft International, Youngsville, NC Rayford Doughty, Zebulon, NC E & M Corporation, Franklinton, NC Alan D. Edwards, Creedmoor, NC Gertrude O. Ferguson, Raleigh, NC Pleasants S. Fleming, Louisburg, NC Lisa Y. Fortner, Youngsville, NC

customers who are entitled to capital credits have moved and it is difficult to locate them. If the U.S. Postal Service returns a capital check to us, we make every effort to locate the person entitled to the check. The following is a list of people who have had their checks returned to us

J.R. Gupton, Louisburg, NC Harding Hydraulics, Wake Forest, NC Joseph C. Holloway, Oxford, NC Oscar Hunt, Greensboro, NC James H. Jones, Franklinton, NC William E. Jones, Creedmoor, NC Donna O. Lake, Youngsville, NC Nellie S. Lamm, Wake Forest, NC Joseph A. Lemieux, Berlin, CT Deborah Macdonald, Raleigh, NC Al Macklin, King, NC Frank J. Mull, Rockingham, NC Robert C. Mullins, Youngsville, NC Multi Lite Corp, Wake Forest, NC H.R. Nelson, Mt Pleasant, SC S.H. Renfrow, Selma, NC

because their address is not correct. If you see your name or the names of family, friends, or associates, please have them contact Wake Electric at (800) 474-6300, (919) 863-6300, or at information@wemc.com. You can also visit our Web site for the names at www.wemc.com.

Mrs. L. Romero, Cary, NC Richard Secor, Rolesville, NC Fred J. Shores, Franklinton, NC Norman L. Simpson, Kinston, NC Ida S. Stovall, Stovall, NC Leonard B. Strickland, Louisburg, NC Robert R. Sutter, Rocky Mount, NC H.G. Sutton, Youngsville, NC A.W. Taylor, Oxford, NC Judy Thompson, Burlington, NC Leon T. Walters, Wake Forest, NC B.W. Wells, Raleigh, NC E.H. Williams, Wake Forest, NC Timothy Wokasch, Knightdale, NC Bobby Womble, Durham, NC Paul Zimmer, Chester, VA

Have a Facebook account?

WANT THE LATEST TIPS ON SAVING ON YOUR ENERGY BILL?

Then be sure to become a Facebook fan of TogetherWeSave.com. "Together We Save" is a national campaign by electric cooperatives to help co-op members like you reduce everyday energy consumption.

By now, you have probably seen "Together We Save" ads in your newsletter, in major newspapers, on energy-related websites, on billboards, and even on TV. And the reason we're providing these energy savings tools to you is so that you know that you can count on Wake Electric to help manage your energy use.

At TogetherWeSave.com

consumers can learn simple steps to take immediate actions to start saving money. The Together We Save website's resources include

- ★ How-to videos,
- Tips for various rooms of the home and
- An interactive house tour that provides cost-saving estimates for particular energy saving ideas.

If you become a fan of

TogetherWeSave.com on Facebook,

you'll have energy savings tips sent directly to you in your newsfeed. Just search for Together We Save in the search section of your Facebook page or go directly to this link: www.facebook.com/#!/ TogetherWeSave?ref=mf

This is just one more way that Wake Electric helps you keep your energy costs down and understand how your home's appliances affect your monthly electric bill!

Become a fan of "TogetherWeSave.com" on Facebook to receive energy saving tips. Search for" Together We Save" from your Facebook page.

facebook.

ook. TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Spare change changes lives



 I've always believed that it's the little things that count in life. Being kind to your neighbors, returning a lost wallet, picking up after yourself while enjoying the great outdoors. While each action might not amount to much on its own, if everyone does a

little, we see a big impact in our community. That's why I'm so proud of Wake Electric's Operation RoundUp® program. Six bucks isn't a lot of money it's about what you would pay for a meal at a fast food restaurant. But \$6 equals the average amount folks who support our Operation RoundUp program give every year, all through spare change. The maximum amount that a member would contribute in a year's time would be \$11.88.

Members—people like you who receive electricity from the co-op—agree to round up their monthly electric bills to the next whole dollar amount. Let's say your bill is \$82.90. It would be rounded up to \$83, with a dime going to Operation RoundUp. The extra pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters then flow into a fund managed that assists worthy local organizations, educational grant programs as well as fellow members who've fallen on hard times.

Sure, donating those pennies and nickles over the course of a year may seem like a little thing. But if you put all of that money together—well, things start to get exciting.

Last year we distributed over \$70,000 in funds to area teachers for projects that will directly affect

hundreds and hundreds of students. Students who live in your communities. They may even be your children or grandchildren.

As I said, it's the little things that count in life. About 250 local electric co-ops nationwide currently run Operation RoundUp programs. All told, consumers at these co-ops have raised more than \$100 million since the idea was started by South Carolina's Palmetto Electric Cooperative in 1989.

If you're one of the members who makes Operation RoundUp possible, thank you. If you haven't heard about the program before and would like to participate, visit our website at www.wemc.com or call us at 800.474.6300 or at 919.863.6300. Together, we can use a little pocket change to change our community.



Wake Electric seeks grant applications from non-profit organizations DEADLINE IS SEPT. 10

Wake Electric is seeking grant applications from nonprofit organizations in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Vance and Wake counties. The deadline to apply is Friday, September 10. Through its Operation RoundUp program, the Wake Electric Foundation board will consider grant requests for projects and proposals that serve a broad range of individuals and 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 of each year. For more information and for an application, go to www.wemc.com/oproundup.

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

Students Find Learning Is Fun On Youth Tour

lay Long and Sallie Thompson have what it takes to succeed. Out of dozens of applications for Wake's student programs, high school juniors Clay and Sallie were chosen to represent Wake Electric in Washington D.C. on the weeklong, all-expenses paid 2010 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Not only did they get the chance of a lifetime to spend a day on Capitol Hill meeting with their Congressmen one-on-one, they met hundreds of other high school students from across the nation. They had time for socializing, went on a River Boat dance down the Potomac. received a \$1,000 scholarship for college, "ran" their own business, and went sightseeing at some of D.C.'s most famous attractions. "I wasn't sure what to expect out of this trip," said Clay after he and other students representing co-ops from across N.C. returned from the whirlwind tour. "To be honest, I thought it was just going to be a boring trip around the Capitol. But after the first day, I realized that this was going to be the trip of a lifetime."

Sallie agrees. "It changed my life," she said. "I met so many awesome people and made such good friends. I learned so much. And I had FUN."

If you are going to be a highschool junior this year (or know one), we encourage applying to the 2011 tour! Applications will be available at Wake Electric's website—www. wemc.com—on January 1, 2011.





Student:	Sallie Thompson
School:	Raleigh Charter School
Honors & A	ctivities:
	Varsity tennis player;
	member of Student
	Legislative Assembly

Legislative Assembly, International Thespian Society and National Honor Society

Wants to attend: Wake Forest University or Elon University

student:	Clay Long
School:	Wake Forest- Rolesville High
Honors & A	ctivities:
	Sax player for jazz band; Junior class president; staff writer for WFRH paper; member of drum line and National Honor Society
Wants to a	attend:
	N.C. State University

or UNC-Chapel Hill

"This trip was incredible—in the friends that I made and the things I learned this one week in D.C. was more intense than an entire year at school."

-Clay Long



Newsletter offered online

Each month, Wake Electric offers the electronic version of this newsletter, *ElectriConnection*, online. If you ever misplace or throw away your *Carolina Country* magazine and want to refer back to something you saw in the Wake Electric section, just go to our website at www.wemc.com.

As you already know, each edition is filled with tips on how to save on energy bills, information about our grant and scholarship programs, and updates on the latest in energy news and politics. Why? Because Wake Electric is focused on news you can use. That's two ways to access your monthly co-op news!

ElectriConnection is just one of the many privileges of being a member. Be sure to click around our website for all sorts of useful tools on energy savings and program information.

Bright Ideas early-bird deadline approaching

Teachers remember! The deadline to submit a Bright Ideas grant application is Monday, September 20, but teachers who submit their application by the early-bird deadline on Monday,



August 16, will be entered in a drawing for a \$500 Visa gift card.

Wake Electric has earmarked \$50,000 for classroom-based projects through its funding of the Bright Ideas education grant program for the 2010–2011 school year. Teachers can apply online at www.ncbrightideas.com.

Certified K–12 teachers in North Carolina are eligible to apply for a Bright Ideas grant. The Bright Ideas education grant program is currently the only program in the state exclusively for classroom educators.

For more information, contact Angela Perez at (919) 863-6376 or angela.perez@wemc.com. Bright Ideas grant money is made possible by voluntary contributions by members and employees to Operation RoundUp. Through the program, participants allow their bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar and that money to be used to fund community programs.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP Consider using ceiling and other fans during the cooling season. They provide additional cooling and better circulation so you can raise the thermostat and cut down on air conditioning costs. ENERGY STAR-certified ceiling fans do even better, especially those that include compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

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