



April 2024

Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

Albemarle Sounds

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Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

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Albemarle EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Capital Credit Refund Approved

The Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation Board of Directors recently approved the retirement of capital credits.

Capital credits are the year-end margins earned by your cooperative. They are allocated to each member based on their electric usage for that year. These monies are a source of equity and may be returned to members when the co-op is in a sound financial position. The cooperative has been fortunate enough to make annual refunds to our members for as far back as co-op records go. The oldest non-retired margins on our books are for 1998.

In an effort to reach the members that have been with us the longest as well as benefit those that are among the newest, the refund years will consist of those shown in the yellow box.

If you were a member of Albemarle EMC during these years, and are an active member, you will receive a capital credit refund in April, which will be a credit on your electric bill. The credit will be a line item on your bill stating “Capital Credit Refund.” If a member has several accounts, the capital credit system adds them together, and the credit will only be posted on one account. Anyone who received power during these years but is no longer an active member will be mailed a check. This is why it is so important for you to give us a good forwarding address when you move off our lines.

Retired Capital Credits		
1998 remaining margins	100%	\$566,272.23
2022 remaining margins	3.5%	<u>\$82,014.81</u>
		\$648,287.04

Washington Youth Tour Delegates Selected

Congratulations to Perquimans County High School students Velvet Parker and Elizabeth Stottlemeyer. The two were selected to represent Albemarle EMC as delegates at this year’s Washington Youth Tour. They were chosen based on the quality of their written essays and academic achievements.

Velvet, a junior, is a recipient of an internship paid for by the Town of Hertford and Perquimans County Schools for the Summer Accelerator Program. She has also helped lead school lessons with teacher Rachel Casas, and Velvet volunteers to provide one-on-one help with exceptional children.

Elizabeth, a sophomore, is an A honor roll student. She is a member of the Beta Club as well as the Academically or Intellectually Gifted program. She takes honors chemistry, English, math, biology and advanced-placement U.S. history.

“We are delighted to be able to provide this opportunity to two deserving students,” said Kevin Heath, general manager of Albemarle EMC. “While on the Youth Tour, they will meet with legislators, learn how to run a cooperative, make friends and have fun.”



From left: Perquimans County H.S. students Elizabeth Stottlemeyer and Velvet Parker are congratulated by Principal Mickey Drew for being selected to attend the 2024 Washington Youth Tour.

Sawyer Promoted



Bridget Sawyer has been promoted to supervisor of members services.

In her new role, she will be responsible for supervising the Member Services Department. Her duties will include hiring new member service representatives, training, ensuring smooth workflow, and monitoring the cooperative's phone system. She will also be responsible for payment processing and handling member inquiries.

"Bridget has two decades of experience in member services and billing," said Kevin Heath, general manager of Albemarle EMC. "The cooperative will be well served with her in this new position."

Linemen Appreciated

April 8 is recognized by Albemarle EMC and other electric cooperatives across the country as Lineman Appreciation Day.

Though always appreciated, these hard-working individuals certainly deserve a day in their honor. In our opinion, linemen are first responders. Twenty-four hours a day, they stand ready to restore power despite often treacherous conditions. Freezing cold snow storms, blistering heat and hurricane damage are among the many challenges linemen often face. In addition to serving their own communities, linemen are also called on to provide aid across the state and nation, following major storms and other times of need.

Linemen are a special group. To perform in this field, they must possess both brains and brawn, coupled with dogged determination. They have to be able to push through adversity and work as a team to restore power as safely and quickly as possible.

Please join us by using the hash tag [#ThankALineworker](#) on April 8 and throughout the year to pay tribute to our linemen.

Certification Completed



Apprentice Lineman Chase Perry recently completed Northwest Lineman College's Module I of the Lineworker Certification Program. He is congratulated by Operations Manager Roy O'Neal.



Albemarle EMC recently purchased a skid steer that will be used to clear right-of-ways. Mowing vegetation to provide access to right-of-ways is a big factor in providing reliable power.

AEMC Supports Military



Albemarle EMC is a proud sponsor of the Coast Guard Marathon and the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Air Show. The marathon will be held April 5-6 in Elizabeth City. In addition to the marathon, several other events and activities will be available. For more information and to register for the race, visit coastguardmarathon.com.

The MCAS Cherry Point Air Show will be May 11-12. Admission is free as well as parking. However, premium seating can be purchased. This year's event will feature the Blue Angels and several other performances in the air as well as on the ground. For more information, visit cherrypointairshow.com.





Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

Be Informed Prior to Installing Self-Generation

by Chris Powell, coordinator of public relations

Albemarle EMC members must get approval from both the cooperative and their local building inspections department, prior to installing generation such as wind or solar.

According to the co-op’s Service Rules and Regulations, which members must adhere to, an interconnection agreement is required before installing member-owned generation such as wind or solar. A copy of the agreement can be found at www.aemc.coop, or members can call our office at 252-426-5735.

The interconnection agreement ensures that member-owned generation is installed in accordance with the co-op’s policies. Among other things, the agreement protects the safety of co-op employees. The interconnection agreement requires that member-owned generation be wired so that it cannot back-feed a power line. A back-fed power line is dangerous because linemen have no way of knowing that a line they believe to be de-energized is actually being fed power from member-owned generation.

“The interconnection agreement also protects the members,” said Kevin Heath, general manager of Albemarle EMC. “Members who install solar panels without approval from the co-op or the building inspections department run the risk of incurring unexpected expenses if changes to the installation method are deemed necessary.”

In addition, the interconnection prevents anyone who self-generates power from avoiding their share of the costs associated with staying connected to the co-op’s grid. The co-op can disconnect any member who installs

generation such as wind or solar without obtaining an interconnection agreement. (This does not apply to standby generators that supply power during outages).

“We never want to disconnect a member,” Heath said. “But improperly installed, member-owned generation threatens the safety of our employees and could undermine the fairness of our rate structure.”

Albemarle EMC has two rates specific to self-generation. The Residential Net Metering Service rate is voluntarily applicable to all co-op members’ residential dwellings where renewable generation is connected on the customer side of the meter. The renewable generation will work in parallel with the cooperative’s electric system and be designed to offset a portion or all of the consumer’s electrical requirements normally supplied by the cooperative.

Consumers who choose this rate will pay 27.6 cents per kWh (kilowatt hour) on peak and 7.43 cents per kWh off peak. Facilities charges will be \$49 per month for single phase and \$76 per month for three-phase. Excess generation is purchased by the co-op at 2.71 cents per kWh and is credited the member’s bill.

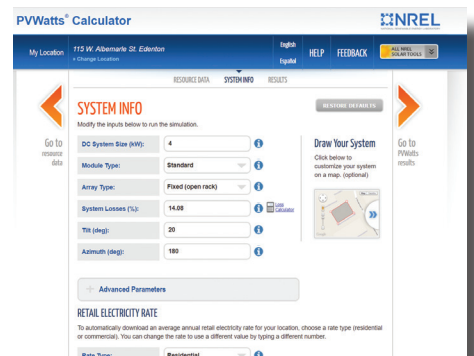
The Qualifying Facilities Purchased Power rate is an energy credit of 2.71 cents per kWh for all power produced by a qualifying facility, with a \$3.75 monthly facilities charge.

Is Solar Right for You?

Albemarle EMC encourages members to do their due diligence before paying to have solar panels installed. A great resource is the PVWatts Calculator,

located at pvwatts.nrel.gov. The calculator was produced by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, which operates under the U.S. Department of Energy. Visitors to this site can quickly and easily determine if solar panels make sense for your home or business.

Once at the website, enter your address, which enables the site to determine your home’s position relative to the sun. Then visitors enter the size of the potential solar system in kilowatts, the type of solar system, the array type (roof mounted or tracking), system losses, degree of tilt and Azimuth degree. For homeowners who do not have this information, standard solar industry information is pre-entered to give close approximations of the amount of solar energy produced as well as the value of that energy. Next, visitors can input the type of rate as well as the amount the co-op pays to members for solar energy. Or, visitors can enter the residential rate charged to members by power providers that offer net-metering.



The PVWatts calculator enables individuals to quickly determine if solar panels make sense for your home or business.