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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.

WPCA Charge to Return for First Time Since 2024

Beginning July 1, Albemarle EMC members will notice a return of the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) to their power bills.

The WPCA will be one-quarter of a cent per kilowatt hour, which equates to a charge of \$2.50 for 1,000 kWh of power usage. The WPCA is adjusted to ensure that the co-op is neither over or under collecting revenue, based on actual wholesale power costs.

“We did our best to delay the return of the WPCA as long as possible, but wholesale power costs have steadily increased since our last rate increase,” said Albemarle EMC General Manager Kevin Heath.

The WPCA can only be used to adjust for power cost changes. Wholesale power costs have increased in recent years due to several factors that are all outside of Albemarle EMC’s control. Fuel costs for generation are steadily increasing, and demand for electricity is at historic highs. Data centers that are being constructed nationwide are just one example that have been making headlines lately. One data center can consume as much electricity as 100,000 to 1 million homes. Also, due to federal environmental regulations, much of the affordable generation in the U.S. has been shuttered during the past 20 years without new generation plants to fill the gaps. Construction of the new generation, which has now become necessary, is proving increasingly expensive due to ongoing inflation and the effects of supply and demand on the costs of material and labor.

North Carolina electric co-ops have done their best to slow the rising cost of power by purchasing their own generation, bulk buying on the wholesale power markets, hedging fuel costs and working with state and federal legislators to improve energy policy.

Board Candidates to be Nominated

Members who desire to be nominated to run for a seat on the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors should notify the cooperative in advance of the upcoming nominating committee meeting.

The nominating committee is scheduled to meet Tuesday, July 7. Qualified members who wish to seek nomination should notify Public Relations Coordinator Chris Powell by e-mail (chris.powell@aemc.coop) or by addressing a letter to Chris Powell, Albemarle EMC, P.O. Box 69, Hertford, NC 27944. The prospective nominees will be given the contact information for the following nominating committee members: Brian Stallings, Joseph McPherson, Don Lee Keaton, Vera Murrill, Thomas N. Hollowell, Jr., Justin St. Pierre, Melissa Oliver, Nicole Spencer and David Denton.

Prospective candidates must be nominated by the Albemarle EMC Nominating Committee or be nominated by petition of the members. Nominees must have graduated high school, be a cooperative member, reside principally in the county from which a director is to be chosen, pass a background check and meet other criteria.

Up for election this year are board of directors seats for Pasquotank, Perquimans and Chowan counties. The co-op’s Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Perquimans County Recreation Department, located at 310 Granby St., Hertford.

**Co-op
Closed for
Independence
Day**



Significant Funds Raised at Charity Golf Tournament

The McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks and Co. golf team turned in a score of 54 to take first place in the 18th Annual Albemarle EMC Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament.

Tri-B Construction came in second place with a score of 54, and Dominion Energy came in third, posting a score of 56. A total of 71 players on 18 teams entered the tournament. The proceeds from the tournament will be used to provide toys and other assistance to families during the Christmas holidays.

“We are so grateful to all of the players, who took time out of their busy schedules to support our tournament,” said Albemarle EMC General Manager Kevin Heath. “We were able to raise more than \$20,000 that will help a significant number of families.”

Each year, co-op employees use the donated funds to purchase toys and deliver them to school coordinators, who have identified families in need of help during the holidays. The school personnel then coordinate delivering the toys to the parents.



The McNair, McLemore, Middlebrooks and Co. golf team took first place in the 18th Annual Albemarle EMC Light Up Christmas golf tournament.

Board Approves Changes to Service Rules and Regulations

At their recent meeting, the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors approved several updates to the co-op’s Service Rules and Regulations that will go into effect July 1.

- The FlexPay reconnect fee must now bring the minimum credit balance up to \$25.
- The returned check or card fee is \$35.
- The member-requested meter test charge is \$100.
- The power theft fee is \$500.

- An additional pole for overhead secondary service is \$300.
- The cost for overhead single-phase primary over 1,000 feet is \$8.40 per foot.
- Multi-phase overhead primary over 300 feet is \$13.75 per foot.
- Underground secondary service per trench foot is \$7.
- Underground primary service per trench foot is \$9.
- Underground development (200 amp) per cable foot is \$9.

Bright Ideas Applications Now Being Accepted



\$17 million awarded

16 thousand projects funded

4 million students inspired

Teachers, bring your creative learning project ideas to life!

Projects sponsored locally since 1994 by

 **Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation**
A Southern Power Company

Apply now! 

NCBrightIdeas.com Deadline: September 15, 2026 | Early Bird: August 15, 2026

Teachers at qualifying schools can apply for a Bright Ideas grant by visiting NCBrightIdeas.com.

Educators in K-12 classrooms with creative ideas for hands-on learning projects are encouraged to apply for a grant. Last year Albemarle EMC awarded more than \$12,000 to projects that supported local teachers and students.

Applications will be accepted April 1 through Sept. 19. However, it could pay to apply early. All applications submitted by the early bird deadline of Aug. 15 will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 Visa gift cards.

Co-op Employees Demonstrate Utility Careers



Albemarle EMC employees recently participated in school events to expose students to potential career paths. In the left picture, a D.F. Walker Elementary student attempts to thread a nut on a bolt wearing protective gloves. In the right photo, Apprentice Lineman Wyatt Gallina (left) and Lineman First Class Chris White explain their jobs to Perquimans Central students.





Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



Co-ops Push for Policy to Lower Power Cost

by Chris Powell, director of public relations

Representatives from Albemarle EMC and other North Carolina electric cooperatives recently visited state legislators to push for policy that would put downward pressure on electricity rates.

The cost of doing business for cooperatives has been increasing because of rapidly growing demand coupled with the early retirement of existing generation resources. Long lead times for new generation and transmission resources are also exacerbating the issue. In addition,

power at the lowest rates possible. Co-ops have also increased generation ownership and implemented natural gas hedging to mitigate market volatility. North Carolina cooperatives also pool their purchasing power to bulk purchase materials, such as transformers and poles, needed to build and maintain their systems.

Clean Energy Portfolio Standard

The Clean Energy Portfolio Standard (CEPS) was established in 2007 in an effort to diversify North Carolina's energy mix and reduce emissions. Electric cooperatives are subject to meet a ten percent requirement through a variety of options including generating or purchasing power from clean energy facilities, investing in energy efficiency programs or buying Renewable Energy Certificates.

CEPS successfully stimulated clean energy development, but not all clean energy resources have evolved equally. As the market and technology have changed, a mismatch between CEPS compliance requirements and current market realities have emerged. The current structure increases costs for utilities and rate payers without increasing capacity or improving reliability. It also locks in high-cost legacy requirements for clean energy capabilities that have not evolved.

Legislators were asked to consider amending the cost cap for CEPS compliance. The residential cost cap for compliance has increased 170 percent since its inception. Lowering it to its pre-2015 cap will save electric cooperative members \$12 million per year.

Legislators were also asked to consider modifying the CEPS compliance requirements for new large loads. Under the current model, large energy users, such as industrial loads, are limited to a \$1,000 per year recovery of their CEPS

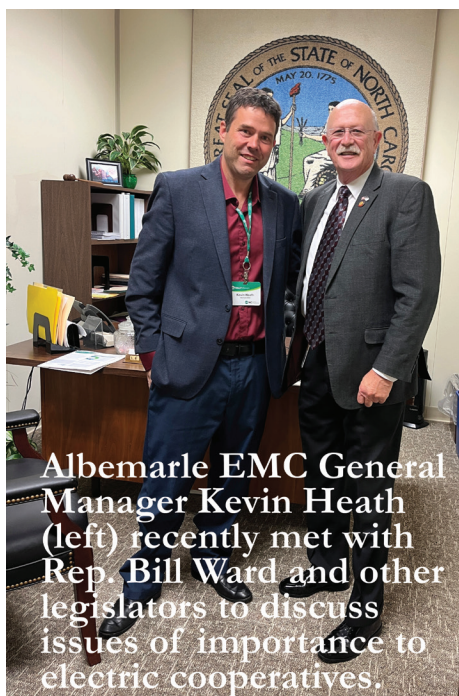
compliance costs, shifting the remaining costs to residential rate payers.

Data Centers

Data centers are being proposed and constructed all over the country. A single data center can consume as much electricity as hundreds of thousands of homes, often requiring large investments in new generation and grid infrastructure. Legislators were advised that data center developers must work closely with co-ops to ensure new, large loads are integrated in ways that maintain safe, reliable and affordable service for all consumers.

Cooperative Reimbursement for Utility Relocation

For decades, North Carolina cooperatives have worked collaboratively with the NC Department of Transportation to coordinate the necessary relocation of electric infrastructure related to highway and transportation expansion projects. When cooperative facilities outside of NCDOT rights-of-way needed to be relocated, reimbursement was paid once the cooperative provided a written easement or an affidavit confirming the facilities had been in place for at least 20 years to provide power. Recent NCDOT guidance indicates that cooperatives must now provide a recorded easement or proof of all seven elements of adverse possession to qualify for reimbursement of infrastructure relocation costs from NC DOT. Gathering all this data can be an extensive expense of manpower for the cooperative, especially for bigger road-widening projects that can cross hundreds of properties. Co-op representatives stressed the need for clear and consistent policy that doesn't shift relocation costs onto electric cooperative members.



Albemarle EMC General Manager Kevin Heath (left) recently met with Rep. Bill Ward and other legislators to discuss issues of importance to electric cooperatives.

the prices of materials such as wood, steel, aluminum, copper, concrete and technology-based resources have been rising. And, of course, the cost of fuel has seen significant increases recently.

A range of strategies is used to offset these challenges. Albemarle EMC jointly purchases wholesale power with other North Carolina cooperatives to obtain