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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.

Seal Gaps and Cracks



Do you feel drafts in your home? If so, an inexpensive tube of caulk or spray foam can help you reduce energy usage. Baseboard trim should be sealed to prevent air inside the wall cavity from entering the home.

Work Begins on Perquimans County School



Work has begun on Perquimans Intermediate School, which will be served by Albemarle EMC.

Located off of Winfall Blvd., in Winfall, the new school will be approximately 158,000 square feet. The project is estimated to cost \$64.4 million and is anticipated to be completed in April 2026. Once finished, the school will serve students in grades three through eight, providing them with a state-of-the-art learning environment designed to foster

growth and success.

“This facility represents a significant investment in the future of Perquimans County, made possible by the collaboration of our county commissioners, school board members, the Winfall Town Council, and our dedicated community,” said Perquimans Schools Superintendent Tanya Turner. “It will include modern classrooms, athletic facilities, and spaces to support a robust curriculum and extracurricular programs. At full capacity, the school is expected to accommodate approximately 950 students.”

Web Portal Assists Members

Located on the co-op’s website is a link to a portal that provides significant resources to Albemarle EMC members.

The link is located at the top of the co-op’s website www.aemc.coop. By clicking on the link, you will be directed to the co-op’s portal. Once there, members can pay a bill, apply for service, view usage information and more. One particularly beneficial feature enables members to set up alerts so they will automatically be notified when their usage exceeds the amount they have set.



North Carolina co-ops keep the lights on

Stand with your co-op today!



Albemarle EMC encourages its members to join Voices for Cooperative Power. Simply visit voicesforcooperativepower.com/register/ to easily register. Once registered, you will receive email alerts when legislation is being proposed that could affect Albemarle EMC. By clicking on a link, a letter will automatically be sent to your legislators in regards to the legislation being deliberated. Your voice counts!



Deadline Approaching for Basketball Camp Scholarships

Albemarle EMC is now accepting applications for scholarships to attend basketball camps at two North Carolina universities this summer. Young men can apply for a scholarship to attend the Carolina Basketball School, which will be held June 25-28 at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Young women can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp, which will be held June 15-18 at N.C. State University, in Raleigh.

To apply, students must be a sixth or seventh-grade student during the 2025-2026 school year at a qualifying school. The application opens this month, and it must be submitted by March 31. To learn more and apply, visit ncelectriccooperatives.com/sports-camps.

The scholarships cover all expenses at the overnight camps, which provide a glimpse into life on a college campus. Campers stay overnight in dorms, learn fundamental skills that will help them excel on and off the court and receive individual and group instruction from Division 1 coaches to enhance their basketball and team-building abilities.



Agricultural Partnerships Celebrated



Electric cooperatives such as Albemarle EMC were founded by mostly farmers, and we continue to work closely with our state's agricultural industry to build a brighter future for our rural communities. National Ag Day is March 18, but we are thankful every day to serve our agricultural members by helping them save money, improve efficiency and achieve

sustainability goals.

It was with this in mind that Albemarle EMC and the rest of North Carolina's electric cooperatives developed the BEST Solutions initiative, which offers a wide range of customized electric tools and technologies related to Beneficial Electrification (BE) and Sustainable Technologies (ST) that can meet the needs of agricultural, commercial and industrial businesses.

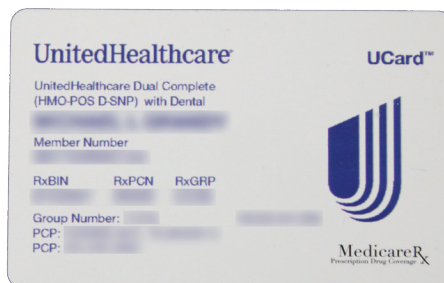
New electric technologies are emerging rapidly and are making processes, devices and equipment cheaper, smarter and cleaner than ever. Using electricity instead of fossil fuels – what we call beneficial electrification – can yield benefits that include cost savings, higher productivity and reduced emissions. Examples include electric irrigation, electric equipment like forklifts and transportation refrigeration units and indoor agriculture.

Thank you again to our farmers and agricultural members for the vital ways you support our daily lives.

How to Use Your Ucard

Some co-op members have encountered problems trying to use their United HealthCare UCard to pay their power bill.

Because the UCard is not Mastercard, Visa or Discover, Albemarle EMC cannot accept the card as a form of payment. To use Ucard money to pay a utility bill, members must do so through the Ucard hub on their plan's website, or they can call 1-833-853-8587. United Healthcare mails bill payments to the co-op, so members should be mindful of due dates.



Golf Tournament Sponsorships Available



The 17th Annual Albemarle EMC Light Up Christmas Golf Tournament will be held Friday, May 2. The tee time will be held at 10 a.m.

If you would like to enter a team, purchase a hole sign or donate, please contact Chris Powell at chris.powell@amec.coop or 252-426-2586. The entry and prize donation deadline is April 25. Funds raised at the tournament will go to support local families during the holidays. Since its inception, the fundraiser has raised more than \$283,000.

Before installing solar panels, please contact Albemarle EMC at 252-426-5735. There are several interconnection procedures that must first take place.



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service

How Manufactured Homes Can be Efficient

by Chris Powell, director of public relations

In rural areas, manufactured homes account for 18 percent of all housing units, according to the Population Reference Bureau. The unfortunate reality is many of these homes are older and not energy efficient. As a person who conducts energy audits, I've often heard complaints from owners of manufactured homes, who can't understand why their neighbor's larger stick-frame home uses less energy. The reason is those larger homes are built to a more exacting energy efficiency code.

Back in the 1970s and 1980s, there weren't many standards for the manufactured home industry. To keep these homes affordable, they often came with inexpensive electric furnaces, leaky ductwork, and poor insulation. Of course that affordability came at a cost. While money was saved on the front end purchase, the back end cost was a higher power bill. Many of those inefficient homes are still in use today.

The good news is that those homes can be every bit as comfortable as a custom, site-built home. But it will take an investment in both time and money.

The first thing to tackle is the electric furnace. The electric furnace was and still is an industry standard for manufactured homes. It doesn't cost a manufacturer much to install an electric furnace. An electric furnace is really nothing more than a giant toaster oven with a fan behind it. To achieve efficiency in a home, the furnace has to be replaced as the main source of heat.

One of the most efficient options is to replace a furnace with a mini split ductless heat pump system. The mini split system involves the installation of heating and cooling units (called heads) that are placed on the wall of each room in the home. Attached to each head is copper tubing through which refrigerant brings heat or air conditioning from an outside compressor. Because no ductwork is used, there is no loss of conditioned air through leaky ductwork. A person who has installed a mini split system can seal the holes for the ductwork leading into the home and never worry about replacing ductwork again.

Also, because there are heads throughout the home, each room can be its own heating and cooling zone. For example if

a person is spending most of the day in their living room, they can heat or cool just their living room and shut the rest of the house off. That simply is not possible with a central heating and air system.

A mini split system does cost more than an air-source heat pump, but the extra cost is well worth the efficiency gained.

Homeowners who can't afford that cost difference are left with only one other option, the air source heat pump. This unit attaches to the existing ductwork. Ideally, new ductwork that is sized to the new system should be installed. Air-source heat pumps are typically backed up by electric heat strips, so most people use the pre-existing electric furnace as the backup system. The problem is that

the existing electric furnace is way larger than what is needed. Preferably some of the heat strips would be disconnected to prevent your backup system from eating up all of the efficiency gained through the heat pump.

If the existing ductwork is used, then that ductwork must be sealed using mastic. This can be done by cutting through the belly liner.

Once the electric furnace has been replaced, it's a good idea to concentrate on sealing and insulating. All plumbing and electrical penetrations must be sealed with spray foam or caulk. Once these are sealed, then concentrate on the insulation. To insulate the space between the ceiling and the roof, an access hole must be cut in the ceiling. Insulation can then be sprayed in that space. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends adding insulation 10 to 14 inches deep. Insulation can also be added to the underbelly liner of the manufactured home. To accomplish this, holes must be cut in the liner, insulation sprayed to about 6 inches deep and the holes must be patched. Insulation can also be sprayed into the walls of the home by cutting holes or removing interior walls completely.

Manufactured homes do have one inherent advantage - size. With less square footage to heat and cool, it only takes a few changes to make them more energy efficient. Then these homes can truly be considered affordable.



With an investment of time and money, older manufactured homes can be made significantly more energy efficient.