



Roanoke Electric **FLASHES**

Is your bill higher than expected?

Slash big winter power costs with these programs

Your feedback on our Facebook Page, Straight Talk Forums, and the 77th Annual Meeting sent a clear message to us: Your bill is too much of your monthly budget. We promise to fix that.

When you join one or more of Roanoke EC's member-focused programs you'll save money and cut power use:

Upgrade to \$ave: Save \$32 to \$90 PER MONTH with measures that keep you comfortable indoors and reduce your bill, guaranteed. Only pay with a part of your monthly savings. No additional bills. No extra fees. Visit www.roanokeelectric.com/UpgradeToSave for details.

Bright Savings: We're adding bright and efficient LEDs to street lights for free, saving you \$25 per year. If you could use a street light at your home, call us and we'll install one for free. Find out more at www.roanokeelectric.com/BrightSavings.

Wholesale power price reductions: you get 8 percent off your residential power bill until March 2016. This started Nov. 1.

Pole light removal: No more fees on your bill for outdoor lighting. Saves \$25 a year.

Community Solar: Make a low, one-time investment to tap into

clean, efficient, and renewable power. Find out how you can harness the sun's power at www.roanokeelectric.com/CommunitySolar.

Your voice is heard at Roanoke Electric Cooperative

As a co-op member, you have more say-so than any other electric utility customer in the region. You're part-owner of your own utility company—not "just another customer" to a big private company.

REC puts the money we don't use back in your pocket. In 2015, we gave back \$500,000 to our members in capital credits.

Your feedback steers the co-op—Straight Talk sessions, Annual Meetings, and our Facebook Page are just some ways your voice is heard.

No other power company will work as hard to cut your bill!

Take advantage of community programs like our Sustainable Forestry Initiative, ACRE and Member Appreciation Days—just to name a few.



Need financial assistance with your electric bill?

Another REC benefit: the Energy Assistance Program (EAP) is a route for area departments of Social Services, Community Action Programs and help agencies to simplify their work in providing monetary benefits to REC members. We need members to be in touch with the agencies as soon as possible to be enrolled in relevant programs.

The REC team is available to prepare members for the application process. Call 252.209.2236 or visit www.roanokeelectric.com for more information.



Tips to help you manage your holiday spending

The holiday season abounds with opportunities of time with family and friends, being grateful, and reflecting on the important things in life.

On the less jolly side, the season can strain our personal and family budgets. We don't realize how much money we've spent until later, when the credit card bills and debt arrive. Between gifts, travel, and holiday outings, it's easy to lose track of your finances. The most helpful step in planning your shopping is to create a budget and stick to it. We've put together money-saving tips to help you manage your holiday finances. Here are some do's and don'ts to consider:

1. Make a budget, check it twice

Make a list of all the people you want to buy gifts for and make a budget for each. Don't forget expenses such as wrapping paper, bows, cards, etc.

A great way to physically keep track of your spending is to buy gifts with cash whenever possible. If you do use a credit card, spend wisely and pay off any debt immediately.

Consider giving homemade gifts such as baked goods, candies, candles, crafts, artwork, etc. It makes gift-giving unique, stylish and surprising.

2. Save with sales, timing

Make use of coupons and Internet sites, especially those with free shipping. Remember to use your *Co-op Connections Card* at participating local and national businesses.

Use your Co-op Connections Card and save during the holidays at www.connections.coop

A Catered Affair - Littleton
AFLAC - Weldon
A-1 Unlimited Bail Bond Services - Windsor
Amaz'n Buys - Weldon
Benford's Insurance Agency - Rich Square
Blue Front Shoppe Vintage Collectibles - Murfreesboro
Boone's Café - Tillery
Boyd Chevrolet-Buick-GMC - Emporia, Virginia
Brabble Insulation, Inc. - Ahoskie
Byrd's Heating & Cooling, LLC - Pendleton
Capehart's Mobile Detailing - Kelford
Computer Enter-Face - Ahoskie
Consumer Financial Services - Murfreesboro
Cynthia's What Not Shop - Rich Square
Davis Body Shop, Inc. - Halifax
Diversified Energy - Rich Square
Energy Resources Contracting - Pendleton
EPV & Associates - Murfreesboro
Express Signs - Roanoke Rapids
Exquisite Touch Cleaning Services - Rich Square
Flair Jewelry - Roanoke Rapids

Gamer's Nursery - Roanoke Rapids
Historic Hope Foundation, Inc. - Windsor
Inspirational Video Production - Weldon
Internal Links, LLC - Murfreesboro
James Insulation & Energy Auditing - Williamston
Janet's Bookkeeping Service - Gates
Jermonico's Café - Weldon
Jerry's Mobile Car Wash - Murfreesboro
Jordan Auto Repair & 24 Hours Towing - Rich Square
Kee Builders - Murfreesboro
L&M Printing & Technology Solutions - Aulander
Lake Gaston Construction - Henrico
Lakeland Cultural Arts Center - Littleton
Leonard Aluminum Utility Buildings, Inc. - Raleigh
M.A.C. Brothers Services - Ahoskie
Martin Exterminating Company - Roanoke Rapids
Mason's Heating, Cooling & Electrical - Weldon
Mr. Sparkle - Aulander
NFES Contracting - Jackson
Northco Plumbing, Heating & Air - Pendleton
Phillips Lawn Service - Rich Square
Regional Home Improvement Services - Henrico
Roanoke Valley Insurance - Murfreesboro
Ron Properties - Windsor
S. L. Hill Construction, Inc. - Roanoke Rapids
Secure Solutions, Inc. - Roanoke Rapids
Skinner's Home Energy Conservation Services - Edenton



Solomon Maryland Heating & AC - Rocky Mount
Studio 32, Inc. - Sunbury
Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park - Scotland Neck
Taylor Recording Studio - Jackson
The Flanagan House Bed and Breakfast - Murfreesboro
Upper Cutz Barbershop - Rich Square
UpTown Café - Ahoskie
Vaughan's Heating & Air Conditioning - Murfreesboro
Watson Steam Cleaning - Garysburg
Whitaker Driving Improvement Clinic - Roanoke Rapids
White Motors, Inc. - Roanoke Rapids
Young's Plumbing & Sewage - Aulander

Join the Co-op Connections Program! Call 252-539-4601 or email savings@roanokeelectric.com for more information.

Resist the temptation of getting in-store credit cards. The low introductory interest rates may seem enticing now but that rate will expire with above average interest rates.

Don't rush to shop. Can you purchase gifts after December 25? Consider giving gift cards that can be used at the "after" Christmas sales. Use store layaway programs that allows you to pay a little bit each week, interest free.

3. Book your sleigh ride early

Around the holiday season, a lot of airlines have black-out dates and ticket prices soar. Book well in advance and remember to redeem credit card reward points for airline tickets and hotels.

4. Wrap a lunch before shopping and travel

Before you head out, pack snacks or make a sandwich. It's an easy way to significantly cut back on costs.

5. Say 'Thank You'

Everyone appreciates a shout out! Words are always a good way to express gratitude to family, friends and colleagues. Let them know how much they mean to you and why. It's a golden opportunity that is free.

Roanoke Electric and The Roanoke Center express appreciation to you for your generosity of spirit, support, and loyalty to the cooperative through the years. You are the visible embodiment of our commitment to change, growth, and improvement. It is through you that our organization flourishes.

Members invest more than \$8,500 into community organizations



As a member-owned cooperative, serving goes beyond providing electricity to members' homes and businesses. Through Operation RoundUp, Roanoke EC members are empowered with the opportunity to impact the communities where they work and live in a major way.

How do members contribute?

Operation RoundUp allows you to "round up" your electric bill to the next highest dollar amount and donate that amount. Say that your bill is \$124.85. You can round it up to \$125 and donate the extra 15 cents to Operation RoundUp. On average, a member contributes 50 cents per month or \$6 per year to the program. At most, a member can only contribute \$11.88 in a year's time. For only cents per month, members are creating huge change in their communities and so can you!

How are these funds distributed?

Each quarter, the board of directors for the program's administrative body, the Roanoke Care Trust (RECT), meets to determine who will be awarded funds. The funds are given primarily to organizations serving either the health, safety, educational or recreational needs of citizens within our service area.

This quarter, RECT met at the cooperative's headquarters on October 14 to award the final quarter of Operation RoundUp funds for 2015. A total of \$8,527.71 was awarded to these organizations:

Gatesville Elementary PTA (Gatesville): Awarded \$1,000 to replace old and unsafe playground equipment with new playground equipment.

Ahoskie Rural Volunteer Fire Department (Ahoskie): Received \$2,518.94 to outfit a recently donated truck with necessary emergency warning lights and sirens it needs to be put into service for vehicle extrication, fire scene support functions, and rescue operations.

Garysburg Volunteer Fire Department (Garysburg): Funded \$1,600 to replace its portable water tank and first responder jump bag.

St. John Fire Department (Aulander): Granted \$3,408.77 to buy equipment to replace outdated equipment on a recently acquired fire truck, so it can be put into service.

How can you start contributing today?

Roanoke Electric and the RECT board greatly appreciate the willingness of members to round up their bills, as part of the co-op's mission to improve the quality of life in the communities it serves. To sign up, call 252.209.2236 or visit www.roanokeelectric.com/RoundUp.



Roanoke EC's Susan Tann pictured with Johnathan A. Jones, principal Scott Corrente and students from Gatesville Elementary (sitting) Madison Hudgins, Claire Jones and Katelyn Jones; and (standing) Amore Savage, Tanner Miller (holding check), Toby Ross.



Roanoke EC's Susan Tann presents the RoundUp grant to Will Blanchard and Shaun Ward.



Roanoke EC's Susan Tann (center) with Cliff Joyner (left) and Russ Joyner (right).

Members get back \$500,000 in capital credits

This past August, your cooperative announced the retirement of a half-million dollars in capital credits to its membership this year. On average, your cooperative has returned \$300,000 in capital credits annually. This year, we were able to retire a significant increase in monies paid to members. Members should have received their checks during the first two weeks of August.

What are capital credits?

As your electric cooperative, Roanoke Electric is owned by its members and does not technically earn profits. Instead, any revenue over and above the cost of conducting the day-to-day operations of providing you with electricity is considered “margins.” These margins are immediately retained by the organization to have the cash on hand to invest in maintaining a reliable system. With this capital, your cooperative is able to finance operations and – to a certain extent – construction, with the intent to pay the money to you in later years.

How are capital credits allocated?

Each year, your board of directors will assess the financial position of the cooperative to determine if it can issue capital credits. At the board’s discretion, monies owed back to members from margins are paid in a general retirement back to members. The amount fully owed to a member is based on allocated amounts determined by yearly electric bill payments for specific years and the percentage of those payments that contributed to the cooperative’s surplus funds. The more electricity you use, the greater your capital credits.



A portion of the capital credit funds were paid to members who were on the system in 1982. Additionally, most of the monies were issued to members who had service with the co-op within the last three years.

What do I have to do to start accumulating capital credits?

Your membership automatically activates your capital credit account! Capital credits are calculated for everyone who purchased electricity during a year in which the utility earned margins.

Want to know if you have any capital credit checks waiting for you?

Call 252.209.2236 or visit www.roanokeelectric.com/capcredits for more information.

“We are glad to be in a position where we can return money to members at a one-half million-dollar level,” said Curtis Wynn, CEO of Roanoke Electric Cooperative. “Being able to provide this benefit truly speaks to the fact that it pays to be a co-op member.”

Roanoke Electric FLASHES

Published monthly
for the member-consumers of
Roanoke Electric Cooperative

P.O. Drawer 1326,
Ahoskie, NC 27910

Office: 252.209.2236
or 1.800.433.2236

For outages call: 1.800.358.9437

For electronic bill payment:
www.roanokeelectric.com

We accept VISA, MasterCard
& E-check.

Editor: Brittany Tann

Visit our web site at:

www.roanokeelectric.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

Statement of Nondiscrimination: Roanoke Electric Cooperative
is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

President and CEO

Curtis Wynn

Board of Directors

Allen Speller, *chairman*

Robert “Nat” Riddick, *vice chairman*

Delores Amason, *secretary-treasurer*

Millard Lee, *asst. secretary-treasurer*

Carolyn Bradley

Chester Deloatch

Columbus Jeffers

Kenneth Jemigan

Darrell Lee

Roanoke EC office closed

Roanoke Electric Cooperative will be closed on Thursday, December 24, and Friday, December 25. Happy holidays from your REC family!

