

# Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

NOVEMBER 2010

## Operation RoundUp Funds Scholarships

Wake Electric and Youth Tour scholarships are funded through voluntary contributions to Operation RoundUp.

Operation RoundUp allows Wake Electric members to round up their electric bill to the next highest dollar and donate that amount to the program.

For example, as an Operation RoundUp contributor, if your bill for the month of April was \$91.85, your bill would be rounded up to \$92.00 and the extra 15 cents would be donated to Operation RoundUp. Money in the Operation RoundUp fund goes to several community programs sponsored by Wake Electric.



## Wake Electric offers scholarships to college-bound students

College-bound students whose parents are members of Wake Electric are encouraged to apply for a scholarship from Wake Electric. Although there is only one application, there are two types of scholarships offered:

**1** After all of the scholarship applications have been received, one high school senior will be awarded the **Fred M. Alford scholarship of \$2,000**. The student must be planning to attend an accredited four-year college in North Carolina.

Requirements for the Fred M. Alford scholarship are:

- ★ Must be a child of a Wake Electric member or live in a home served by Wake Electric
- ★ Must be a high school graduating senior
- ★ Must pursue a regular four-year undergraduate course leading to a baccalaureate degree
- ★ Must plan to attend an accredited four-year institution in North Carolina

**2** A total of **16 Touchstone Energy Scholarships of \$1,250 each** will be awarded. These are not limited to recent high school graduates and may be used at one of the state's community colleges, vocational or technical schools, as



well as at a four-year college.

The requirements to be eligible for these scholarships are:

- ★ Must be a child of a Wake Electric member or live in a home served by Wake Electric
- ★ Must use these funds at a N.C. college or university, community college, vocational or technical school.

To apply for any of the scholarships, go to [www.wemc.com](http://www.wemc.com) and click on the "Wake Electric Scholarships" link. The deadline is March 11, 2011. For more information, call (919) 863-6312 or email [information@wemc.com](mailto:information@wemc.com).



Wake Electric  
Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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 ElectriConnection

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## Wake Electric seeks applicants to attend 2011 Youth Tour trip to D.C.



Wake Electric seeks applicants for a \$1,000 scholarship, plus a one-week all expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. for the 2011 Rural Electric Youth Tour. The trip will be from June 11–June 17.

Students chosen to attend the Youth Tour will join 1,500 high school students from across the U.S. to learn about electric cooperatives, American history and the U.S. government. Students also visit world renowned historic sights of the nation's capital and spend

time with their congressional delegations.

They also create podcasts and digital photo projects while learning about issues in renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate change legislation that face their communities and the nation.

The \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded the following year upon proof of enrollment in a college or university. Applicants must currently be high school juniors in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Vance, or Wake counties.

For more information on the youth tour, visit [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop). To download an application, visit Wake Electric's website at [www.wemc.com](http://www.wemc.com) and click on the Rural Electric Youth Tour link.

The deadline to submit applications is March 11, 2011.

For more information, call (919) 863-6312 or email [information@wemc.com](mailto:information@wemc.com).

**Winners also receive a \$1,000 scholarship!**



### ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

If your home is more than 10 years old, it likely needs more insulation. How much depends on a variety of factors, most importantly where you live. For example, insulation for a home in the Northeast will have a higher R-value rating than a home in North Carolina. Check out [www.simplyinsulate.com](http://www.simplyinsulate.com) to find out more.

Source: Alliance to Save Energy

# Wake Electric has changed the look of your electric bill to serve you better

**W**ith customer satisfaction in mind, we are introducing a new bill format in November. Our goal is to create a customer bill that is simple, clearly stated and easy to understand. With this new bill format, we now itemize certain charges on your bill.

There is no increase or change in your charges or pricing and the new itemizations will not affect your service or the ways in which you conduct business with Wake Electric.

From the "ENERGY USED" line that you see each month on your bill, we now itemize two other costs that were previously rolled into the "ENERGY USED" line. The changes are as follows:

## **FACILITY CHARGE**

This was previously included in the "ENERGY USED" portion of the bill. It will now be itemized as a separate component. It is designed to recover the co-op's

consumer related costs that vary with connecting and providing of service to its consumers.

These expenses include the operation and maintenance of the electric distribution system, meter reading and billing, and customer service activities.

## **WHOLESALE POWER COST ADJ**

This line item (referred to as the WPCA) was also previously rolled into the "ENERGY USED" portion of the bill. The WPCA allows utilities to recover increasing wholesale power costs caused by fast rising fuel prices.

It reflects variations in the cost of wholesale power purchased by Wake Electric and is a quicker way to recover costs than through changing your rate.

The WPCA can be used to recover any fuel costs, or to give a refund if the cost of wholesale power is lower than the base cost in the rates.



## **EXTENSION CORD SAFETY: Make Smart Connections**

**D**uring the holidays, families often string together extension cords without a second thought. But not all cords are not created equal. Follow these tips to ensure safe use and make smart connection decisions:

- ★ Look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) symbol. The UL mark means that samples of the cord have been tested for safety hazards.
- ★ Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors, as it could result in electric shock or trigger a fire. Extension cords that can be used outdoors will be clearly marked "Suitable for Use with Outdoor Appliances."
- ★ Extension cords should not be placed underneath rugs or other heavy furniture; tacked in place to a wall or taped down; or used while coiled or bent. Match the length of the cord to your needs.
- ★ Store all cords indoors when not in use. Outdoor conditions can deteriorate a cord over time.
- ★ Unplug extension cords when not in use. The cord will continue conducting electricity until unplugged.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

**BY  
SPENDING  
A FEW  
MINUTES,  
I'M SAVING  
A LOT.**

I'm saving \$82 a year by changing my home's air filter regularly. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**

# Enjoy an evergreen holiday season: *Get the most out of energy during the holidays!*

**H**olidays are a festive time of year, with gifts, fun decorations, family visits, and lots of laughter. But they can also ring in extra energy use for heating, decorative lights, and more.

So what steps can you take to make sure the holidays don't leave a surprise "gift" on your next electric bill?

## LED LIGHTING

One of the most popular ways to save energy without dimming holiday cheer is switching to light-emitting diode (LED) holiday lights. These long-lasting and energy efficient lights have been used for years in vehicles to let you know when you're low on gas or need an oil change. Over the past few years, prices have dropped low enough to make these bulbs cost-effective for decorative use.

On the plus side, LEDs last longer than traditional incandescent lights. They run cool and colors don't fade over time. Best of all, they use about a tenth of the energy for the same amount of light.

The news isn't all cheery. Decorative LEDs cost much more than strands of typically lights—up to \$40 or more to outfit a tree, according to Consumer Reports, an independent product tester. But over time, the higher investment pays off. When Consumer Reports compared LEDs and incandescent holiday lights in 2007, they found LEDs use between 1 and 3 kWh of energy, compared to between 12 to 105 kWh for traditional lights. This translates into a savings of up to \$11 every year. Because LEDs are more durable, lasting more than 4,000

hours while incandescent bulbs burn out by the 2,000 hour mark, the initial investment pays dividends over the long haul.

## LIGHTS OFF AT BEDTIME

Whether or not you fork out extra bucks to switch to LEDs, it's a good idea to turn off your holiday lights before you go to bed. Consider installing timers to reduce the amount of time your holiday lights are on. Just 10 incandescent strands lit for 13 hours a day can easily add more than \$50 to an electric bill. Limit light displays to no more than six hours nightly.

## GUESTS AFFECT USAGE

Lights aren't the only holiday addition impacting your electric bill—family guests add to your costs, too. Because everyone wants to stay toasty during colder holiday months, heating usually accounts for the lion's share of cold-weather energy costs. Extra guests translate into extra water to heat for showers.

Make sure to set your thermostat as low as comfort permits. Each degree above 68 degrees adds 2 percent to 3 percent to the amount of energy needed to heat your home. Conversely, you'll save by lowering your thermostat (and leaving it there).

You can expect extra guests to strain

your electric water heater—folks often take longer showers in colder weather, increasing water heating costs. Before guests arrive consider installing a low-flow showerhead to reduce the amount of water used, and try to keep showers to six minutes or less.

Finally, in the average home, 75 percent of the electricity used to power electronic gifts and gadgets is used while the products are off. This phantom power use can be avoided by unplugging the items or using a power strip.

Visit [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com) to learn more about ways to cut home energy use, or go to the Wake Electric website at [www.wemc.com](http://www.wemc.com) and click on the "Energy Portal" logo to find hundreds of tips on saving energy.

