

Wake ElectriConnection

For members of Wake Electric Membership Corporation



"The power to make a difference"

MAY 2009

Wake Electric Cooperative Launches Program to Connect Consumers with Congress and Encourage Balanced Energy Legislation

Wake Electric cooperative today launched a program aimed at helping to craft an affordable national energy policy. The Find a Balanced Solution campaign explains current national energy policy issues and provides consumers with ways to get in touch with their elected officials to keep their electric rates affordable.

The Find a Balanced Solution campaign, which is the joint effort of several states' electric cooperatives in the Southeast, includes a toll-free phone number and Web site that can connect consumers with their Congressional representatives. The phone number is 1-877-40-BALANCE or 1-877-40-225-2623, and the Web site is www.findabalancedsolution.com.

The Find a Balanced Solution Web site hosts information about factors that are influencing electricity costs, legislative issues and renewable energy. "We encourage electric cooperative members and all electricity consumers to spend time on the Web site to learn about the ways Congress can balance environmental needs with family budgets," said Jim Mangum, CEO and General Manager. Mangum continued, "When consumers feel like they understand the issues, we urge them to call their elected officials by using the toll-free telephone number or to contact their Representatives by sending an e-mail, which they can do through the Web site."

This year, Congress will likely vote on legislation that raises energy costs to accomplish environmental goals. Several pieces of legislation already have been introduced. Some could raise electric rates by 40 percent.

Wake Electric believes that cooperative members

Find A Balanced Solution

and electricity consumers can help influence the debate on energy policies because elected officials work for their constituents. Congress must find a solution that balances environmental needs while assuring reliable and affordable electric service. Get involved today at www.findabalancedsolution.com or by calling 1-877-40-BALANCE.

The Realities of a Renewable Energy Future

Ask anyone to describe renewable energy, and nine times out of 10 they will include either wind or solar power in their answer. The two have become iconic symbols of “green electricity,” and rightfully so.

And while we will continue to rely on fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas, such as well as nuclear power and hydropower, to produce most of our electricity needs, this doesn't mean we'll be hearing less about renewable energy in coming years.

In fact, the opposite is true. Twenty-eight states, including

North Carolina, and the District of Columbia have already passed laws creating renewable portfolio standards, often called RPS for short, which require electric utilities and other retail suppliers of electricity to add a specific percentage of renewable energy to their power supply mix by a certain date. More states are expected to follow this trend, and a federal mandate could be passed by Congress this year.

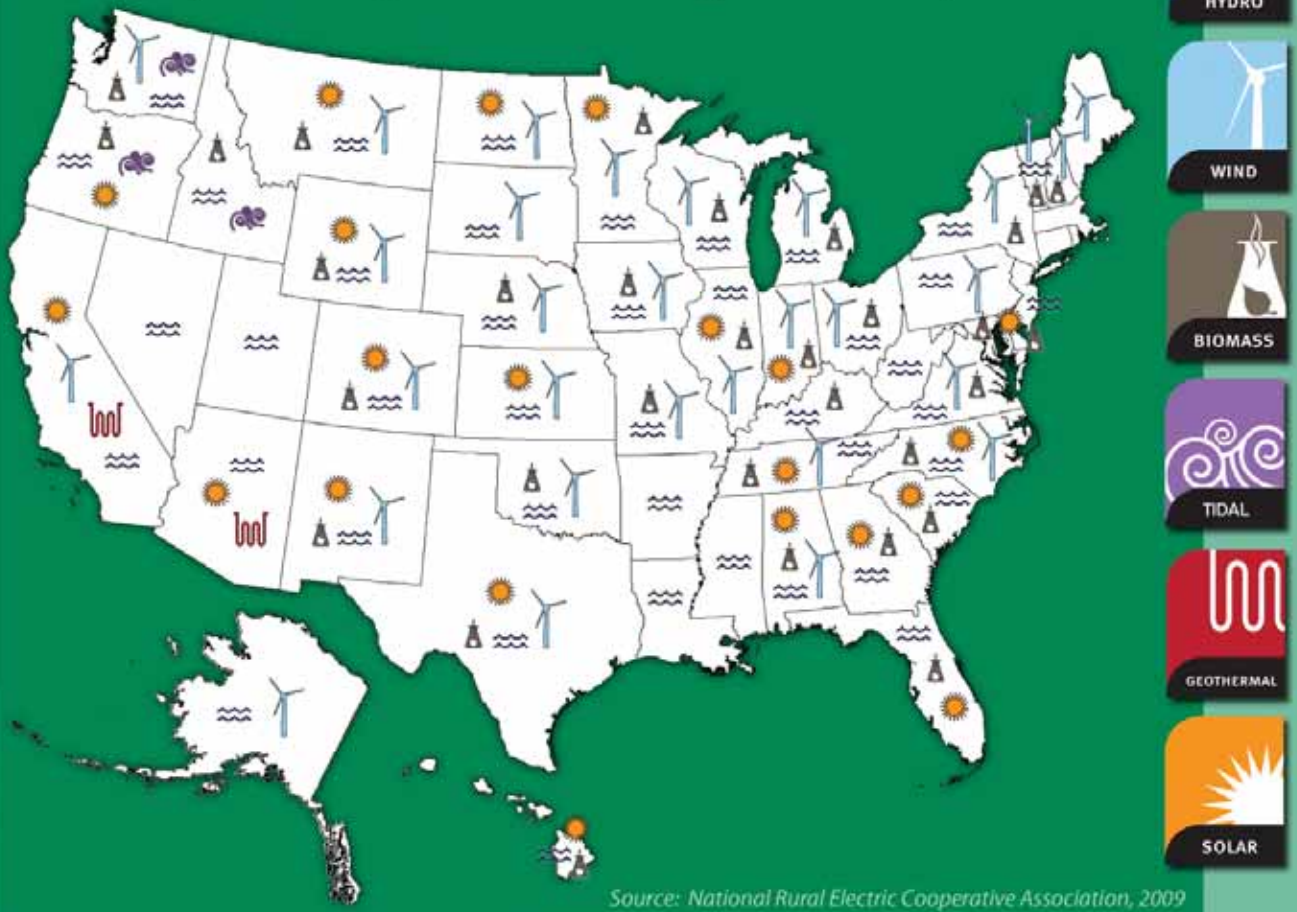
For North Carolina, the Renewable & Efficiency Portfolio Standard states that the following percentages must

be met by certain dates: **2012—3%; 2015—6%; 2018—10%**. Forty percent of the requirement can come from increased energy efficiency and 25% can come from outside N.C. In order to meet this requirement, several N.C. coops have invested in a wind farm in Iowa and a QVC-operated solar farm near Rocky Mount, NC.

As you can see in the chart below, electric cooperatives lead the utility industry in the amount of renewable power supplied to our consumers, and we're ready to share

National Electric Cooperative Renewable Resources

Roughly 11 percent of power provided by electric cooperatives is generated with renewable resources, compared to 9 percent for the entire electric utility sector. Here is a snapshot of the types of renewable energy offered to co-op members.



our experience with policymakers as they consider ways to make more green power available. As a member of Wake Electric, you have the power to actively engage members of Congress and focus their attention on the many ways electric co-ops are working to provide a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of power in an environmentally responsible manner.

If you haven't already done so, please get involved in the "Find a Balanced Solution Campaign" at www.findabalancedsolution.com or call 1-877-40-BALANCE and ask your elected representatives this important question: Are you willing to work with electric cooperatives to ensure our nation has reliable power at a price consumers can afford?

Electric co-ops support national energy and climate change legislation that can be sustained politically and economically over the decades necessary to make a difference. To help make this happen, we need your help. Please visit the Web site www.findabalancedsolution.com today.

Find A
Balanced Solution 



Win \$150 by simply changing a light bulb!

Wake EMC is encouraging members to replace their old incandescent light bulbs with Energy Star® fluorescent bulbs by June 30, 2009. Two winners will receive a \$150 credit on their electric bill. Winners will be notified in July 2009.

All the member has to do is mail-in or drop-off a receipt that shows a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) purchase made between March 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009. On the back of the receipt, the member must include an account number, name, email address (if applicable), and a telephone number to be entered in our drawing.

Only ONE receipt per member household can be entered. The number/quantity of CFLs purchased does not matter—as long as there is at least one CFL purchase listed on the receipt.

Only two lucky members will win the \$150 credit on their electric bill, but every member that installs a fluorescent bulb in their home or



business stands to save as much as \$30 per year.

All receipts must be received at our office by 5 p.m. on June 30, 2009, in order to be eligible for the drawing.

Receipts may be enclosed in the electric bill or mailed separately and directly to:

Wake Electric
Attention: Change a Light Program
P.O. Box 1229
Wake Forest, NC 27588

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P.O. Box 1229, 414 East Wait Avenue,
Wake Forest, NC 27588, www.wemc.com

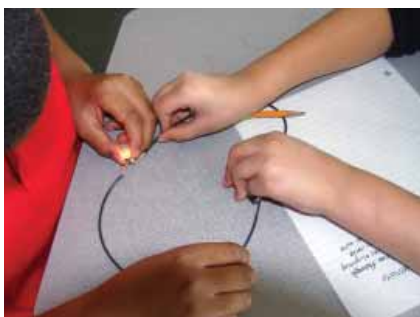
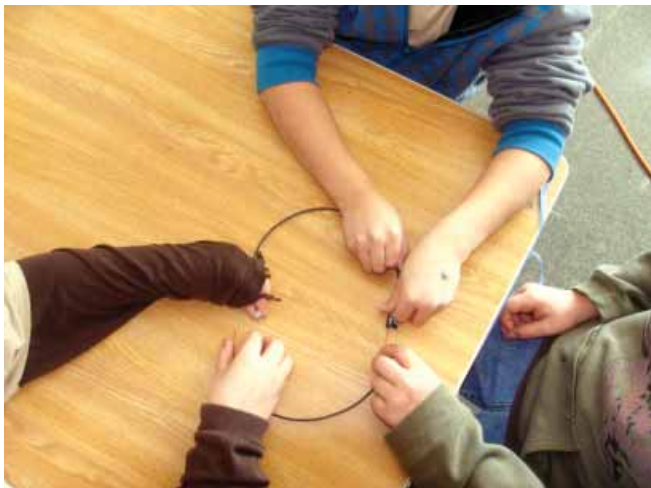
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Wake Electric to give \$50,000 to deserving teachers Teachers Can Apply Now For 2009–10 Bright Ideas Education Grants



Teachers like Nicole Sheridan of Laurel Mill Elementary used Bright Ideas funds to teach her 4th grade students how to build electrical circuits in class.

Wake Electric has earmarked at \$50,000 for classroom-based projects through their funding of the Bright Ideas education grant program for the 2009–2010 school year. Teachers can learn about the program and apply online beginning April 20 at www.ncbrightideas.org.

The deadline for teachers to submit a Bright Ideas grant application is September 18, but teachers who submit their application by the early-bird deadline on August 17 will be entered in a drawing for a \$500 Visa gift card.

Certified K–12 teachers in North Carolina are eligible to apply for a Bright Ideas grant. The Bright Ideas education grant program is currently the only program in the state exclusively for classroom educators.

“North Carolina’s Touchstone Energy cooperatives are in their 16th year of the Bright Ideas education grant program and are excited to award \$50,000 in grants again this year,” said Angela Perez, Bright Ideas coordinator for Wake Electric. Last year, the state’s electric cooperatives distributed more than \$587,000 in Bright Ideas grants, benefiting more than 116,000 students.

Bright Ideas grants finance innovative classroom projects that would otherwise go unfunded. Over the years, North Carolina’s Touchstone Energy cooperatives have sponsored a variety of hands-on projects, including activities in music, art, history, language, reading, science, career-planning and information technology.

Since its inception in 1994, the Bright Ideas grant program has awarded more than \$6.5 million in grant money to North Carolina’s teachers to sponsor more than 5,900 projects benefiting more than 1 million students. “We’re eager to continue improving education in North Carolina classrooms through the Bright Ideas education grant program this year,” said Perez. “N.C. cooperatives anticipate that we will surpass the \$7 million milestone in grant money awarded to teachers this year, allowing us to reach even more students across the state.”

The primary elements of the application process include an explanation of the project and how it will benefit students. A sample application is available on the Web site. For those teachers who have questions or require more information, contact Angela Perez at 919.863.6376 or angela.perez@wemc.com.

The Bright Ideas education grant program is part of the electric cooperatives’ ongoing commitment to North Carolina communities. North Carolina’s electric cooperatives serve more than 2.5 million people in 93 of the state’s 100 counties.

Bright Ideas grant money is made possible by voluntary contributions by members and employees to Operation RoundUp. Through the Operation RoundUp program, participants allow their bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar and that money to be used to fund community programs like scholarships and grants. For example, a light bill of \$124.91 would be rounded up to \$125.00 and that 9 cents would go towards Operation RoundUp funded programs.

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

Protect your family from fire and other electrical hazards by using this short checklist. These simple and easy steps will help you to identify and to correct electrical dangers commonly found in homes.

THE BASICS

1. Check the wattage of all bulbs in your lights.

Are the bulbs the appropriate wattage for the size of the fixtures? A bulb of too-high wattage may lead to fire through overheating.

2. Check all lamp cords and extension cords.

Are cords placed out of the walking areas and free of furniture resting on them? Tripping hazards may result. Also, stepping on cords or placing furniture on them can cause damage and create a fire hazard.

Are cords in good condition (not damaged or cracked)? Shock or fire hazards can result from damaged cords. Do not attempt to repair cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center, or safely dispose of the item and purchase a new one.

Are cords unwrapped? Tightly wrapped cords can lead to overheating.

Are all extension cords being used only on a temporary basis? Extension cords are not as safe as permanent house wiring. Have receptacles installed where they are needed.

3. Check all wall outlets and switches.

Are all outlets and switches working properly? Improperly operating outlets or switches indicate that an unsafe wiring condition may exist.

Are all outlets and switches cool to the touch? Unusually warm outlets or switches may indicate an unsafe wiring condition exists.

Do you hear crackling, sizzling, or buzzing from your outlets? Call a licensed electrician to identify the cause.

Are all outlet and switch cover plates in good condition? Replace any missing, cracked or broken cover plate.

THE BEDROOM

1. Check for Tamper Resistant Outlets

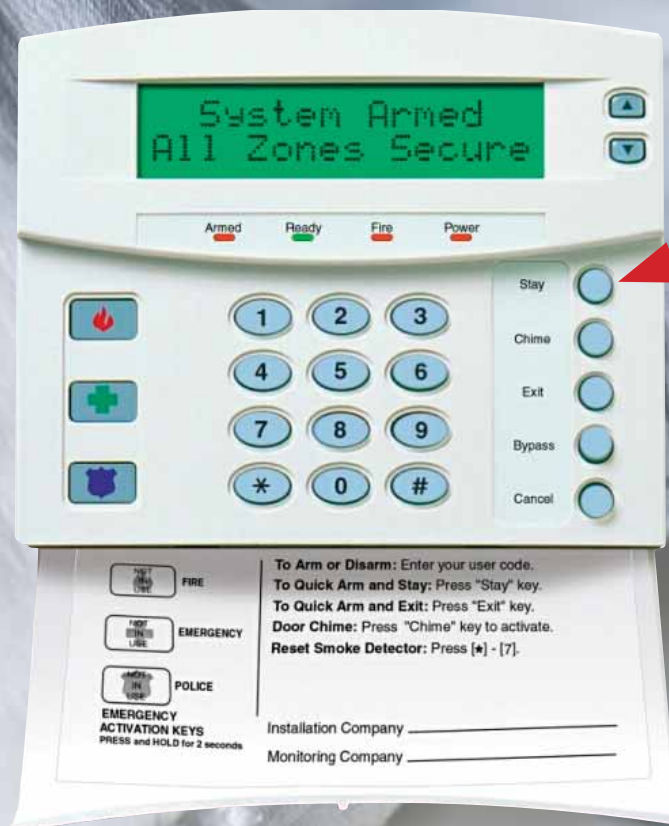
2. Check Portable heaters

Is it placed away from things that can catch fire such as drapes and newspapers? Relocate heaters away from passageways and keep all flammable materials such as curtains, rugs, furniture or newspaper at least three feet away.

Is the equipment stable and placed where it will not be tipped over? Fire hazard can result if a heater is tipped over. Animals and even blowing drapes can be factors.

3. Check for the presence and proper placement of smoke alarms and test each one. Smoke alarms should be located on every level of the home, inside each bedroom, and outside each sleeping area.

Checklist courtesy of the Electrical Safety Foundation (ESFI), www.electrical-safety.org



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919.863.6306



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