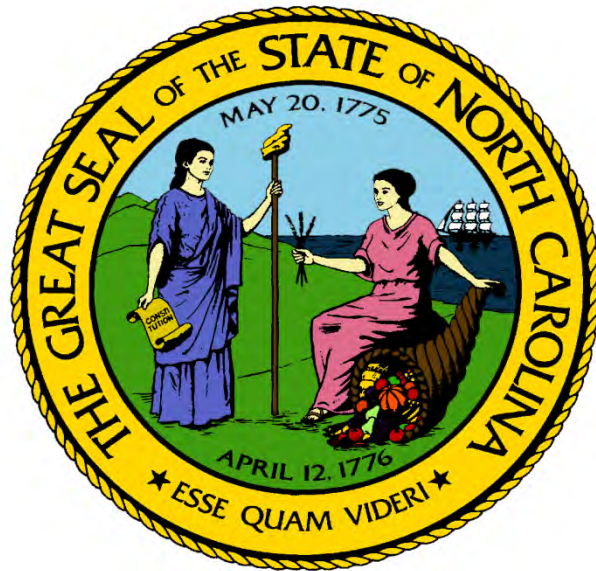


North Carolina

Rural Electrification

Authority

2022 Biennial Report





NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Roy Cooper, Governor

Machelle Sanders, Secretary

May 22, 2023

The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor
116 West Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Governor Cooper:

Enclosed is the 2022 biennial report for the review of you and your staff that was prepared by the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority ("the Authority"). Our Agency operates under the requirements of Chapter 117 of the North Carolina General Statutes ("G.S.") and we are proud of the services we provide that contribute to economic growth and broadband expansion. We feel confident our presence makes a difference to the State of North Carolina as well as the electric and telephone cooperatives and their members. The purpose of this report is to provide updates for our Agency as well as statistical data such as growth trends, revenues and information regarding the electric and telephone membership co-ops that operate and provide crucial services in the most rural areas of our great State.

The Authority and its Board reviews and makes decisions for loan and grant requests submitted by the co-ops and the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation. We submit these requests along with our decision to the appropriate agency within the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA"). For the calendar year ending December 31, 2022, the Authority approved loans and grants in the amount of \$239 million and more detailed information is provided in the enclosed report. Some of the purposes for the funds from these loans and grants are used for construction work plans for co-ops, for projects in connection with the Catawba Nuclear Station and to expand broadband in the most rural areas of our State. The funds also contribute to projects that provide economic development, funds that will update older vehicles and equipment which will contribute to better healthcare by providing safer and faster emergency services, and the REDLG projects that create and retain existing jobs for the communities the cooperatives serve. During 2022, the Authority and Its Board reviewed and approved loans and grants from the USDA ReConnect program which allows the electric and telephone cooperatives to use those funds for the expansion of broadband. There were three grants awarded by the USDA to two telephone cooperatives which totaled \$30 million during this period and will serve approximately 5,951 additional customers in the rural areas of North Carolina.

Frances Liles, Director - Rural Electrification Authority

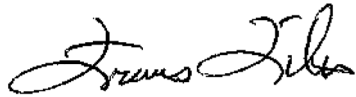
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The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor
Page 2

Our office is also responsible for receiving, researching, and resolving complaints from the members of the co-ops.

As you are aware, there are continual changes to the electric and telecommunications industries, both at the State and Federal level and our Agency strives to ensure that the members of the co-ops receive safe, dependable, and affordable service in compliance with G.S. 117. The Authority is appreciative of the support provided to us by your office and we thank you and your administration for your dedication and leadership to the people of the great State of North Carolina. If you or your staff have questions regarding the enclosed report, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

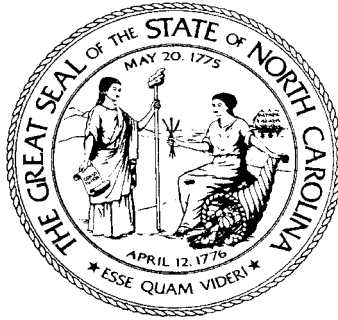
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frances Liles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frances" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Liles".

Frances Liles, Administrator
North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority

Enclosure

CC: NCREA Board members
Ms. Machel Sanders, Secretary of Commerce
Members of the General Assembly
Commissioners of the North Carolina Utilities Commission

The Role of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority



The purpose of the Authority is to secure dependable electric and telephone service to customers served by the electric membership corporations (“EMCs”) and the telephone memberships corporations (“TMCs”) in predominately rural areas of the State as set forth in Chapter 117 of the North Carolina G.S. To accomplish this purpose, following are some of the responsibilities of the Authority:

1. Ensure that customers in the predominantly rural areas of the state have access to adequate, dependable, and affordable electric and telephone service.
2. Act as an agent in reviewing and rendering decisions for loan or grant requests for any electric or telephone membership corporation formed under direction or permission of the Authority and submit the approved loans and grants to the USDA.
3. Receive and investigate complaints from members of the co-ops.
4. Pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Authority shall receive and review Petitions of arbitration for disputed interconnection issues between TMCs and other local and wireless providers. The Authority shall issue directive orders, establish procedural schedules, hold hearings and render final decisions for these proceedings based on information received from testimony, discovery and hearings.
5. The Authority has responsibility to review and render decisions for interconnection agreements and their amendments between the TMCs and other local and wireless providers in accordance with Section 252(e) of the Telecommunications Act. The Authority is responsible for submitting certification to the FCC to ensure the TMCs receive the appropriate high-cost support. We also review and provide decisions from TMCs for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) applications and Numbering Resource requests.
6. Oversee the application of the electric and telephone cooperative rules and regulations to ensure they are administered according to the manner in which they are written. The Authority will advise cooperatives regarding recommended changes in rules and regulations.

NCREA UPDATE

The Authority is responsible for providing oversight for thirty-one electric and seven telephone cooperatives (“co-ops”) that provide service to members in the rural areas of our State. Our Agency strives to ensure that members of the co-ops receive safe, reliable and affordable service through the operation of our daily responsibilities to the co-ops and their members and to the state of North Carolina as required in Chapter 117 of the NC General Statutes as well as requirements from the State and Federal agencies. The following projects were completed by our agency for 2022 which supports our overall purpose and responsibilities to ensure our obligations for our agency have been met.

The Authority and the NCREA Board review and provide decisions to the USDA for loan and grant requests that are received from the electric and telephone cooperatives (“co-ops”) and the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (“NCEMC”). During 2022, the Agency approved six Rural Utility Service (“RUS”) loans which totaled \$198m for five electric membership corporations (“EMCs”) and one for the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (“NCEMC”). The funds from the RUS loans for the co-ops will be used for distribution and transmission projects for their construction work plans and those EMCs are:

- Cape Hatteras EMC;
- Carteret-Craven EMC;
- French Broad EMC;
- Randolph EMC; and
- Rutherford EMC.

The funds for the NCEMC will be used for projects in connection with the Catawba Nuclear Station (“CNS”) of which the NCEMC is a joint owner with Duke Energy Carolinas, who is the CNS operator. The NCEMC is responsible for approximately 31% of the cost of capital additions at the CNS and the funds for their loan will be used for the following projects:

- general maintenance;
- upgrades for computer hardware and software and service water systems;
- security management;
- mandated regulatory projects;
- monitoring and/or control of radiation; and
- the management of storage of nuclear fuel.

The co-ops also apply for Rural Economic and Development Loans and Grants (“REDLG”) and some of those projects provide economic development, improves emergency and healthcare services and also creates and retains jobs in the communities they serve. In 2022, the Agency approved twenty-one REDLG requests for eight EMCs which totaled \$11.9m and following is a list of the projects and how those funds will be used:

- Six fire trucks, one ambulance and medical equipment - Four County EMC; Blue Ridge EMC; Pee Dee EMC; Halifax EMC and Jones Onslow EMC;
- Upgrade water and sewer lines in a corporate park - EnergyUnited EMC;
- Renovation of an existing building and create a business incubator - Brunswick EMC;
- Construction of three buildings for business use - EnergyUnited EMC and Four County EMC;
- Construction of a building for health services - Four County;

- Construction of office space for art exhibit - French Broad EMC; and
- Finance a shell building in an industrial park - Pee Dee EMC.

The Authority is responsible for the review and approval of loan and grant applications from the ReConnect, Community Connect and Cares Act programs as well as the final approval once the applications are awarded by the USDA and these funds are used for broadband deployment. Broadband is an important initiative for the REA agency and leaders of North Carolina as well as the citizens of our State and the co-ops have made that deployment a major part of their agenda as well. Following are more details for these projects:

- An application and award for a ReConnect grant was reviewed and approved for Focus Broadband (f/n/a Atlantic TMC) in the amount of \$24.7m to provide broadband to approximately 4,801 households that are unserved and underserved.
- An application and award for a Community Connect grant for Focus Broadband was reviewed and approved for \$2.9m for broadband to serve approximately 521 unserved and underserved communities.
- An application and award from the Community Connect program in the amount of \$2,378,241 for Star TMC was reviewed and approved for broadband to serve approximately 610 customers.
- An application request from French Broad EMC was reviewed and approved for a ReConnect grant.
- An application for a grant from the ReConnect program was reviewed and approved for Randolph TMC.
- An application for a grant from the ReConnect program was reviewed and approved for Star TMC.

Fiber optics have been deployed by all telephone co-ops which is critical to ensure that North Carolina's rural customers receive many of the same services that their urban counterparts enjoy. Some of the TMCs also applied for funds from North Carolina's Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology ("GREAT") Program. The Authority is not responsible for approving requests from the GREAT program, but we do provide letters of support and appreciate the efforts the leaders of our State have made to make these funds available.

The REA is also responsible for the review of and decision-making process for interconnection agreements that are negotiated between the TMCs and other local providers. These agreements provide terms and conditions and rates for the interconnection of the networks between the parties. During this time period, the Authority reviewed and approved three agreements that were filed by three TMCs.

The Authority contributes to the economic development for North Carolina through our involvement in USDA REDLG loans and grants and also our involvement in the deployment of broadband which is an initiative for the leaders of North Carolina as well as the FCC. We face challenges with dedication and pride and always strive to deliver good outcomes in order to complete our obligations in connection with G.S. 117.

Current Board and Staff

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AUTHORITY NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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STAFF

Frances Liles
Administrator
4321 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

Angela McLeod
Program Coordinator III
4321 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699

NOTE: The Governor appoints the members for our Board and they serve four-year terms.

THE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATIONS



ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP COOPERATIVE UPDATE

There are 31 not-for-profit electric co-ops (26 headquartered in North Carolina and 5 whose headquarters are in other states) that provide service in North Carolina and are powering a brighter future for 2.5 million people in the rural communities they serve. Electric co-ops employ over 2,400 skilled people and provide service in 95 of North Carolina's 100 counties, maintaining more than 105,000 miles of power lines in the state's most rural areas in order to serve approximately 45% of the State's land mass and 25% of the State's population. As member-driven organizations, the goal of cooperatives is to provide the highest quality service at the lowest possible cost and return revenues above expenses to members in the form of capital credits. Approximately 99 percent of electric co-op consumer-members are residential and small businesses.

Electric co-ops are at the forefront of deploying cost-effective, member-focused solutions that meet the increasingly diverse energy needs of their members. The electric co-ops are not content with maintaining the status quo; they work hard to provide environmentally responsible electricity and improve the service they provide in an affordable, safe, and reliable manner. A primary focus of the co-ops is to enhance the capabilities and resilience of the power grid to ensure members receive highly reliable electricity.

Securing and protecting the grid from natural and manmade threats is a top priority for cooperatives. They work to make the grid smarter and more adaptable, matching technology with the best solutions for unique geographic areas and memberships. Even as renewables come down in cost and improve in reliability, large and highly efficient generation facilities will continue to play a critical role in their power systems.

North Carolina's electric co-ops are committed to providing electricity to members at the lowest possible cost while also enhancing sustainability, with a goal of achieving net-zero carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2050. To meet this target and ensure reliability and affordability, emissions-free nuclear energy is prioritized, as well as the coordination of a growing number of renewable and distributed energy resources and technologies across their systems through advanced grid operations. The introduction of new technologies has the potential to make lives easier, save money, and support a sustainable future. North Carolina's electric cooperatives are testing and evaluating new energy solutions and innovative technology that will help make these sustainability goals a reality. Electric co-ops are able to manage the collective capabilities of thousands of resources across the state including community solar, microgrids, electric vehicle chargers, and even smart thermostats and water heaters to precisely balance supply with demand.

The following are some examples of North Carolina's electric cooperatives working to provide reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy options for the communities they serve:

- The electric co-ops are working with agricultural businesses in the State to help them meet sustainability goals and improve grid resiliency. For example, South River EMC has partnered with Butler Farms to successfully develop a microgrid designed to improve system reliability and resilience by seamlessly incorporating renewable energy, battery storage, and emergency backup power into the grid.
- Pee Dee EMC secured a grant from the Beneficial Electrification League for White Rock Farms to replace a large diesel pump with an innovative single-phase electric motor and

pump which resulted in an improvement in energy efficiency, reduced carbon emissions, lower operating costs and improved labor productivity on the farm.

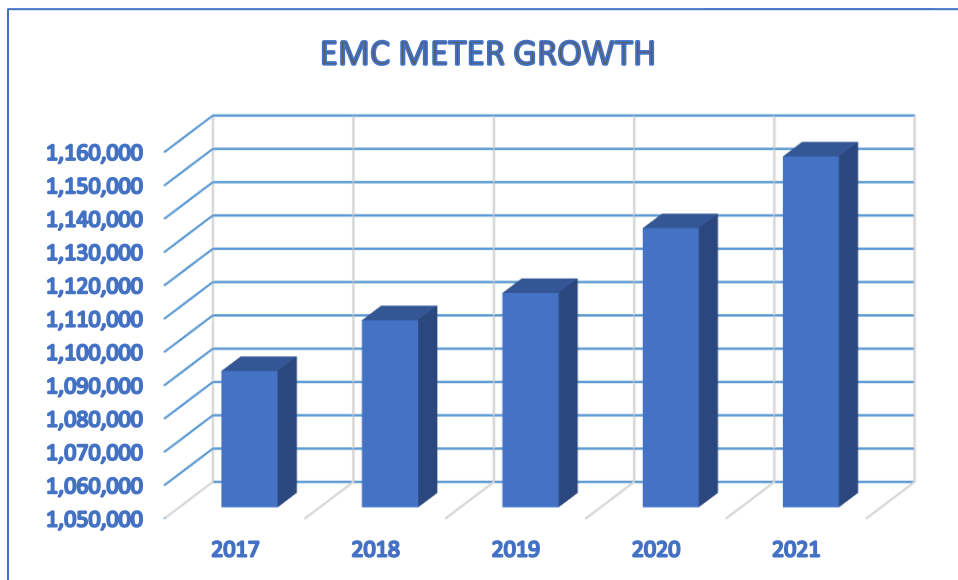
- The co-ops are in the process of installing utility scale batteries in ten communities across rural North Carolina to help make power grids more resilient and reliable.
- Randolph EMC partnered with their local community to provide an electric school bus which will serve the public school system in Randolph County and will run on co-op power. Funding for this project came from the NC Volkswagen settlement and was secured through a collaborative effort between Randolph EMC, NC Department of Public Instruction, and Randolph County.
- Several of North Carolina's electric co-ops have partnered with Advanced Energy, the Raleigh-based nonprofit energy consulting firm, to establish a program called the Enhancing Electric Cooperative Rebate Program ("EECRP") that provides energy efficiency upgrades to reduce home heating and cooling costs for members in need. The program is supported by federal funding and selected members use the program to connect with energy experts and resources to make upgrades that result in long-term energy savings.

The electric co-ops continue to stand out as national leaders in their use of RUS and REDLG loans and grants which are reviewed and approved by the Authority and then submitted to the USDA for funding. The funds received from the REDLG program assist with economic development and create new jobs and retain existing jobs in the communities they serve. The co-ops display true concern for the communities in which they live and serve by identifying needs and making them a reality through the REDLG program and the funds received in 2022 were used for projects such as small business development, providing more efficient and faster response in emergency situations through the purchase of fire trucks and upgrading and purchasing medical equipment. These projects reiterate the support and desire of the co-ops to promote growth and enhancements in the communities they serve throughout the State.

The co-ops are committed to demonstrating concern for their communities through continued education initiatives, economic development and other community-focused activities. The co-ops support community colleges and the outside workers for the co-ops such as linemen, receive training from these colleges. Some of the co-ops are currently offering broadband service to their members and others are researching the possibility of deploying the service. Some of the EMCs have received funds from the USDA through the ReConnect and Community Connect programs to continue to enhance and deploy broadband service. The EMCs will continue to look for new and innovative ways to provide reliable service at the lowest possible cost while also advancing the pursuit of sustainability goals.

**KEY DATA AND ACTIVITIES
FOR THE ELECTRIC
CO-OPs TRACKED BY
THE AUTHORITY**

**Meter Trends,
Outage Activity and Loan/Grant Applications**



As the chart above illustrates, the thirty-one electric co-ops serving the rural areas of North Carolina continue to experience steady growth. In fact, the number of active meters has increased annually from 2017 to 2021 as reflected on the chart above. As of December 31, 2021, the cooperatives were serving more than 1.2 million active meters to more than 2.5 million members which represents an increase of 5.57% since 2017.

INDIVIDUAL COOPERATIVE GROWTH TRENDS

CORPORATION	CONSUMERS ON RURAL LINES	CONSUMERS ON RURAL LINES	CONSUMERS ON RURAL LINES
	2019	2020	2021
ALBEMARLE	13,031	13,221	13,434
BLUE RIDGE MTN.*	18,228	18,596	18,976
BLUE RIDGE	77,170	77,844	78,602
BROAD RIVER*	434	442	459
BRUNSWICK	96,189	98,750	102,632
CAPE HATTERAS	7,787	7,894	7,937
CARTERET-CRAVEN	40,588	41,362	41,825
CENTRAL	23,058	23,403	23,784
EDGECOMBE-MARTIN	11,316	11,377	11,517
ENERGYUNITED	131,563	133,445	135,230
FOUR COUNTY	32,701	33,234	33,872
FRENCH BROAD	38,693	39,227	39,785
HALIFAX	11,772	11,871	12,029
HAYWOOD	27,127	27,791	28,067
JONES-ONSLOW	75,252	76,722	79,141
LUMBEE RIVER	62,240	63,439	64,474
MECKLENBURG*	133	130	133
MOUNTAIN ELECTRIC*	19,073	19,304	19,609
PEE DEE	21,175	21,341	21,537
PIEDMONT	32,720	33,112	33,455
PITT & GREENE	8,795	8,874	8,922
RANDOLPH	32,223	32,554	32,907
ROANOKE	14,119	14,125	14,234
RUTHERFORD	70,987	72,407	73,780
SOUTH RIVER	44,946	45,658	46,421
SURRY-YADKIN	28,278	28,184	28,289
TIDELAND	22,916	23,314	23,562
TRI-COUNTY	25,028	25,410	25,739
TRI-STATE*	1,421	1,457	1,501
UNION	78,414	80,230	82,264
WAKE	46,982	49,085	51,221
TOTAL	1,111,227	1,133,803	1,155,338

*Corporations Headquartered Outside North Carolina

OUTAGES RECORDED BY CORPORATION

<i>EMC SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS 2021</i>										
Average Minutes per Customer by Cause										
CORPORATION	Supplier		Extreme Storm		Pre-Arranged		All Others		Totals	
	Year 2021	5 Year	Year 2021	5 Year	Year 2021	5 Year	Year 2021	5 Year	Year 2021	5 Year
ALBEMARLE EMC	7.764	13.540	23.752	107.374	1.350	5.697	34.953	64.774	67.819	191.385
BLUE RIDGE EMC	12.350	5.360	26.450	99.800	2.910	3.700	47.010	61.320	88.720	170.180
BRUNSWICK EMC	0.00	.677	131.198	844.145	2.496	1.589	29.093	33.770	163.387	880.181
CAPE HATTERAS EMC	0.00	156.080	0.00	832.640	16.920	65.370	28.380	29.870	45.300	1,083.960
CARTERET-CRAVEN EMC	7.300	9.080	37.100	1,309.470	8.560	7.700	34.870	67.720	87.830	1,393.970
CENTRAL EMC	1.04	5.36	1.04	203.60	11.15	4.54	136.36	218.10	149.59	431.60
EDGEcombe-MARTIN	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.00	3.430	1.00	93.00	123.00	96.484	9,379
ENERGYUNITED	1.575	10.325	42.055	250.258	3.603	2.550	79.047	94.499	126.280	357.632
FOUR COUNTY EMC	0.00	.390	0.00	1,445.364	22.400	4.784	42.560	74.362	64.850	1,524.900
FRENCH BROAD EMC	15.000	14.110	46.140	34.900	7.440	4.440	61.140	50.700	129.720	104.150
HALIFAX EMC	54.380	27.760	245.300	77.050	22.940	11.940	120.380	145.120	443.000	261.870
HAYWOOD EMC	85.350	382.147	185.742	448.493	22.440	19.649	250.656	317.034	544.188	1,167.323
JONES-ONslow EMC	7.79	2.54	0.00	1,409.12	6.80	9.57	52.96	73.69	67.55	1,494.92
LUMBEE RIVER EMC	1.500	2.008	60.576	721.785	9.442	2.203	69.797	97.447	141.315	823.443
PEE DEE EMC	18.260	24.010	0.000	517.210	9.670	9.180	108.000	133.060	135.930	683.460
PIEDMONT EMC	16.104	15.880	507.387	503.877	1.358	1.934	103.745	103.097	628.594	624.788
PITT & GREENE EMC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RANDOLPH EMC	4.076	3.739	10.653	205.816	9.547	4.705	69.686	93.453	93.962	307.713
ROANOKE EMC	4.670	4.950	78.190	214.550	2.110	4.620	98.730	138.860	183.700	362.980
RUTHERFORD EMC	2.342	13.619	36.656	164.558	1.663	4.130	58.685	63.385	99.346	245.692
SOUTH-RIVER EMC	19.98	5.09	0.66	441.47	30.24	3.90		45.14	50.88	495.60
SURRY-YADKIN EMC	55.500	29.2000	94.800	312.000	.100	.900	110.600	125.800	261.000	467.900
TIDELAND EMC	.950	28.550	49.780	1,136.230	22.270	25.810	112.820	207.010	185.820	1,397.600
TRI-COUNTY EMC	52.000	26.000	0.00	656.000	37.000	7.000	111.000	120.000	200.000	809.000
UNION EMC	2.940	2.140	17.770	81.720	.230	1.110	58.840	51.450	79.780	136.420
WAKE EMC	5.30	10.40	0.00	46.90	3.80	3.90	84.20	75.60	93.30	136.80
BLUE RIDGE MTN. EMC*	0.00	3.180	40.810	429.610	14.310	12.110	249.820	241.300	304.940	686.200
BROAD RIVER EMC*	8.200	25.714		75.462	1.00	5.138	54.800	79.050	64.000	185.364
MECKLENBURG EMC*	0.00	2.300	1,829.160	644.030	11.950	8.390	132.970	183.340	1,974,080	838.060
MOUNTAIN ELECTRIC EMC*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.720	16.656	175.750	219.796	239.470	236.452
TRI-STATE EMC*	100.520	71.713	6.380	15.180	12.280	73.870	0.00	.072	119.180	160.835

* Foreign Corporations domesticated in NC

RUS LOANS
July 1 – June 30

Corporation Name	Year 2016-2017	Year 2017-2018	Year 2018-2019	Year 2019-2020	Year 2020-2021	Year 2021-2022
ALBERMARLE EMC			\$15,000,000			
BLUE RIDGE EMC	\$65,000,000				\$94,000,000	
BRUNSWICK EMC				\$97,472,200		
CAPE HATTERAS EMC	\$19,438,000	\$19,437,000		\$13,499,000		\$19,487,000
CARTERET-CRAVEN EMC		\$9,200,000				\$28,000,000
CENTRAL EMC						
EDGECOMBE-MARTIN EMC						
ENERGYUNITED EMC	\$72,000,000				\$80,000,000	
FOUR COUNTY EMC	\$28,000,000				\$40,000,000	
FRENCH BROAD EMC	\$32,000,000					\$45,000,000
HALIFAX EMC						\$12,000,000
HAYWOOD EMC				\$24,000,000		
JONES-ONSLow EMC						
LUMBEE RIVER EMC	\$60,000,000					\$45,000,000
N. C. ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP	\$43,794,000	\$51,176,000	\$16,698,000	\$51,117,000	\$23,607,000	\$35,400,000
PEE DEE EMC			\$20,200,000			
PIEDMONT EMC				\$60,000,000		
PITT & GREENE EMC						
RANDOLPH EMC			\$26,000,000			\$32,000,000
ROANOKE EMC				\$6,000,000		
RUTHERFORD EMC		\$20,000,000		\$25,000,000		\$38,000,000
SOUTH-RIVER EMC						
SURRY-YADKIN EMC				\$27,000,000		
TIDELAND EMC				\$31,689,000		
TRI-COUNTY EMC						\$32,000,000
UNION EMC		\$50,000,000				\$64,000,000
WAKE EMC						
BLUE RIDGE MTN. EMC**			\$11,641,493.23			
BROAD RIVER EMC**						
MECKLENBURG EMC**						
MOUNTAIN ELECTRIC EMC**			\$21,000,000			
TRI-STATE EMC**						
YEARLY TOTAL	\$320,232,000	\$149,813,000	\$95,539,493.23	\$322,278,200	\$237,607,000	\$350,887,000

**Corporations Headquartered
Outside of NC
Fiscal Yearly Activity for
2016-2022

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND GRANTS
JULY 1 – JUNE 30

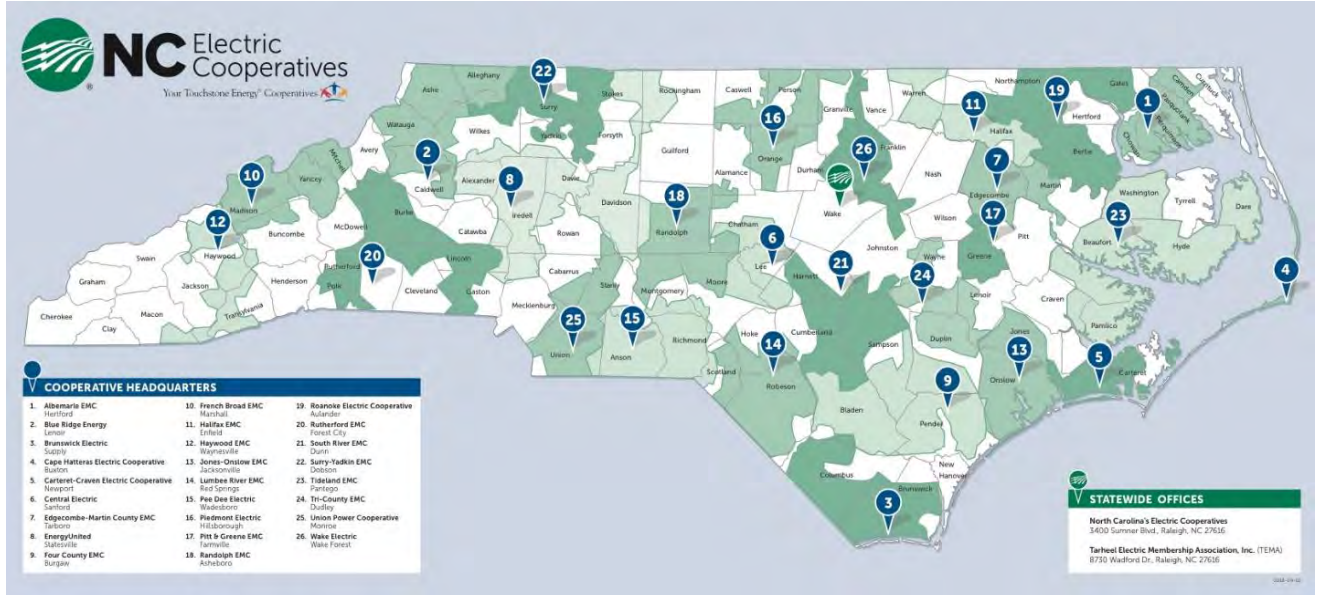
Cooperation Name	Year 2016-2017	Year 2017-2018	Year 2018-2019	Year 2019-2020	Year 2020--2021	Year 2021-2022
Albemarle EMC						
Blue Ridge EMC	\$3,715,000	\$540,000	\$300,000	\$2,496,000	\$240,000	\$1,168,330
Brunswick EMC					\$1,000,000	\$300,000
Cape Hatteras EMC		\$300,000	\$300,000			
Carteret Craven EMC						
Central EMC		\$360,000				
Edgecombe Martin EMC					\$300,000	
EnergyUnited EMC	\$741,667	\$1,360,000			\$300,000	
Four County EMC	\$1,600,000	\$900,000	\$600,000		\$300,000	\$1,200,000
French Broad EMC	\$209,000					\$300,000
Halifax EMC		\$682,500	\$300,000	\$700,000		
Haywood EMC						
Jones Onslow EMC						
Lumbee River EMC					\$300,000	
Pee Dee EMC	\$160,000	\$1,501,000	\$412,829	\$442,832	\$478,400	\$2,897,296
Piedmont EMC	\$1,807,500	\$1,109,600	\$704,000			
Pitt & Greene EMC						
Randolph EMC	\$300,000		\$4,000,000	\$300,000	\$480,000	
Roanoke EMC	\$1,300,000	\$300,000	\$439,166			
Rutherford EMC						
South River EMC						
Surry Yadkin EMC				\$300,000		
Tideland EMC				\$1,000,000		
Tri County EMC	\$1,300,000	\$600,000	\$390,000	\$1,440,000		
Union Power EMC		\$217,083				
Wake EMC		\$709,421				
Blue Ridge Mtn EMC**				\$2,000,000		
Yearly Total	\$10,833,167	\$8,579,604	\$7,445,995	\$8,678,832	3,398,400	5,865,626

**Corporations Headquartered
Outside of NC
Fiscal Yearly Activity for
2016-2022

ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATIONS

A Look at Each Individual Co-op

North Carolina Electric Cooperatives



Electric Membership Corporations

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

PO Box 69
Hertford, NC 27944

Phone

(252) 426-5735
(800) 215-9915

Fax

(252) 426-8270

Website www.aemc.coop

Key Staff

Gary Ray, Executive Vice-President & General Manager
John W. Spence, Board President
Roy O'Neal, Manager of Operations
Clarissa B. Perry, Manager of Corporate Services
Kevin Heath, Manager of Engineering

Annual Meeting: September or October

Active Meters: 13,484

Counties Served: Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck

Current and Future Plans

During the past 12 months, Albemarle EMC employees and board members have worked hard to accomplish several goals and provide the highest level of service possible to the membership.

To enable faster, more accurate detection of service interruptions, we have implemented an Outage Management System access for our membership. This greatly improves communication and service to our members.

The cooperative continued its strong commitment to our community through several community outreach programs. Albemarle EMC annually hosts a Light Up Christmas golf tournament to raise money to purchase toys for more than 500 underprivileged youth in the counties we serve. The Albemarle Community Trust, which is funded by members who voluntarily contribute through their power bills, since its inception, has provided over \$1.0 million in grants to organizations that benefit the community.

Education is also very important to the cooperative. Each year AEMC sponsors two students to participate in the Washington D.C. Youth Tour and Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship

program. Annually, the co-op awards over \$16,000 to area teachers through the Bright Ideas grants programs. To build stronger relationships with school administrators in our service area we have hosted Educator Luncheons during which time we seek ways AEMC can better serve our local schools and communities.

Over the past five years, AEMC has given back over two million dollars to members through capital credit general retirement refunds. The refunds are reflected as credits on active members' power bills and in checks for former members.

To make significant improvements to the reliability and strength of our system, we have completed the West Albemarle transmission substation on our system. In the next year, we will complete the new Bethel distribution substation. These new substations will increase the needed capacity to our service area.

In conclusion, it has been a pleasure serving the membership throughout the past year. We have a dedicated group of employees who are committed to safely providing reliable electricity at the lowest cost possible.

Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 112
Lenoir, N.C. 28645

Phone

(828) 758-2383
(800) 451-5474

Fax

(828) 929-2068

Key Staff

Jeff Joines, President

Douglas W. Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Alan Merck, Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

Julie O'Dell, Senior Vice President, Chief Administrative and Ethics Officer

Brad Shields, Senior Vice President, Chief Communications Officer

Katie Woodle, Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer

Tanner Greer, Senior Vice President, Chief Technology Officer

Annual Meeting: During the month of June

Active Meters: 78,602

Counties Served: Caldwell, Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Avery, Wilkes, Alexander

Current and Future Plans

In 2022, Blue Ridge Energy completed the first milestone in the largest system improvement in the cooperative's history. Seventeen miles of the cooperative's transmission system has been upgraded to 230 kV for reliability and capacity to help maintain the cooperative's reliability performance, placing it among the nation's top quartile. The last component of this \$46 million project is a transmission substation that's underway in the Rutherwood community of Watauga County and is slated for completion in 2023.

Through the utility-scale Brighter Future Solar facility completed in 2022, the cooperative is now adding to its renewable energy portfolio while helping control peak period wholesale power cost. Blue Ridge worked with facility owners to strategically place and construct the array and purchases the full output through a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement.

In 2022 and into 2023, the cooperative is assisting local communities by providing more than \$3.5 million in zero-interest loans, with funds originating from the USDA REDLG program. These funds will go toward the construction of a new industrial park, 3-D mammography equipment for a local hospital, the construction of a satellite fire station, the purchase of four new fire trucks for volunteer fire departments throughout the Blue Ridge Energy service area and more.

Through funds awarded by North Carolina's GREAT (Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology) grant program, Blue Ridge Energy's RidgeLink subsidiary is building 97 miles of fiber backbone in its Caldwell County service area to help bring broadband to an area lacking this service. The cooperative is partnering with its neighboring telephone cooperative's subsidiary, SkyBest Communications, which will be the Internet Service Provider. The project is expected to be completed with gig speeds available to more than 400 members previously with no access to high-speed internet service by the end of 2022. Blue Ridge is also partnering with SkyBest on a Watauga County project. With \$7.5 million in funding awarded from the Watauga County Board of Commissioners, a total of 150 miles of overhead and underground fiber will be constructed by Blue Ridge Energy and SkyLine/SkyBest over the next two and a half years to bring high-speed internet to more than 1,700 unserved or underserved locations.

In 2022, the cooperative refunded over \$5 million in capital credits to members. Rising costs, however, have had an impact: in October of 2022, the cooperative implemented its first rate increase in nearly a decade, with an overall 3.5 percent impact based on average usage.

Even though cost challenges are projected to continue impacting the cooperative in 2023, Blue Ridge Energy remains committed to affordability, reliability and sustainability for its members. The cooperative scored at the top of all utilities on the American Consumer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) in the fall of 2022. The cooperative's two subsidiaries continue to benefit the cooperative. Next year the cooperative's Propane and Fuels subsidiary plans to make a significant cash payment to help reduce the amount of the planned wholesale power cost adjustment members will see on their bills in early 2023.

Finally, the cooperative's Blue Ridge Energy Members Foundation, funded by Operation Round Up and subsidiary contributions, continues improving local quality of life. In 2021, \$200,000 was given to fund local not-for-profit projects in areas such as health care, education, and economic development. Through crisis heating assistance, the Foundation helped nearly 1,000 families stay warm. The Foundation continues these efforts in 2023, as well as many other efforts by the cooperative to support its local communities in ways that make life better for the members it serves.

Learn more at www.BlueRidgeEnergy.com.

Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 826
Shallotte, NC 28459

Phone:

910-754-4391
800-842-5871

Fax:

910-755-4299

Website: www.bemc.org

Key Staff

Joshua L. Winslow, Chief Executive Officer & General Manager
Fred Tedder, President of the Board of Directors
Corey Thurlow, Chief Operating Officer
Scott Thomas, Vice President, Corporate Services
Lisa Fitzgerald, Vice President, Finance
David Reel, Vice President, Technical Services
Lewis Shaw, Vice President, Engineering & Operations

Active Meters: 104,063

Counties Served: Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen and Robeson

Current and Future Plans

BEMC was an industry leader offering a prepaid power option to our membership and currently has 8,926 prepaid accounts representing approximately 10% of all active meters. In addition to the budgetary benefits inherent in the program, members become smarter and more efficient energy consumers as they monitor and better understand their energy usage. BEMC serves as a resource to co-ops interested in developing similar programs.

The co-op's Weatherization Loan program provides low-interest loans for approved energy efficiency improvements to member homes and businesses. Often the energy savings are enough to cover the loan payment included in their monthly bills, with the savings continuing after the term of the loan. BEMC has provided approximately \$15 million in Weatherization Loans over the past 30 years, from the following sources: \$7.0 million in ERC loans from BEMC; \$3.7 million from the REDLG/USDA program; \$2.3 million from repayments of original REDLG/USDA loans; and \$1.6 million from RCSC internal funding.

BEMC's renewable energy portfolio includes 564 solar installations. Two 100kW community solar farms with a total of 738 panels provide an option for members who want to participate in solar power without a home installation. All panels are fully subscribed and have a waiting list.

BEMC analyzes data to improve load management capabilities through their Connect to Save smart thermostat programs, which have 1,832 members participating. In June of 2019, a Time-of-Use rate option was introduced, and currently have around 85 members signed up and lowering their monthly bills. They also recently implemented a Beat the Peak initiative, where members receive an alert via email and text and are encouraged to reduce energy usage during that time. Social media posts reinforce the alerts.

Research continues on several behind the meter initiatives designed to control peaks. Part of their strategic plan includes assessing an expanded Wi-Fi enabled thermostat program, an inside-the-home battery pilot project, and a water heater demand-control project. They are preparing for these opportunities by investing in a Distributed Energy Resource Management System (DERMS). They envision a time when a large percentage of the membership has enrolled in multiple programs, managed through DERMS, and making maximum use of the grid and minimizing member bills.

The cooperative continues an industry-standard Right of Way maintenance program, and system reliability exceeds 99.9%. BEMC's American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) score routinely exceeds electric industry benchmarks.

Looking to the decade ahead and beyond, BEMC remains focused on providing reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electricity. To achieve this low-cost, low-carbon future, they are working with other electric cooperatives in N.C. toward two significant carbon reduction goals, a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

BEMC's commitment to community efforts include a utility assistance program (Warm Homes, Warm Hearts) that has provided more than \$1 million in assistance to those in need; the Bright Ideas education grants program for teachers totaling more than \$750,000; a community grants program that has awarded approximately \$685,000 to community groups working to improve the quality of life in our service area; college scholarships totaling \$110,000; and youth sports scholarships as well as support for a host of community events and economic development efforts.

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative

Mailing Address

47109 Light Plant Rd
PO Box 9
Buxton, NC 27920

Website: www.chec.coop

Phone

252-995-5616

Fax

252-995-4088

Key Staff

Susan E. Flythe, Executive Vice President & General Manager
Zack Watkins, Manager of Engineering
Stephanie Snead, Manager of Finance
Laura Ertle, Director of PR & Marketing
Richard Midgett, President

Annual Meeting: May

Active Meters: 7,750

County Served: Dare

Current and Future Plans

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative (CHEC) is headquartered in Buxton, North Carolina. The Cooperative serves more than 7,700 meters on Hatteras Island located in Dare County. CHEC's membership is 85% residential and 15% commercial.

CHEC purchases power from North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC). CHEC takes delivery north of the Marc Basnight Bridge at Oregon Inlet from Dominion North Carolina Power. CHEC delivers the power south across the bridge via 43 miles of 115kV transmission lines. CHEC owns and maintains a 115kV step-down substation in Buxton, with 10.1 miles of 34.5kV from Buxton to Hatteras Village. In total, CHEC owns and maintains 348 miles of line. CHEC also wheels power for Tideland EMC to serve Ocracoke Island which is south of Hatteras Island in Hyde County. CHEC operates in an extreme coastal environment with wind, salt and flooding constantly threatening the electric system's reliability. The cooperative continues to explore new technologies and construction techniques to both harden the infrastructure, making it less susceptible to storm damage, and smart grid devices, to improve response time when outages do occur.

CHEC recently completed the installation of new 115kV transmission cables on a new bridge running from the Pea Island Wildlife Refuge into Rodanthe. The cooperative is expected to

energize the new line by the end of 2022. Attaching transmission cables to the new bridge provides greater reliability for electric members on both Hatteras and Ocracoke Island.

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative

Mailing Address

PO Box 1490
Newport, NC 28570

Phone

(252) 247-3107
(800) 682-2217

Fax

(252) 247-0235

Website:

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/ab53411d/KYTDNlmOtkOd5YkUzjOLw?u=http://www.ccemc.com/>

Key Staff

Jake Joplin, Chief Executive Officer & General Manager
Tracy Price, Vice President of Human Resources
Will Pittman, Vice President of Engineering & Operations
Cheryl Slater, Vice President of Customer Service
Randy Carr, Vice President of IT Systems
Tara Alderman, Vice President of Finance & Accounting
Melissa Glenn, Director of Communications
Anthony Nelson, President, Board of Directors

Annual Meeting: First Thursday in May

Active Meters: 42,364

Counties Served: Carteret, Craven, Jones, Onslow

Current & Future Plans

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative is defining a future for its members and the communities we all share – a brighter future that continues our commitment to delivering reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost while also advancing the pursuit of responsible sustainability goals.

While our members' interests form the bedrock of our planning, CCEC believes the benefits of our initiatives in the next decade and beyond will extend to this entire community, and it starts with our business model.

The member-owned electric cooperative business model works. As a not-for-profit business located in and governed by the communities we serve, we put people and those communities first.

The brighter future we are defining must strike a careful balance in providing electricity that is not only sustainable, but also reliable and affordable. CCEC, along with the network of North Carolina's electric cooperatives, have established a goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 with an interim step of reducing emissions by 50 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.

We commit to these goals voluntarily and know that to achieve them while upholding our promise of delivering reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost, we must: continue to leverage our existing investments in carbon-free power sources like nuclear energy; work with our members through energy services to manage when and how electricity travels across the grid; incorporate new sources of energy, including solar; utilize low-cost natural gas to expand renewable energy growth; and support the advancement of new technologies that effectively capture carbon emissions.

As a local business CCEC is not only powering, but also empowering this community. We are in tune with – and responsive to – the needs of this community because we live here and know firsthand how access to essential services and opportunities for economic growth will strengthen this region.

Here are just a few examples of CCEC empowering the communities we serve:

- Supporting Relay for Life as a sponsor and raising funds throughout the year. The CCEC Relay for Life team has raised more than **\$380,000** for cancer patients and their families over the years.

In addition to meeting and fulfilling its mission of providing safe and reliable electricity, CCEC is committed to serving communities in its service territory. Through the Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation, our members give back, too. The foundation manages funds received from members who participate in Operation Round-UP®. The volunteer foundation board members are appointed by the directors of the cooperative and are dedicated to enriching the community by awarding grants, with a focus on individual members meeting individuals' needs.

- Each month, participants' electric bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar amount. The average amount rounded up in a yearly period is \$6 per member. The maximum amount is \$11.88. Since inception, the foundation has funded many worthy requests from individuals and organizations, including scholarships for more than 177 high school seniors and community college students and more than 802 Bright Ideas Grants impacting 152,561 students.
- The foundation has also provided support for the Children's Miracle Network, American Cancer Society, March of Dimes, the NC Burn Center, and Duke Hospital's children's pediatric cancer program. Local organizations funded have included Broad Street Clinic, the Carteret County Domestic Violence Program, Carteret County Veterans Services, Habitat for Humanity, Hope Mission Soup Kitchen & Outreach, Matthew 25 Food Pantry and Project Christmas Cheer and more. Emergency funds are also provided to help individuals pay utility bills through the Carteret County Department of Social Services and Havelock-Cherry Point Ministerial Outreach.

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative will continue to support our local communities and develop new ways to deliver reliable, affordable, sustainable power. Our success hinges on preserving the cooperative business model because it keeps us close to the needs of our community, is flexible and always puts people first.

Most importantly, we will never lose sight of the fact that the brightest parts of our future are the people and communities we serve. We are truly powered by our members.

Central Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

P O Box 1107
Sanford, NC 27331-1107

Phone

(919)-774-4900
(800)446-7752

Fax

(919)-774-1860

Key Staff

Eddie Oldham, Manager & CEO
Rebecca Cogan, President, Board of Directors
Tabitha Whitlow, Vice President of Finance, Accounting and Billing
Angela Hare, Vice President of IT, Member Service and Metering
Jody Albright, Vice President of Business Development, Marketing, and Energy Services
James Taylor, Manager of Human Resources, Payroll and Communications
Nathan Stephens, Manager of Engineering
Terry Collins, Manager of Operations

Annual Meeting: First Friday in October

Active Meters: 24,075

Counties Served: Chatham, Harnett, Lee, Moore, and small portion of Randolph

Current and Future Plans

Central operates with one goal in mind: providing reliable electricity to members at the lowest possible cost consistent with sound financial principles. Though much has changed in the energy industry over the last 75 years, Central Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is still one of North Carolina's fastest growing electric membership corporations. Central serves over 22,000 members in four counties and maintains more than 2,400 miles of power lines.

One way Central provides excellent service to our members is through advanced technologies. Central uses an automated system capable of handling high call volumes while taking credit card payments 24 hours per day. This system also allows the cooperative to program outbound messages regarding planned outages, pending disconnection and more. Mobile workforce management is also a big part. This system allows the cooperative to send work orders to field personnel directly, reducing the amount of paperwork and retention. In 2013, we kicked off a conversion effort to install all new metering by implementing Advanced Metering throughout our infrastructure. This investment in technology helps us to conduct business more efficiently, deliver better service to our members and hold down costs. This project was completed in 2015.

A kiosk was located in the Spout Springs area in Harnett County, one of our fastest growing areas. Cash, checks and credit cards are accepted as payment by this technology.

The cooperative not only provides electricity, but also offers many related services to its members, including home energy analysis, water heater maintenance, PowerGuard, a surge protection program, outdoor security lighting, a variety of rate schedules and a low interest loan program for members buying electric heat pumps or upgrading insulation or purchasing storm windows.

Central, along with 22 other electric cooperatives, joined together to create a not-for-profit company, GreenCo Solutions, LLC., to focus on energy efficiency initiatives and renewable resources. Through GreenCo, we can provide inexpensive high quality programs that will benefit our residential and commercial consumers. GreenCo Solutions provides compliance reporting and tracking for member cooperatives related to Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards (REPS). Established by Senate Bill 3, and enacted by the NC General Assembly in 2007, the bill mandates that NC-based electric utilities must purchase or generate a specific amount of renewable energy or reduce electricity use through energy efficiency improvements.

December 2015, Central flipped the switch on a community solar project for co-op members and the surrounding community. The project, located beside the Central Electric office on Wilson Road in Sanford, consists of 360 photovoltaic panels and produced up to 100 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power as many as 12 to 15 homes.

In 2009, Central started emphasizing the importance of energy efficient improvements and steering members toward the cooperative programs, such as the compact fluorescent light (CFL) credit program which began in 2008 and ended in 2012. Rebates were also offered for the following programs: The fridge and freezer disposal, high efficiency heat pump and water heater sales. Plus, rebates were provided to members who purchase or built a high efficiency residential home built to the HERO standard. In 2015, Central expanded its online services giving members the ability to monitor their energy use through the online portal located at CEMCPower.com. By setting up a login and using this free service, members can keep tabs on daily energy use and set up alerts that will send them a notification if their usage has reaches a specified dollar amount. This information is available at our website, cemcpower.com and we encourage members to take advantage of the tools available to them. Central Electric members also have an additional way to pay for electricity through “FlexPay.” This program allows participating members to monitor power use, buy electricity on an “as needed” basis, manage their payments and closely monitor energy use. Members that choose to go on FlexPay tend to be up to 10 percent more energy-efficient.

Several examples of Central Electric’s commitment to the community is shown through participation in the 4-H Club of Lee County golf fundraiser, Bright Ideas education grants for teachers, the Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington DC and the Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship Program. Central also provides scholarships of \$2,000 to five students who are members, or children of a member, attending a community college in our area, and rewards students from kindergarten through college who send in a report card with at least one “A” during the most recent grading period.

One other huge part of Central's community outreach is Operation Round Up, which began in 2013. Operation Round Up is a volunteer program in which members of the cooperative can choose to round up their electric bill to the next whole dollar each month. The money is distributed by a Trust board to nonprofit organization in Chatham, Harnett, Lee and Moore counties for various worthy projects.

Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

PO Box 188
Tarboro, NC 27886

Phone

(252) 823-2171
(800) 445-6486

Key Staff

Winston Howell, Chief Executive Officer
Mike Johnson, Vice President of Engineering & Operations
Melinda Nimmo, Vice President of Finance
Eddie Stocks, Vice President of Member & Industrial Development
Lisa Tolson, Vice President of Human Resources

Annual Meeting: Third Saturday in March

Active Meters – 11,286

Counties Served: Nash, Halifax, Edgecombe, Pitt, Martin, Beaufort, Bertie

Current and Future Plans

Supporting our members, as well as the local communities we serve, is a vital part of our mission. Edgecombe-Martin County EMC provides an extensive program in helping the communities and citizens within its service territory by providing several ongoing programs such Summer Fan Relief, Edgecombe County Alzheimer's Walk, EMC 4-H Sporting Clays tournament, The Youth Tour, the Cooperative Leadership Camp and Conference, Black History Month, Customer Appreciation Day, Children's Miracle Network, Annual Donations for Rural Volunteer Fire Departments, Relay for Life, Bright Ideas and local community college scholarships.

Over the past several years, Edgecombe-Martin County EMC has been investing in technology, streamlining and automating business processes to save our members money, and become more efficient to ensure we can continue to operate the business in case of a disaster. Edgecombe-Martin EMC is committed to delivering reliable energy services at competitive prices to improve the quality of life of our members and communities.

EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 1831
Statesville, N.C. 28687

Phone Fax

(704) 873-5241
(800) 522-3793

Fax

(704) 924-2120

Key Staff

Thomas Golden, Chief Executive Officer
Brett Alkins, Chief Operating Officer
Alec Natt, Chief Financial Officer
Steve McCachern, VP Energy Delivery
Pam Britt, Vice President of Human Resources
LaQuisha Parks, VP Energy Services & Corporate Communications

Annual Meeting: Third Week in September

Active Meters: 136,577

Counties Served: Wilkes, Yadkin, Alexander, Iredell, Catawba, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Montgomery, Davie, Rowan, Davidson, Forsyth, Stokes, Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph, Lincoln & Caldwell

Current and Future Plans

EnergyUnited serves electric power over approximately 200 miles of transmission, 8,100 miles of overhead distribution and 4,900 miles of underground distribution lines. Today, the cooperative serves more than a quarter million people through more than 126,000 customer metering points and provides for a peak electric demand of more than 781,000 KW. Currently, there are 9 Board of Directors.

EnergyUnited provides electric service over a geographically diverse area ranging from rural, hilly farmland in the north to dense suburban areas in the Charlotte and Piedmont Triad areas in the south and east. The load EnergyUnited serves is predominantly residential along with a growing group of industrial customers in a variety of industries (manufacturing, textiles, water treatment, etc.).

EnergyUnited is committed to delivering reliable energy services at competitive prices to improve the quality of life of our members and communities.

Four County Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

PO Box 667
Burgaw, NC 28425

Phone

(910) 259-2171

Fax

(910) 259-1878

Key Staff

Don Gatton, Chief Executive Officer
Gary Chitwood, Chief Financial Officer
Gregg Cohn, Vice President of Engineering
Scott Cook, Vice President of Operations
Jennifer Hedge, Vice President of Human Resources
Anthony Kent, Vice President of Information Technology
Greg Sager, Vice President of Member Services

Active Meters: 34,407

Counties Served: Columbus, Bladen, Sampson, Duplin, Pender, Onslow

Current and Future Plans

Today, 34,407 active meters are served in the four core counties, and to a lesser degree in Columbus and Onslow counties. Four County EMC has grown to 5,215 miles of line: 216 miles of transmission, 3,964 miles of overhead and 1035 miles of underground. There are 26 substations, 3 switching stations and 6 points of delivery.

Through our advanced metering technology, our Prepay Advantage program continues to grow. The prepay program allows participants payment flexibility, eliminates deposits, monthly bills and late fees. The Prepay Advantage program also enables participating members to conveniently set their own payment schedule and receive alerts about their usage and account status.

Four County EMC's long standing commitment to economic development is an ongoing effort as we work with the communities we serve to create/save jobs, create new investment, and improve the quality of life for our citizens. Currently, we are working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) which helps us make loans to assist local communities regarding economic and community development, and with the USDA's help, we are able to make zero interest loans. An annual meeting is held for the members of Four County EMC. The meeting gives members the opportunity to elect their Board of Directors and to become better acquainted with the progress of the Cooperative during the year. Notice of the annual meeting is printed in the Carolina Country magazine, as well as the monthly newsletter, *Four County Connection*, which is included within the magazine. Notice of the meeting will also appear in local newspapers, on Facebook, Twitter and the co-op's website at www.fourcty.org. According to the Cooperative's bylaws, the annual

meeting is to be held on the first Monday, in October; or, the Board of Directors may fix a date not more than 30 days prior to, or subsequent to, the regular meeting date.

The Board of Directors continue to retain their Director Gold credential status for continued cooperative education from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

In 2022, the cooperative returned \$1.8 million in capital credits to its members as approved by its Board of Directors.

Four County EMC is a member of the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, which serves as the Cooperative's wholesale power supplier. Together with 25 other electric cooperatives in the state, Four County EMC owns part of the generating capacity of Duke Power Company's Catawba Nuclear Plant. In addition, the Southeastern Power Administration provides a small percentage of the Cooperative's total wholesale power needs.

French Broad Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

3043 Highway 213
PO Box 9
Marshal, NC 28753

Phone

(828) 649-2051

Fax

(828)649-2989

Key Staff

Jeff Loven, General Manager
Joseph G. Justice, President
Tracy Evans, Burnsville District Manager
Greg Fowler, Marshall District Manager
Phyllis Holt, Office Manager

Annual Meeting: First Saturday in May

Active Meters: 40,100

Counties Served: Madison, Yancey, Mitchell, Buncombe, NC and Unicoi and Cocke County, TN

Current/Future Plans

French Broad EMC has grown into a modern-day cooperative, with 22 substations serving over 40,000 meters. French Broad has modern system Control's along with a data acquisition system, linked by fiber optic cable and wireless communication, to facilitate accurate and rapid functioning of its electrical distribution and transmission plant. All substations now have state of the art electronic relays and controls that integrate seamlessly with the Cooperative's SCADA system. A fiber optic network connects each substation together and is in a loop with each office. The Cooperative has seen about 1.4% increase in member growth annually and about 4.0% growth in sales. As the economy rebounded from COVID-19, kilowatt hour sales have increased in all our classes of service.

Future plans and improvements include an upgrade to our automated meter reading system from Tantalus. This new system will take advantage of our fiber network, which will allow for faster and a more reliable transmission of data. This wireless AMI system is being used to provide prepayment electric service to members wishing to avoid a deposit or an alternative way to manage their bill. Fiber optic cable is continuing to be installed across the system to provide connectivity to the substations for SCADA, AMR, and High-Speed Internet. The Cooperative to date has received over \$20 million in grant funding to provide Fiber to the Home service to many of its customers in Madison County, and now has over 7,000 high speed internet and telephone customers. Mobile map viewing and staking software packages are being used by the cooperative in an effort to further improve service response times and streamline the data collection process. As new renewable energy laws are now in place in North Carolina, French Broad EMC

finds that the investment they made in their hydroelectric plant back in the 1980's has an ever increasing value. In addition to the electricity French Broad EMC purchases from the South Eastern Power Administration (SEPA), the electricity generated from this plant counts directly towards the state mandated renewable energy requirement. The cooperative has also offered several programs to those customers who wish to invest in renewable technologies and offset some or all of their energy needs.

Halifax Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 667
Enfield, N.C. 27823

Phone

(252) 445-5111

Fax

(252) 445-2398

Key Staff

Charles Guerry, Executive Vice-President & General Manager (Retiring March 2023)

Stanley J. Brothers, President - Basil Williams, President

Wanda P. Cooke, Manager of Finance

Sam Moseley, Manager of Operations

Melanie Mohorn, Director of Human Resources

Brady Martin, Manager of Marketing & Economic Development –

Julia Allsbrook, Manager of Marketing & Economic Development

Tyler Harriett, System Engineer –

Debra Montgomery, Director of Administrative Services

Annual Meeting: Third Saturday in May

Active Meters: 11,967

Counties Served: Warren, Nash, Halifax, Martin and Mecklenburg, VA

Current and Future Plans

Incorporated over 80 years ago on December 15, 1938, Halifax EMC serves Halifax and Warren counties, parts of Nash and Martin counties, as well as Mecklenburg, VA and provides wholesale power to the Town of Enfield.

Halifax Electric Membership Corporation believes its role in local economic development can and will be valuable and influential. By establishing dialogue with the State, Region, and our Counties' Economic Development organizations, Halifax EMC continues to be recognized as a leader and a resource for economic development and as an entity that is willing to offer assistance to potential clients, through USDA loans or grants, NCEMC zero interest business development funds, or through possible industrial site and building identification. Since 2017, Halifax EMC has secured nine zero-interest loans funded by the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant program for volunteer fire departments, a sheriff's department and one health and rehabilitation facility to purchase much needed equipment. In addition, we have an established presence with county and statewide organizations, including chambers of commerce and economic development commissions, and recognize that these relationships can be mutually beneficial. We make clear our interest as being a regional partner in economic development efforts. At Halifax

EMC, we understand there is power in numbers, and we are committed to being a part of the economic development team for our community and for northeastern North Carolina.

Recently, Halifax EMC worked with North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives in an ongoing effort to expand a statewide cooperative electric vehicle charging network. Halifax EMC partnered locally with New Dixie Oil Corporation and Robbie's fuel and convenience station to strategically install a DC fast charger for public charging at Robbie's on Highway 561 at I-95, Exit 160. Bringing this charging station to Halifax EMC's service area is an example of our commitment to building a brighter future for the people and communities we serve.

Halifax EMC, along with North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, continues efforts to expand a statewide cooperative electric vehicle charging network. Since 2020, two DC fast chargers, owned by and located on the Halifax EMC system, have been installed for public charging; one in Halifax County located at Robbie's fuel and convenience station on Highway 561 at I-95, Exit 160 and another in Warren County located at Lake Gaston Pit Stop on Eaton Ferry Road/NC903.

Haywood Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

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Phone

(828) 452-2281
(800) 951-6088

Fax

(828) 456-9443

Key Staff

Tom Batchelor, Executive Vice-President & Chief Executive Officer
Larry Clark, Board President
Rex LaRowe, Chief Operation Officer
Danielle Wittekind, Chief Administrative Officer
John Boate, Chief Financial Officer
Sheila D, Chief Technology Officer

Annual Meeting: First Thursday in August

Active Meters: 28,418

Counties Served: Macon, Jackson, Transylvania, Haywood, Buncombe, Madison, Rabun County, Georgia and Oconee County, South Carolina

Current and Future Plans

Over the years, Haywood EMC's headquarters has moved from the Cruso community to Main Street in Waynesville followed by a move in 1953 to the Old Asheville Highway in Waynesville where the headquarters remained until July, 2009 when the headquarters was moved to its current location at 376 Grindstone Rd., Waynesville, NC 28785. As Haywood EMC grew, a district office was added in Lake Toxaway of Transylvania County, as well as an operations center in Scaly Mountain, NC. This has allowed the co-op to best serve each member-owner across its 8-county service territory. Haywood EMC has grown from 18 employees and 3,936 services in 1953 to 74 employees, plus approximately 76 contractor employees serving over 28,000 services today.

Haywood EMC has recently averaged a growth of one and one-half percent a year in new accounts and the corporation projects a similar growth pattern into the near future.

Throughout each year of growth, Haywood EMC continues to provide affordable, reliable and safe electricity to its member-owners. In addition, Haywood EMC has taken measures to power a brighter future for our communities through renewable energy projects, high levels of community involvement, and strong local partnerships.

Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address:

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Jacksonville, NC 28546

Phone Numbers:

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(800) 682-1515
(910) 353-7117 (Power Outage)
(800) 681-4146 (Power Outage)

Fax

(910) 353-7735

Key Staff:

Jeff T. Clark, Chief Executive Officer
John L. Pierce, Chairman
Jeff Hudson, Chief Operations Officer
Steve Goodson, Vice President, Communications & Business Strategy
Andy Shepard, VP, Technology Strategy
Wanda Jones, Vice President, Member Services
Michelle Hefner, Vice President, Finance & Accounting
Andrea Avery, Vice President, Human Resources
Devin Costa, Vice President, Information Technology
Jeff Allen, Vice President, Operations
Aaron Spencer, Vice President, Power System Reliability, Optimization & Control
William Jones, Vice President, Power System Planning & Design
Carrie Peters, Vice President, Innovation Energy Solutions
Ricky Maready, District Vice President

Annual Meeting: Last Friday in March

Active Meters: 80,682

Counties Served: Onslow, Pender, Lenoir, Duplin, Craven, Jones

Current and Future Plans

With many changes facing the industry, Jones-Onslow EMC is still serving its consumers with the neighbor helping neighbor concept, through the cooperative way of business. With close to 2,500 miles of line serving over 80,000 customers, Jones-Onslow EMC is one of the fastest growing and most innovative cooperatives in the United States.

JOEMC's annual work plan focuses on reliability and system strength to withstand major storms. Current and future work plans include improving system reliability by focusing on the construction of new, and the upgrading of existing, distribution substations throughout their service territory. All of this is to accommodate the continued growth in JOEMC's service territory.

Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

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Fax

(910) 843-2079

Key Staff

Randall Jones, Interim President & Chief Executive Officer
Rory Eddings, Chairman - Board of Directors
Matt Epps, Vice President of Engineering & Operations
Vacant, Vice President of Finance
Cynthia Stiles, Vice President of Human Resources
Walter White, Vice President of Corporate Service
Mark Walters, Director of Safety

Annual Meeting: Second Thursday in October

Active Meters: 61,897

Counties Served: Scotland, Hoke, Robeson, Moore, & Cumberland

Current and Future Plans

At the first Annual Meeting of the Members in 1941, the cooperative had 469 miles of line. The average member used 36 kWh per month and paid 7 cents per kWh. Today, the cooperative has 5,838 miles of line and the average residential member uses 1,298 kWh per month at a cost slightly more than 10 cents per kWh. The membership is comprised of 95% residential and 4% commercial. Revenue has grown 21% over the past 10 years.

The strong growth for the cooperative continues to be concentrated in the Cumberland and Hoke County areas, in large part due to the proximity to Ft. Bragg.

In Robeson County, development of businesses is driven by the access to major highways and rail systems, as well as the success of COMtech, a partnership of educational, business and government entities founded to support and help tenant-partners focus on the profitability of their core business through workforce development. Lumbee River offers two loan programs to assist with economic development: the USDA Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) and the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDLG). Both loans help the expansion of businesses to create jobs when adequate funding is not available from other sources.

In addition to Lumbee River's commitment to support economic development, our investment in technologies has streamlined work processes and provided additional services to the

membership. Lumbee River EMC remotely reads meters and is capable of connecting and disconnecting services from our office. Using implemented technology, members may transact business, such as making payments or establishing service by simply visiting our web site, using our Smartphone application or our automated phone system. Members may also choose to enroll in FlexPay, a prepaid metering program that allows the member to monitor and manage their daily kWh consumption. Lumbee River EMC continues to be committed to evaluating emerging technologies to be the trusted energy advisor for our membership.

Lumbee River continues to focus on member energy efficiency programs and the inclusion of renewable energy in our fuel portfolio. Effective energy efficiency programs, expanding member education and favorable member financing options are resulting in savings to the membership through our implementation of numerous energy efficient measures. Lumbee River EMC will continue to evaluate various renewable energy projects as member expectations change and emerging storage technology becomes more affordable.

Lumbee River EMC offers high speed broadband, TV and telephone services on a fiber network system to residences, businesses and public facilities located in underserved or unserved areas of Robeson County. In addition, Lumbee River EMC is able to deploy various smart grid technologies using the fiber network.

With a membership that exceeds 54,187 individuals, Lumbee River EMC continues to provide safe, reliable, affordable and resilient electric service to the residents of Cumberland, Hoke, Robeson, Moore, and Scotland Counties.

Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

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Lilesville, NC 28091

Phone

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Fax

(704) 694-9636

Key Staff

Donald (Donnie) Spivey, Chief Executive Officer & Executive Vice-President
Richard H. Johnson, Board President
Tony Eason, Vice President of Engineering & Operations
Jordan Hildreth, Vice President of Finance & Administration
Cathy Page, Vice President of Member Services & Marketing
Janet Carson, Vice President of Information Technology

Annual Meeting: First Thursday in October

Active Meters – 21,806

Counties Served: Anson, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Scotland, Stanly, Union

Current and Future Plans

Today, Pee Dee Electric serves 21,806 meters throughout seven counties and maintains over 3,461 miles of line.

Pee Dee Electric utilizes advanced technologies including Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and Geographic Information System (GIS). The GIS mapping system provides accurate information in the field for the entire service area. Pee Dee Electric utilizes Milsoft's Outage Management System (OMS) that is integrated with the AMI and GIS systems. This automated OMS system provides information allowing quicker response times for power outages. Over 1500 members participate in the pre-pay metering. A website portal displaying energy usage allows members the ability to look at previous day usage and sign up for email alerts.

Pee Dee Electric continues to focus on energy efficiency programs for its members and complying with the NC Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards mandate. Pee Dee implemented an Energy Efficiency Loan Program for members in 2017. Pee Dee completed construction of a 100kW Community Solar Farm to support alternative energy while providing members an opportunity to participate in a solar energy facility.

The cooperative's long-term strategic vision became more evident as the cooperative completed the installation of a new AMI system and made the decision to consolidate the two offices and build a new facility near the center of the service territory. The new facility opened to members in

October 2021. The reliability strategy included the construction of a new 230 kV substation in 2020. The Burnsville Substation is located in Anson County.

Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation

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Key Staff

Stephen (Steve) B. Hamlin, President & General Manager
Susan Cashion, Vice President, Compliance and Administrative Officer
Larry Hopkins, Vice President, Engineering
Lisa Kennedy, Vice President, Financial Services
Robert Riley, Vice President of Operations
Ed Durham, Manager of Energy Services
Angie Jones, Human Resources Manager
Brandon Reed, Manager of Member Services & Public Relations
Scott Rowland, IT Manager

Annual Meeting: Fourth Friday in April

Active Meters: 33,906

Counties Served: Alamance, Caswell, Durham, Granville, Orange, Person

Current and Future Plans

Piedmont Electric has a rich history deeply rooted in our local communities. These roots provide a strong base from which we continue to grow to meet our members' needs and evolve to match the changing needs of the energy industry. Check out a few of the ways we grew last year to better serve you.

Last year, we updated our logo and during that time we spoke with members to learn more about how they felt about our name. Based on their feedback, we felt that a slight tweak to our name was needed. Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation adopted the name Piedmont Electric Cooperative for branding purposes to better reflect the feedback we received from our members.

Faster outage response, more information for members and a more efficient electric grid are just a few of the reasons we started replacing our meters last year. After an initial testing group, we started installing the new meters across our system. Every member should have a new meter in the next two years.

Keeping the lights on is our number one job and to do that we have to constantly work to improve and strengthen our electric system. Last year we installed new breakers at our Baynes and North Roxboro substations. We also strengthened the transmission line which delivers power to our

Baynes substation as well as our other transmission lines in Caswell County. Taking this proactive approach helps us provide a stronger system to our members.

Part of what makes a cooperative special is the exceptional member service you get with each and every interaction. Last year, Piedmont Electric received an American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) score of 87 in the member satisfaction survey for the second year in a row! The ACSI rating system takes customer feedback to rate companies across the country. This score puts us in good company with the likes of Chick-fil-A, Apple and Amazon. We appreciate our members' feedback and will continue to use it to improve our already exceptional service.

Even with improvements to the electric system and other upward cost pressures, Piedmont Electric has been able to hold rates steady since 2014. This rate accomplishment has been made possible through several Piedmont Electric programs including air conditioning load management, water heater management, Beat the Peak voluntary reductions, time-of-day rates and more. Recently, the cooperative created several new ways for members to lower their energy use and save money. Through the smart thermostat savings program, members allow the cooperative to adjust the temperature of the member's smart thermostats to help reduce peak demands. For members who own or lease electric vehicles (EV), the co-op created a special rate which rewards EV owners who charge their vehicles overnight with a lower rate. These offerings have given members more control of their energy use which saves the member, and the co-op, energy, and money. In 2020, Piedmont Electric received grants from the VW Settlement to install two DC Fast Chargers for electric vehicles to promote beneficial vehicle electrification and has just received notification of a grant for another DC Fast Charger which will be placed at the Carrboro Plaza in Orange County.

In 2018, Piedmont Electric opened board elections to online and mail-in balloting. These new methods enabled more members to participate in the governance of their cooperative. As the result of the pandemic, Piedmont Electric held a virtual Annual Business Meeting on April 17, 2020. Virtual Annual Business Meetings and online and mail-in balloting continue to be conducted at Piedmont Electric resulting in more members participating in our Annual Meeting elections.

The Piedmont Electric Helping Hand Foundation, established in 2017, continues to strengthen the co-ops commitment to the community. This charity foundation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in the communities served by Piedmont Electric by empowering and partnering with the co-op's members and the communities they serve. Support for programs will focus on youth education, emergency preparedness, access to broadband, affordable electric power, and other electric utility issues. In its fifth year of existence, the foundation awarded more than \$191,128 in community grants for energy assistance, education, emergency response, energy efficiency projects and other services that improve local quality of life. The foundation is funded by the generous donations from the cooperative's members who volunteer to round up their monthly bill and donate this change to the foundation. In addition to the foundation, Piedmont Electric continues to make zero interest USDA Rural Economic Development loans and has more than \$15 million in loans that improve the communities we serve since its first loan in 2013.

Just because Piedmont Electric has been a community partner for almost 85 years doesn't mean we are stuck in the past. We always have an eye on the future as we prepare to meet the challenges of our growing communities and continue to provide the exceptional service our members have

come to expect. The past two years have seen many in our community struggle. We've worked hard to ensure stable rates as the cost of goods and services continues to go up, especially at the gas pump. We know cost is important to our members and we strive to provide energy to you at a low cost while still providing exceptional service. Sustainability has long been a goal of Piedmont Electric. We will continue our path to net zero carbon emissions as part of our Brighter Future initiative. Piedmont Electric supports renewable energy while balancing costs to members. We also support members who go green with electric vehicles by installing fast charging stations this past year in Carrboro and Mebane.

Communication is key for your co-op as we want all our members to be up to date on what's going on, particularly when it is something that could impact them. That's why we have expanded our text outage notifications and continue to look for ways to expand these types of notifications to our members. Also, we will be piloting chat on our website to make it even easier to ask a question or get advice.

Piedmont Electric continues to strive to provide excellent service to its members through these initiatives and more each and every day.

Pitt & Greene Electric Membership Corporation

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Key Staff

Mark A. Suggs, EVP & General Manager

Glenn Smith, President

Tammy Murphy, Director of Human Resources & Executive Assistant

Tony Barrow, Director of Engineering

Milton Grant, Director of Operations

Austin Dixon, Chief Financial Officer, Director of Finance and Accounting

Annual Meeting: First Thursday in November

Active Meter: 8,937

Counties Served: Wilson, Edgecombe, Wayne, Lenoir, Greene, Pitt

Current and Future Plans

Pitt & Greene Electric Membership Corporation (Pitt & Greene EMC) is a non-profit, non-taxable rural electric cooperative organized pursuant to Article 2, Chapter 117 of the North Carolina General Statutes. The Certificate of Incorporation was filed in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of North Carolina on the 8th day of June 1937. Pitt & Greene EMC is operated by a nine-member board of directors elected by the member-owners of the corporation. The purpose or purposes of the corporation for which it is formed are in general, to provide electric energy to the members of the cooperative; to mortgage plant, buildings and machinery; to acquire and hold, to the extent permitted by law, mortgages, leases, licenses, and right of way easements; to borrow money and other evidences of indebtedness necessary to finance the operation of providing electric energy to the members of the cooperative.

Pitt & Greene EMC is located at 3989 West Wilson Street, Farmville, NC. Its formation began in 1937, and its first homes were energized on March 8, 1938. Construction began on the first Headquarters building in 1953 and was completed May 1954. Pitt & Greene was the 14th electrical co-op established in the nation.

Pitt & Greene EMC installed the AMI (Automated Metering Infrastructure) beginning March 15, 2011. By September 30, 2011, 8500 meters had been successfully installed. We are now

offering Customer Choice, which is a pay as you go program. Customer Choice is optional and is available to all members. Pitt & Greene EMC currently has 33 employees. It serves Pitt, Greene, Lenoir, Wayne, Wilson, and Edgecombe counties. Its average total number of consumers is 8,937 and the corporation serves 1,095 miles of line.

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

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Asheboro, N.C. 27204-0040

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(336) 626-1551

Key Staff

Dale Lambert, Chief Executive Officer
Jay Albright, District Vice President
Adam Hargett, Vice President of Finance
Dennis Mabe, Vice President of Engineering & Operations
Fred Smith, Vice President of Economic Development & Compliance

Annual Meeting: Third Friday in June

Active Meters – 33,181

Current and Future Plans

Randolph EMC seeks to deliver superior energy solutions to improve our members' quality of life by:

- Providing safe, reliable and affordable energy
- Offering services that empower our members
- Strengthening our communities
- Practicing environmental responsibility
- Implementing innovative technologies
- Having a dedicated team of employees and directors

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation's history reveals that in 1938, nine community leaders gathered at a small gas station in downtown Asheboro to discuss building an electric cooperative. Those nine founders signed their names on the line to borrow \$300,000 to build what is now one of 26 electric cooperatives in North Carolina.

Today Randolph EMC serves more than 26,700 consumer-members in Alamance, Chatham, Montgomery, Moore, and Randolph counties in central North Carolina. The company is headquartered in Asheboro and has one district office in Robbins. Randolph EMC delivers over 544 million kWh of electric energy annually with an annual peak capacity of 125 MW to residential, commercial and industrial customers.

REMC's advanced metering infrastructure allows the cooperative to offer various programs that utilize the digital meters' two-way communication feature. Daily usage monitoring via REMC's online member service portal allows members to monitor their kWh electricity use daily. Randolph EMC makes this and other account management features extremely easy by offering a free mobile app for access at members' convenience.

FlexPay is a program that lets members pre-pay for electricity, eliminating late payment fees and the need for deposits. In addition, members enjoy services such as electronic and automatic bill payment, budget billing, and bank draft. Members may access their account information at any time online, via mobile app or through an automated phone line. In addition, REMC's dispatch center has a representative available 24-hours-a-day to answer member calls.

Randolph EMC offers its members a variety of electric rates. General service residential, commercial and industrial rates are available, as well as a number of time-of-use options. Renewable purchase options are available to members willing to invest in solar energy at their homes or in the cooperative's SunPath Community Solar[®] program. Participants in the community solar program have the option to subscribe monthly or for a full term (240-months) to the output of any number of solar panels they wish. As a result, these members receive credit on their bills for the amount of energy their panel(s) generate, based on the co-op's published Solar Energy Credit at the time of billing.

The cooperative routinely employs new technologies through pilot programs, which aim to help manage costs both for the utility and the participating member. For instance, REVUP, the REMC Electric Vehicle Utility Program, offers members with electric vehicles a \$500 rebate toward purchasing a Level 2 charging station in exchange for their charging data. This program also incorporates a three-tiered time-of-use rate to allow maximum savings in charging an electric vehicle overnight when the cost of electricity is lowest for the utility.

Randolph EMC not only has a philosophy of providing reliable electric power at an affordable price but also is dedicated to community involvement. Employees are encouraged to participate in civic, service and business organizations within the community. The company has representation in associations such as Rotary International, Youth Sports, United Way, and local economic development organizations.

One very special program developed locally is "*People Helping People*," an organization governed by an independent board of directors and sponsored by Randolph EMC. This program allows enrolled members to round up their electric bill to the nearest dollar to help other members in need of financial assistance. As of 2022, more than \$177,000 has been distributed to individuals and families in need of support.

People Helping People has also implemented a Community Grants branch of support for local nonprofit agencies. REMC partners with cooperative lender CoBank to fund this Sharing Success Community Grant program. Since the program's inception in 2015, more than \$106,000 has been distributed locally to community organizations whose programs may benefit Randolph EMC members.

Education also plays an important role at Randolph EMC. The co-op demonstrates corporate citizenship by investing in K-12 schools, teachers and students throughout its five-county region. This investment takes several forms. For example, each year REMC sponsors one student visit to Washington, D.C., through the Rural Electric Youth Tour, and sponsors students at the Carolina Basketball School and Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp.

Another demonstration of REMC's investment in education is by regularly accepting requests from area schools to provide employee speakers on the importance of energy and electrical safety. In addition, REMC provides grants to teachers through its Bright Ideas program, which rewards educators who want to facilitate innovative classroom projects. Over the past 27 years, REMC has provided just under \$300,000 in Bright Ideas grants to teachers.

Finally, the co-op educates teachers so they can influence the future workforce. Annually, REMC participates annually in the Teacher Internship Program sponsored by the Asheboro/Randolph Chamber of Commerce. In this program, area teachers spend a week during the summer working at Randolph EMC to gain on-the-job experience that they can incorporate into their lesson plans. In 2022, REMC, in partnership with NC's Electric Cooperatives, sponsored a local teacher in the prestigious Kenan Fellowship program. REMC's Kenan Fellow, a high school science teacher, spent three weeks at the company, learning about potential careers in energy that she can discuss with her students.

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation prepares strategically for an exciting and challenging future as the nation moves toward energy independence and a cleaner environment. The co-op will do its part to ensure responsible, affordable solutions in meeting the electric requirements of its members. Through a diversified portfolio of traditional power resources, renewable and environmentally-friendly generation technologies and energy efficiency, Randolph EMC is committed to delivering affordable, reliable electric energy and superior service in response to the needs of its members and communities.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative

Mailing Address

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Ahoskie, N.C. 27910

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Key Staff

Marshall Cherry, President & Chief Executive Officer
Bo Coughlin, Chief Operating Officer, Roanoke Connect
Cathy Davison, Chief Financial Officer
Dennis McFee, Vice President – Member Services, Marketing and Public Relations
Derrick Buffaloe, Vice President - Innovation and Technology
Mary Beth Lampe, Vice President – Corporate Services
Jimmy Liverman, Vice President – Engineering and Operations

Annual Meeting: Fourth Saturday in August

Active Meters: 14,500

Counties Served: Halifax, Northampton, Hertford, Gates, Bertie

Current and Future Plans

Roanoke Electric Cooperative has been recognized as an industry leader in innovative economic and community development, winning the prestigious Nation Rural Electric Cooperative Association Community Service Network award on two occasions.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is among the nation's first to receive USDA funding for the co-op to administer an energy-efficiency and conservation loan program. A total of \$6 million, these funds are invested into making energy-efficiency upgrades in the homes of the co-op's member-owners. As of November 2022, the program has benefited hundreds of co-op member-owners.

Roanoke Electric Cooperative is also one of the first in North Carolina to develop and implement a Community Solar initiative. The program offers community and philanthropic organizations the opportunity to sponsor the program to provide financial assistance to low-income member-owners. The cooperative is bringing online two 250 kW solar systems plus two 500 kWh battery energy storage systems.

The cooperative owns a broadband subsidiary, Roanoke Connect Holdings, providing last-mile broadband connectivity throughout its region. Additionally, the cooperative owns fiber assets, which leverages other system investments, such as its advanced metering deployment, to manage

system improvements and peak demand. The subsidiary's last-mile solutions enable more member-owner engagement behind the meter through smart technologies.

In 2019, the cooperative launched an electric vehicle home charging program to generate more EV ownership throughout the region. The cooperative is experiencing success through public charging partnerships and expects more EV ownership in the area soon.

The cooperative also offers numerous energy-efficiency and cost-saving programs to help member-owners save money by managing energy use and reducing consumption. Many of the "high-impact" programs, as the co-op calls them due to their immediate money-saving benefit, are available to all member-owners due to the innovative grid enhancements. In 2022, the cooperative launched a Gold Star Member-Owner program, rewarding member-owners for their participation in several high-impact programs and savings available from the cooperative.

Finally, through the many nonprofit programs and services of its 501(c) 3 nonprofit subsidiary, The Roanoke Center, the cooperative has positioned itself as a catalyst for economic sustainability within the Roanoke-Chowan and Roanoke Valley regions of North Carolina.

Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address:

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Forest City, NC 28043-1569

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Key Staff

S. Dirk Burlison, General Manager
J. Dean Carpenter, Board President
Tommy Chapman, District Manager
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Vice President of Engineering
Colon L. Saunders, Vice President of Operations
Randy Ward, Vice President of District Operations

Annual Meeting: Last Saturday in October

Active Meters: 79,630

Counties Served: Caldwell, McDowell, Rutherford, Polk, Cleveland, Burke, Catawba, Lincoln, Gaston, Mitchell

Current and Future Plans

Rutherford EMC is proud to celebrate 85 years of service to its members in 2022. What began with a handful of determined farmers, 10 miles of line and 30 members, has grown to provide electricity to more than 79,000 homes and businesses in 10 counties. Growth will continue in this small community atmosphere where good schools and the moderate climate provide an excellent area to work and raise families.

Rutherford EMC has been working on different projects to maintain system reliability and improve our members' ease of access. The recent development of an online service application has given our new members the more convenient option of applying for service online versus having to come into an office. Rutherford EMC has temporarily adopted a virtual format for our Annual Membership Meetings as well. We have held virtual annual meetings for the past three years, but we are eager about the possibility of going back to our in-person, county-fair meeting format for 2023. Our director elections have been conducted via mail-in ballot and we have seen a tremendous response from our members. This could continue on as a standard practice for our co-op.

These virtual membership meetings have pushed us to think of new ways to interact with our members. We held our first-ever member appreciation event in 2022. Lunch was served to over

1,400 people, and goodie bags were given out to participating members. REMC has slowly begun to re-instate our outreach programs as well, including the Youth Tour, Touchstone Energy Basketball Camps, and our annual golf tournament to raise money for local charities.

Over the last year, Rutherford EMC has seen a growth rate of approximately 1% and we have maintained a reliability rating of 99.98%. One of our main infrastructure projects is building a new transmission line in our Lincoln-Gaston district. The new transmission line will span from Lowesville NC to Denver NC once complete. Currently, our engineering staff is collaborating with Duke Energy to plan interconnection at our new Lowesville breaker station. All permits and right-of-way have been acquired for the first four-mile section of this new 100 kV transmission line, and construction is expected to begin in late winter or early spring.

REMC continues to improve safety procedures inside and outside the offices. All of our company vehicles and every office are equipped with AEDs, and our staff is routinely trained on the use of this equipment. We have plans to install panic buttons on all office PC's to send out a text alert during emergencies as well. Further, our VP of Operations and Engineering staff has made sure all of our underground facilities are on a ten-year inspection plan, and we regularly complete arc flash studies. Rutherford EMC recently received its 14th Certificate of Safety Achievement award from NRECA.

South River Electric Membership Corporation

Address

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Phone

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Website

www.sremc.com

Key Staff

Chris Spears, Executive Vice-President & Chief Executive Officer
Andrew Hardy, Vice President of Finance & Accounting
Catherine O'Dell, Vice President of Member Services & Public Relations
Barbara West-Lee, Vice President of Corporate Services
Chuck Richardson, Vice President of Engineering & Operations
Andrew Smith, Vice President of Information Technology (Interim)

Number of Employees - 105

Annual Meeting: April

Active Meters – 45,012

Counties Served: Harnett, Cumberland, Sampson, Bladen, Johnston

Current and Future Plans

In 2022, South River EMC has taken measures to offset increasing costs. The Cooperative made plans to implement a monthly WPCA, called the Equalizer. The Equalizer will appear on member bills and will be used to collect revenue shortfalls while the cooperative determines if a long-term rate change is necessary. Additionally, South River EMC has launched a mobile app to provide members with a convenient way to manage their electric accounts.

South River EMC continued its community support efforts through Operation Round Up and the Bright Ideas educational grant programs. In 2022, the Cooperative funded \$226,550 of grants to local non-profit, educational and emergency services organizations. The program has funded \$2.8 million in grants since its inception in 2007. Educators received \$60,449 in classroom grants through the Bright Ideas program. This program has awarded \$1.55 million in educational grants since 1998.

The cooperative continues to look for ways to improve service delivery and reliability through grid resiliency upgrades, while also working to integrate renewable resources and pilot innovative

energy projects that will enable us to respond to changing member dynamics and continue to be a trusted energy partner.

South River EMC participates in the TSE Services satisfaction benchmarking surveys. The surveying was conducted by telephone exclusively until 2018 when online surveys were introduced. The online survey take rate grew so quickly that in 2022, the surveys will be conducted via online only.

According to the most recent member satisfaction survey, South River EMC continues to score an 88 on the American Consumer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) and South River EMC receives an overall satisfaction score of 9.03 (out of 10). The Cooperative continues to look for ways to meet member expectations and to reduce costs, while improving member satisfaction.

Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

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Dobson, N.C. 27017

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Key Staff

Greg Puckett, Executive Vice President and General Manager
Karoline Overby, President
Bryon Kennedy, Vice President of Member Services and Public Relations
Misty Utt, Vice President of Finance and Accounting
Ricky Bowman, Vice President of Operations
Anna Jones, Manager of Human Resources

Annual Meeting: Last Tuesday in October and is a Virtual Annual Meeting.

Active Meters: 27,623

Counties Served: Wilkes, Surry, Yadkin, Stokes, Forsyth

Mission Statement: Provide outstanding service that powers our rural communities.

Current and Future Plans

Surry-Yadkin EMC has grown from its modest beginnings in the 1940s to serve 27,623-plus meters and operate 18 substations. Our cooperative has 107.2 miles of transmission line and 4,042.03 miles of distribution line across 5 counties. All members are served from our office at 510 South Main Street, Dobson, N.C. Our staff of 75 well-trained employees serve the membership.

Surry-Yadkin EMC continues to upgrade and install facilities to meet the needs of our membership on an ongoing basis. This included energizing a new substation in late 2022 and beginning construction on a new circuit to back-feed members in case the primary lines experience an outage. We also installed equipment to provide automatic back-feed to commercial areas the cooperative serves. In 2021, SYEMC replaced 610 of its 58,512 poles and 11.372 miles of copper line. A new transmission line was constructed to serve Yadkin and Forsyth County members, replacing a line built 53 years ago. This included replacing older wooden poles with taller, sturdier steel poles and upgrading the transmission line to prepare for future upgrades.

The cooperative works with the community to serve its needs as well. One of our newest innovative projects is an eTRU (electric transport refrigeration unit) partnership with member, Hollar and Greene Produce. The partnership allows the farming and trucking company to store its produce in

hybrid electric refrigeration units that allow the trailer to operate from electricity during staging at the company's distribution center rather than diesel fuel. This allows the company to meet green initiatives required by the companies to which it sells and saves money on fuel.

Surry-Yadkin EMC has been aggressively expanding its electric vehicle (EV) charging network. It hosts the first DC fast charger at a Circle K in North Carolina along the heavily used Interstate 77 corridor, the only charger of its kind on a 121-mile stretch of the interstate. In addition, it has Level 2 chargers at five other locations in Dobson and Elkin, N.C., with more sites to be added in the future.

A 250-kW solar farm in Dobson operated by the cooperative provides power onto the grid and also serves as an educational tool for local students and community members.

The cooperative is actively pursuing state and federal infrastructure grant funding to help take the burden of needed upgrades and projects off our members.

Cooperative leadership understands that a strong education leads to greater advantages for our local students and a stronger North Carolina. Our focus on education centers around providing grants to local schools and teachers through our Bright Ideas Education Grant program, hosting field trips, electrical safety demonstrations, awarding college scholarships to local students and, when possible, internships for students which have led to careers at Surry-Yadkin EMC. The cooperative annually sponsors two high school juniors to participate in the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., with each participant also receiving a \$500 scholarship toward their college education.

The cooperative also works to serve those in need through our Operation Round Up program, food drives, Thanksgiving meals, Christmas meals and toys for under-privileged children; and our annual Surry-Yadkin EMC charity golf tournament. Our charity golf tournament annually raises around \$20,000 to \$30,000 for nonprofits in the region.

Economic and community development is another focus for the cooperative. Our involvement includes participation in the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program, a revolving-loan fund that assists with the purchase of fire trucks, ambulances, and other emergency services equipment. We have assisted two local fire departments in truck purchases through REDLG. Other economic development (ED) efforts include working with state cooperative and ED officials and local ED organizations to recruit new opportunities to our communities as well as supporting existing industry and retention efforts. Local ED is focused on site identification, development, investment, marketing, and certification. Surry-Yadkin EMC, in partnership with our statewide group, is in the process of certifying two sites in Surry County as a continued effort to attract new industry and opportunities.

Tideland Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 159
Pantego, N.C. 27860

Phone

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(800) 637-1079

Fax

(252) 943-3510

Key Staff

Paul Spruill, General Manager and Chief Executive Officer

J. Douglas Brinson, President

Tonya Little, Executive Assistant/Payroll Specialist

Jim Chrisman, Chief Financial Officer & Manager of Internal Services

Ben Beagle, Manager of Engineering & Operations

Myra Beasley, Manager of Human Resources, Risk Management & Benefits

Heidi Smith, Manager of Marketing & Communications

Annual Meeting: May

Active Meters: 23,755

Counties Served: Craven, Pamlico, Beaufort, Washington, Hyde, Dare

Current and Future Plans

Tideland is not only focused on its core business function in 2022 specific to the safe and reliable delivery of affordable electric service, but we are also supporting our communities with capital investment in technology and infrastructure to better prepare for natural disaster and better enable our members with information. Since 1999, Tideland has made substantial investments in system upgrades including the construction of a 115 kV transmission line traversing Beaufort and Hyde counties. In 2020 Tideland completed construction of a 1.8 mile armored submarine cable extension replacing overhead conductor vulnerable to erosion at the southern tip of Hatteras Island. This capital investment greatly improved the reliability for Ocracoke island. In December, 2011 the co-op completed the process of converting to all digital meters capable of providing remote readings and other advanced functions that enable technology to assist our rural consumers with real time consumption data, high energy alerts, optional pre-paid electric service, and more. In the summer of 2010, Tideland interconnected its first two small, member-owned photovoltaic solar systems. In 2017 Tideland hosted a unique microgrid at Ocracoke Island complete with diesel generation, small-scale solar, battery storage, wi-fi controlled thermostats and water heaters. A microgrid controller, owned and operated by NCEMC, capitalizes on each microgrid component as we learn how to best utilize this technology on the distribution system. This first microgrid investment on Ocracoke was closely followed by the planning necessary for a second microgrid asset on Hyde County mainland to provide resiliency to the community's largest private employer at Rose Acre Farms, Inc. This second microgrid will be operational in early 2023. Tideland EMC

members also continue to benefit from the December, 2014 completion of Tideland's first community solar project. Technology, information, and reliability will drive our future as we provide member focused solutions to meet the diverse energy needs for our communities.

Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address

4255 Alt. US Hwy 117 South
PO Box 130
Dudley, NC 28333

Website

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Phone

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Fax:

(919)734-6277

Key Staff

J. Michael Davis, General Manager
Ken E. Davis, Manager of Finance and Accounting
Tony Grantham, PE, Manager of Engineering and Operation
Tamah Hughes, Manager of Information Technology
Bob Kornegay, Manager of Member Services
Deidra Grantham, Manager of Marketing and Communications

Annual Meeting: Second Saturday of November

Meters Served: 26,095

Counties Served: Wayne, Duplin, Lenoir, Johnston, Jones, Sampson and Wilson

Current and Future Plans

Community oriented programs are a top priority at Tri-County EMC. The Operation Round-Up program, which began in September 2000, has helped many needy individuals and non-profit organizations in our communities. Our participation rate is 95% and members have contributed over \$2 million to improve the quality of life in our communities.

Tri-County EMC recognizes the importance of education. In today's economy, it is often difficult for students to afford to continue their education following high school, which is why we are proud to offer scholarships to deserving high school seniors in our service area. Since 2001, 1,033 high school seniors have received scholarships totaling \$444,900. These budding leaders will help us build a better world.

Since its inception in 1994, the Bright Ideas Grant Program has contributed millions of dollars to teachers across the state of North Carolina to fund educational projects. We are proud to have awarded \$1,882,281.60 to teachers in our service area to fund 2,112 innovative teaching projects. The impact reaches thousands of students. We are proud to be making a difference for individuals and communities in our service area.

Tri-County EMC, along with the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, selects two middle school students each year to attend the Touchstone Energy Roy Williams Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill for male students and the Wolfpack Basketball Camp at NC State University for female students.

Members are provided the Co-op Connections Card which gives them a discount on their medications at local pharmacies.

The cooperative has faced many changes and challenges in the electric industry over the years. As we continue to face more changes and challenges in the future, the mission of Tri County EMC will remain the same. We are a member-driven cooperative committed to providing reliable electric power at a reasonable cost, to offering superior service, and to taking an active role in supporting the communities it serves.

Union Power Cooperative

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 5014
Monroe, N.C. 28111-5014

Phone

(704) 289-3145
(800) 922-6840

Key Staff

Greg Andress, Executive Vice-President & General Manager
Lee Roy Kirk, Jr., Board President
Jeremy Black, Vice President of Information Services
Theresa Blackwell, Vice President of Finance and Accounting
David Gross, Vice President of Engineering & Operations
Carrie Stroud, Vice President of Communications & Marketing

Annual Meeting: Saturday in September or October

Active Meters: 84,726

Counties Served: Union, Stanly, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Rowan

Current and Future Plans

Union Power Cooperative's mission is to enhance the quality of life of our members and the communities we serve by delivering on our promise to provide safe, reliable electric power and energy service with exceptional value. Union Power serves a five-county area outside the metropolitan area of Charlotte, NC, including Union, Stanly, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, and Rowan counties. Offices are located in Union and Stanly counties. With nearly 85,000 member-accounts and more than 6,000 miles of lines, the co-op serves an average of 13 members per mile of line.

Union Power continues to be one of the fastest-growing electric cooperatives in the nation. To meet the demands of growth, Union Power remains focused on maintaining financial strength, building an electric system that delivers needed capacity and resiliency, and fostering a knowledgeable and engaged workforce committed to exceptional member service.

Throughout the challenges of the past few years, Union Power's dedicated workforce has shown incredible resilience while navigating the pandemic. We made progress toward our commitment to building a Brighter Future for the people, businesses, and communities we serve. Collectively the cooperatives in the state have introduced new technologies to our energy portfolio, including substation batteries, community solar, and demand response devices such as smart thermostats. These investments are part of an overall strategy to meet our shared goal of a 50% reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels by 2030 and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We will

continue to prioritize emissions-free nuclear energy and a diverse power generation portfolio, always keeping affordability and reliability at the forefront.

Union Power continues to benefit from significant growth. In 2021 we added more than 2,000 new meters, representing a 2.54% year-over-year growth rate, our highest growth rate in 10 years. This growth adds to our financial strength, resulting in our ability to return \$3.6 million in Capital Credits to our members in June of 2021.

As our membership grows, so does the need to make investments to ensure reliability and resilience. Throughout our service territory, several large projects, including the construction and upgrading of substations, were completed during the year, and work progressed on a new transmission line between Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties. These investments will provide value to our membership for decades to come.

Wake Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1229
Wake Forest, NC 27588-1229

Website

www.wemc.com

Phone Number:

(919) 863-6300

(800) 474-6300

Fax:

(919) 863-6479

Key Staff:

Jim Mangum, Chief Executive Officer
Don Bowman, Vice President of Engineering & Operations
Scott Poole, Vice President of Customer Service
Lisa Kennedy, Vice President of Financial Services
Kirk Metcalf, Manager of Member Services
Chris Wright, Manager of Engineering
Jeff Garrett, Manager of Operations
Fred Keller, Manager of Community Development

Annual Meeting: Fourth Friday in March

Accounts: 50,000

Counties Served: Granville, Vance, Durham, Wake, Johnston, Franklin, Nash

Current and Future Plans

Wake Electric provides electric service to approximately 48,000 accounts in parts of seven counties in north central North Carolina, including: Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Vance and Wake counties. Wake Electric has 19 substations, and more than 3,700 miles of distribution lines (1,879 miles overhead and 1,915 miles underground). Our customer service office is located in Wake Forest and our engineering/operations personnel are located in Youngsville.

For six of the past seven years, Wake Electric has been the fastest growing electric cooperative in North Carolina. To date, Wake Electric continues to face steady growth and electricity demand. Even with successful energy efficiency programs, our state experiences increased energy demand requiring construction of new power plants and transmission lines.

Wake Electric also continues to deploy state-of-the art technology that provides members with secure and convenient online account access on their desktop, mobile device or tablet. For example, our SmartHub portal allows members to:

- Pay their bill immediately with secure online payments.
- View monthly electricity use and history, including daily and hourly energy use for all meters with AMI technology.
- View monthly electricity use and history through the My Usage tab, which includes information on daily and hourly energy use for all meters with AMI technology, allowing members to make informed decisions about energy use.
- Manage account information directly and track payment history from mobile devices or the web.
- Report an outage.
- Sign-up to receive notifications via email or text messaging concerning activity on their account.
- Contact our office to initiate various customer service requests.

Wake Electric has installed advanced meters that automatically report outages for all members. Members can still report outages using the automated phone system, mobile and web devices, or talk directly with a customer service representative. With this technology available, linemen and meter technicians have easy-to-access and accurate information in the field and can report outages and system problems. A fully integrated customer and engineering database enables Wake Electric employees to analyze outage calls and assign restoration crews efficiently.

In addition, these meters allow members to sign up for special rates, like time-of-use or electric vehicle rates, which help the member save, making it easier for the cooperative better control demand for electricity across the grid. As a Touchstone Energy cooperative, we offer members' access to [TogetherWeSave.com](https://www.togetherwesave.com), an energy efficiency website that features numerous articles and interactive videos designed to encourage members to take energy-savings actions now. We also offer online home energy audits to help members get the best value out of the energy you use every month. In 2022, Wake Electric also helped over 200 members integrate rooftop solar, giving them the option to use electricity generated by equipment installed at their home, and provide extra power back to the grid when necessary.

Costs are rising for all of us, but when it comes to electric bills, our rates are set simply to cover the cost of doing business, not to generate profits for distant stockholders. In fact, we give money back to our members as capital credits when our revenues exceed costs. In (2022), Wake Electric returned \$2,000,000 in patronage capital to existing and former members for their individual share of the capital credits earned between 1995 and (2021) as well as approximately \$160,000 to the estates of deceased members.

Along with keeping costs down, Wake Electric is working hard to keep electric bills affordable by controlling costs through innovation. In partnership with local builder Winslow Homes and North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives, Wake Electric developed the cooperative's first microgrid at the Eagle Chase neighborhood in Youngsville, NC. This microgrid will include a 300 kilowatt propane powered electric generators and a 1 megawatt-hour/500 kW Tesla PowerPack battery system. In addition to the microgrid, Wake Electric and North Carolina Electric Cooperatives integrated a 500 kW solar farm, and over 5.5 MW of battery storage onto Wake Electric's distribution system

in 2022. These solutions will help Wake Electric manage costs and capacity for the system throughout the various seasons of the year.

At Wake Electric, we are continuing to put our members first by developing practices to make everyday business as efficient as possible. We utilize a dedicated pay-by-phone number option for bill payment. This convenient method for payment of electric bills allows members to check the status of their account, make a payment, create or update PIN numbers and also update phone numbers through an automated phone system. In addition, members can visit local stores in their community like CVS and Wal-Mart to make real-time payments to their account.

Wake Electric is working to keep electric bills affordable. We're controlling costs through innovation. We're continuing to put our members first. No matter what the future brings, one thing is certain: Wake Electric is looking out for its members.

Corporations With Headquarters Outside North Carolina

Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation

Mailing Address:

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Young Harris, Georgia 30582

Phone

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(828)837-1017

Fax

(706)379-4834

Key Staff:

Allan Glidewell, Executive Vice-President & General Manager
Jane Henson, Executive Administrative Assistant
Daniel Frizzell, Director of Engineering
Erik Brinke, Director of Administrative Services & External Relations
Travis Lunsford, Director of Operations
Amanda Holdaway, Director of Finance & Accounting
Sonny Mahan, Director of Member Services
Alex King, Director of Broadband

Annual Meeting: Second Saturday in September

Active Meters: 19,322 in North Carolina as of end of September, 2022 – 34.05% of total

Counties Served: Clay and Cherokee (in NC); Fannin, Towns and Union Counties (in GA)

Current and Future Plans

The EMC's first electric distribution lines were energized in the latter part of 1939. Since that time there have been many changes both within the Cooperative and the Community. A new corporate headquarters was completed in Young Harris, GA, in late 2012, a broadband subsidiary Company was spun off in 2019, and several substation upgrades have either been completed or are currently underway. The Co-op has seen considerable growth over the years, presently serving approximately 56, 733 electric meters as of the end of September, 2022. Approximately 34% of these meters are in Clay and Cherokee Counties in North Carolina, and 66% are in Towns, Union and Fannin County, GA.

Our projections are that we will continue to grow at the rate of approximately 1.5% - 2.0% per year in the number of member-customers served, and approximately 1.5% - 2.0% per year in energy sales.

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC has constructed and continues to build out a fiber-optic network to provide broadband services to homes, businesses and community anchor institutions in the service are. Additionally, BRMEMC continues to expand its fiber optic network to more and more

members with the goal to provide its state-of-the-art fiber optic network to all of its members in the coming years. As of the end of September, 2022, BRMEMC is serving just over 13,000 consumers with broadband (fiber optic) services and supports over 2,000 miles of fiber-optic line.

Broad River Electric Membership Corporation

Physical Address:

1036 Webber Rd
Cowpens, SC 29330

Mailing Address:

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Gaffney, SC 29342

www.broadriverelectric.com

Phone

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(866) 687-2667

Fax

(864) 487-7808

Key Staff:

Terry Mallard, CEO
Cary Johnson, Chief Operating Officer
Kenny Griswold, VP Information Technology
John Fowler, VP Member Services
Jeff Humphries, VP Economic Development
Wes Allsbrook, VP of Engineering and VP of Operations

Annual Meeting: Last Thursday in April

Active Meters - 499

(In North Carolina)

Counties Served: Cleveland, Polk, Rutherford

Current and Future Plans

Technology has changed many times since 1940. Currently we are hardening our asset base for not only weather events but cyber security by implementing the best in class equipment and software security. Broad River Electric Cooperative is committed to the provision of safe, reliable and reasonably priced electric and other energy related services while improving the communities we serve.

Mecklenburg Electric Membership Cooperative

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 2451
Chase City, VA 23924
www.meckelec.org

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(434) 372-6200

Fax:

(434) 372-6101

Key Staff

John C. Lee, Jr., President & CEO
Carolyn Glass, Executive Assistant
B.J. Seamans, V.P. Engineering and Operations
David Lipscomb, V.P. Member and Energy Services
James Guy, General Counsel & V.P. of Administration
Dwayne Long, V.P. Information Technology
Carol Ann Jones, V.P. Finance and Accounting
Robert Lankford, Director of Operations
Brian Woods, Director of Engineering

Annual Meeting: Third Wednesday in June

Active Meters in NC: 140

Counties Served: Granville, Northampton, Person, Vance, Warren

Current and Future Plans

Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC), headquartered in Chase City, Virginia, with three district offices—Chase City, Gretna, and Emporia. Serving over 31,000 active accounts, provides electricity to portions of 14 counties in southern Virginia and northern North Carolina. We have served our membership since 1938 and will continue to fulfill our mission of providing safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible electric service.

Much of the Cooperative's North Carolina service territory is near Kerr and Gaston Lakes. This proximity to John H. Kerr Dam results in MEC purchasing SEPA (Southeastern Power Administration) hydro power and allowing its members to benefit from the renewable energy it generates. Collectively working through Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), a generation and transmission cooperative wholly owned by MEC and 10 other cooperatives across Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware, to further the Cooperative's green initiatives. ODEC purchases the most cost-effective solar power from two regional solar arrays totaling 30 MW. Additionally, ODEC is adding multiple small scale PV projects throughout its member Cooperatives' service territories with the first located in MEC's footprint. It also utilizes renewable wind energy sourced from three wind farms in Pennsylvania and one in Maryland.

MEC utilizes state of the art NISC Accounting and Business Solutions and Member Care and Billing software. The tools offered by these systems are cutting edge, and MEC's members are acclimated to the on-line opportunities offered by SmartHub--reviewing near real-time and historical energy usage, outage status and reporting, as well as checking bill status and payments. This enhanced online access provides member capabilities at home using tablet or PC and allowing outstanding access via mobile devices.

Convenient payment kiosks are located at all three district offices, and a fourth at the Cooperative's broadband affiliate office in Bracey, to enhance payment options for MEC members. Step-by-step instructions appear at the outdoor computer screens guiding users with instructions on how to pay with cash, personal check, credit or debit card.

The Cooperative continues to meet and exceed member expectations through the use of its AMI (Automated Meter Infrastructure) system. This system provides 30-minute-interval data used to aid members concerned about efficient usage and to further conduct progressive home energy audits. Through the effective use of this data, Member Services personnel have identified malfunctioning heat pumps and air conditioners and saved members' hard-earned dollars. Cooperative personnel also leverage the AMI system through strategic pinging of meters to quickly define outage areas and expedite power restoration.

MEC's culture is one of "Safety First" and this represents the Cooperative's top priority. This strong safety culture is built upon the standard that each employee take responsibility for his or her own safety and coworkers strive diligently in adhering to industry leading safety practices. Accordingly, the Cooperative's team moves into its third year without a lost time accident. "Safety First" is not just a motto ... it is woven into the fabric of everything MEC does!

To further recognize 2022 as a banner year for the organization, MEC advanced its fiber-to-the-home initiative as its subsidiary, EMPOWER Broadband, announced the commencement of a \$154 million project passing over 14,000 locations and bolstered by the award of a \$69 Million grant from Virginia's Telecommunication Initiative. Over the next three years, service will extend across 3,000 miles of fiber and past 30,000 premises.

In 2022, for the fifth consecutive year, Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative (MEC) was named one of the "Best Places to Work in Virginia" by Virginia Business magazine and Best Companies Group. This year saw over two hundred applications from organizations across the state, with the top 100 being selected based on surveys conducted with the companies and their employees. This statewide survey and awards program is designed to identify, recognize, and honor the best places of employment to benefit the economy, workforce and businesses.

MEC's staff strives to provide the ultimate in service to its members by not only meeting their needs but exceeding their expectations.

Mountain Electric Membership Cooperative

Mailing Address:

Corporate Office
PO Box 180
Mountain City, Tennessee 37683

District Office
PO Box 1240
Newland, NC 28657

Phone

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Fax

(423) 727-1822

Key Staff:

Christopher J. Stoia, General Manager
Steve Bishop, Systems Electric Engineer
Sally Snyder, Director of Member Services
Danny Cuthbertson, District Manager
Judy L. Walsh, Director of Accounting & Financial Services

Annual Meeting: September

Active Meters: 19,836

(In North Carolina)

Counties Served: Avery, Burke, McDowell, Watauga

Current and Future Plans

MEC completed the Cranberry Substation rebuild project in 2022.

MEC's energy right program allows customers to arrange a virtual or in-home energy audit by a certified evaluator who reviews the home and creates a report of useful energy-efficiency modifications.

For members interested in Renewable energy, MEC offers a couple of green power programs. The *Green Switch* program provides a method for members to purchase green power as part of their individual energy usage. The *Green Connect* program provides members a method to generate green power and sell it back to MEC's wholesale power supplier.

Mountain Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MEC) distributes electricity to over 35,000 residential and business consumers in a 700 square mile service area located in northeast Tennessee and northwest North Carolina. The organization, formed by farmers and homeowners in 1941, is a member owned electric cooperative. Its headquarters office is located in Mountain City, TN with a district office in Newland, NC and a branch office in Roan Mountain, Tennessee. MEC's wholesale power supplier is the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Tri-State Electric Membership Cooperative

Mailing Address:

P.O. BOX 68
McCaysville, Georgia 30555

Physical address:

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Blue Ridge, GA 30513

Phone:

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Fax:

(706) 492-7617

Website:

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Key Staff:

Stacy Chastain, General Manager
Jerry Pack, President
Christy Setser, Manager, Finance
Chuck Thomas, Manager, Operations
Keith Thomas, Manager, Right of Way
Lisa Hood, Manager, Billing
Chris Hulsey, Manager, Human Resources
David Lewis, Manager, IT Services

Annual Meeting: Third Saturday in September

Active Meters: 1,679
(In North Carolina)

Counties Served: Cherokee

Current and Future Plans

Tri-State continues to be proactive with changes and new innovations. For example, we have recently added iPads into our operational trucks to better locate crews during outages. We continue to update and monitor our firewall security. We have started up our Blue Ridge Hydro to help service our customer's better in the Blue Ridge area and take load off our Blue Ridge Substation. We are currently building our newest substation located on Scenic Dr in Blue Ridge. 2024 is the estimated time for the substation to be fully energized. We have increased our Right-of Way efforts to insure less outages for customers during storms. Future plans are to start another substation at Cantrell Flatts within two years. We will also be looking into replacing our current metering system for the RF (radio frequency) metering. Also, upgrading equipment (trucks, computers, communications) etc. as needed so we can accommodate our growing needs.

STATEWIDE ORGANIZATIONS

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation

3400 Sumner Boulevard
Raleigh, North Carolina 27616
Telephone: 919-872-0800

NCEMC and its members are committed to providing a brighter future by providing increasingly more sustainable energy resources while continuing to maintain the reliability and affordability of its system. NCEMC has spent the past decade reducing its dependence on carbon-intensive power generation, and as a result, the current fuel mix is more than 50 percent carbon free. Coal-fired generation makes up less than five percent of NCEMC's portfolio, compared with the national average of 24 percent. More than half of its power comes from emissions-free nuclear generation, an extremely reliable, safe, and affordable source of electricity. The early investment by NCEMC and its members in nuclear energy has allowed electric cooperative members and communities to benefit from this carbon-free resource. In addition, NCEMC is increasingly integrating renewables into their already diverse array of power sources as new technology, such as battery storage, makes renewable energy a more accessible and reliable option. To meet the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, NCEMC plans to prioritize emissions-free nuclear as a key part of its energy future while maintaining reliability and affordability. Natural gas generation, which can be dispatched quickly when needed, will also continue to serve as a critical complement to its resource portfolio.

NCEMC maintains a diverse power supply mix to provide its twenty-five member co-ops with the affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible power they use to serve their members. NCEMC acquires the power it sells to its member co-ops in a number of ways, including:

- Since 1980, NCEMC has been a part owner in the CNS located in York County, South Carolina. Duke Energy operates and maintains the station, which has been operational since 1985. NCEMC's ownership interests consist of 61.51% of Unit 1, approximately 700 megawatts (MW), and 30.75% in the common support facilities of the station. NCEMC's ownership entitlement is bolstered by a reliability exchange between the CNS and Duke Energy's McGuire Nuclear Station located in Mecklenburg County, NC.
- NCEMC is also a part owner in the Lee combined cycle (CC) plant located in Anderson, South Carolina. NCEMC's ownership interest consists of a 13.735% share of the 750-megawatt combined-cycle natural gas plant at W.S. Lee Station in Anderson County, South Carolina that began service in April 2018. Duke Energy operates and maintains the plant. NCEMC's ownership entitlement is bolstered by a reliability exchange between Lee CC and Duke Energy's Dan River and Buck CC plants.
- Additionally, NCEMC owns and operates approximately 680 MW of combustion turbine (CT) generation at sites in Anson and Richmond Counties, NC. These peaking resources operate on natural gas as primary fuel, with diesel storage on-site as a secondary fuel. NCEMC also owns and operates two diesel-powered generating stations on the Outer Banks of North Carolina (located on Ocracoke Island and in Buxton), with a combined capacity of 18 MW, which are used primarily for peak shaving and voltage support. NCEMC purchases from wholesale markets, primarily PJM, and wholesale suppliers such

as Duke Energy Progress (DEP), Duke Energy Carolinas (DEC), American Electric Power (AEP), Southern Power, and Dominion Energy North Carolina (Dominion).

- Most of NCEMC's member co-ops also receive an allocation of hydroelectric power from the Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA).
- Finally, NCEMC and its member co-ops are deploying (or facilitating the deployment of) distributed energy resources (DER) and technologies on their grids as well as edge-of-the-grid programs to promote reliability, affordability, sustainability, and resiliency for the benefit of the communities they serve. These technologies and programs include but are not limited to the following:
 - 10 solar + energy storage sites totaling 18.5 MW/45.1 MWh in operation or under development;
 - 10 substation-based battery energy storage systems (BESS) totaling 40 MW/80 MWh in operation or under development;
 - 19 community solar facilities totaling 2,150 kW;
 - Five operational microgrids located on Ocracoke Island, at Butler Farms in Harnett County, at Heron's Nest residential neighborhood in Brunswick County, at Eagle Chase in Wake County, and at Rose Acre Farms in Hyde County;
 - Aggregated demand response (DR) programs that, as of Q3 2022, reduce peak load via deployment of: (a) over 18,100 member-owner Wi-Fi enabled thermostats, and (b) over 3,200 smart controllers on existing electric resistance water heaters;
 - Energy efficiency (EE) programs that, in 2021, collectively produced 273,072 EE credits (the equivalent of 273,072 MWhs, or 2.0% of the prior year's retail sales, in reduced consumption by member-owners);
 - Approximately 49 MW of conservation voltage reduction capability with the feasibility of additional capability being actively studied;
 - Cooperative-owned electric vehicle charging infrastructure including, as of Q3 2022, included 25 DC fast chargers (with 25 charging ports) and 65 Level 2 chargers (with 117 charging ports);
 - Approximately 341 MW of third-party-owned or member-owner-owned solar facilities that are operational and interconnected to the co-op's grids; and
 - The ongoing development and operation of a Distributed Energy Resource Management System (DERMS) for the aggregated forecasting, notification, execution, analysis, and report of DR and DER programs.

NCEMC and its member distribution cooperatives have developed and implemented the NCEMC Distribution Operator (DO), a single entity that monitors, aggregates, and centrally coordinates distributed energy and demand response resources, bringing operational benefits to the distribution system, optimization to the market interface, and positive system impacts on the transmission systems upstream, including DEC, DEP, and Dominion. The DO provides access to over half a gigawatt of distributed energy and demand resources, including solar, storage, microgrids, consumer devices, and behind-the-meter generation, and will continue to grow as additional resources are integrated into the DO system and processes become more automated. NCEMC continues to discuss the DO Platform with Dominion, and with DEC and DEP to further evaluate how the DO Platform will interact with their Integrated System & Operations Planning (ISOP) process.

NCEMC also provides the following related services for most of its member distribution cooperatives:

- Power supply planning;
- Grid modernization planning and coordination;
- Provide IT and network services to support member co-ops;
- Storm restoration coordination; and
- Transmission coordination with transmission providers, including DEP, DEC, and Dominion.

NCEMC OFFICERS:

Susan Flythe, President
Cape Hatteras EMC

Greg Andress, Vice President
Union Power EMC

Josh Winslow, Secretary-Treasurer
Brunswick EMC

Joseph P. Brannan, Executive Vice President & CEO
North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation

Amadou Fall, Senior Vice President, Power Supply and COO
North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation

Chartered as Eastern North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation on April 4, 1949

Chartered as North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation on May 27, 1958

Counties covered by charter: All 100 North Carolina counties

North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

3400 Sumner Boulevard
Raleigh, North Carolina 27616
Telephone: 919-872-0800

In 1943, North Carolina's electric cooperatives formed the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (NCAEC), a statewide association to promote North Carolina's Brighter Future initiative through training, safety and education among their consumers and the general public. These programs are arranged for and utilized by each of the twenty-six-member cooperatives.

Functions of NCAEC:

- Promote government relations and member advocacy in Raleigh and in Washington, D.C.;
- Provide training programs and conferences for co-op directors, CEOs and staff;
- Encourage and promote youth scholarships, education programs and support teacher development and energy education in North Carolina. Provide safety training for all co-op employees and specialty training for line workers;
- Initiate strategic marketing and communications planning and execution, advertising, branding, public and community relations efforts on behalf of the member cooperatives;
- Develop and distribute Carolina Country magazine, published monthly since 1946, engaging members with their electric co-ops through platforms including the print publication, social media and carolinacountry.com;
- Provide member cooperatives with market research services through customized research initiatives and satisfaction tracking;
- Discover and support local economic development opportunities, Cooperative Ready Sites Program, local initiatives for workforce development and work with member cooperatives to secure USDA funds. Over the past five years, cooperative work has contributed to more than 100 economic development projects with more than \$60 million in grants and loans. These projects have resulted in 5,000+ jobs and over \$1 billion of new capital investment in rural North Carolina.

OFFICERS:

Richard Midgett, President
Cape Hatteras EC

Dirk Burlison, Vice President
Rutherford EMC

Tammie Phillips, Secretary-Treasurer
Randolph EMC

Joseph P. Brannan, Executive Vice President & CEO
North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Nelle Hotchkiss, Senior Vice President and COO, Association Services

The Tarheel Electric Membership Association, Inc.

8730 Wadford Drive
Raleigh, North Carolina 27616
Telephone: 919-876-4603

The Tarheel Electric Membership Association, Inc. (TEMA) is a product of twenty-six North Carolina member cooperatives, eight Virginia member cooperatives and one Maryland member cooperative combining efforts to purchase material, equipment and supplies at competitive prices. The modern warehouse contains 112,000 square feet of storage space. Common carrier and contract haulers ship supplies, a system that assures economy, 24-hour-a-day service, and on-time delivery. TEMA maintains a multi-million-dollar inventory to respond rapidly to customer needs. Material on hand includes, but is not limited to:

- Protective equipment: arrestors, cutouts, switches
- Conductor: primary overhead, underground, secondary
- Transformers: three-phase and single-phase
- Junction boxes: three phase and single phase
- Hardware
- Insulators
- Metering and AMR products
- Wood products: poles and crossarms
- Plant construction and maintenance materials
- Utility lighting

In the event of a storm or other emergency, TEMA goes to work immediately to direct materials and crews to where they are needed most. Cooperatives respond with teamwork, sending their crews and equipment, if necessary, to help other cooperatives.

John Spence, President – Albemarle EMC
David Eggers, Vice President – Blue Ridge Energy
Eddie Oldham, Secretary-Treasurer – Central EMC

Jason Caudle, Senior Vice President & COO
The Tarheel Electric Membership Association, Inc.

A SNAPSHOT OF SERVICE BY COUNTY

A Microscopic View

RURAL ELECTRIC PROVIDERS BY COUNTY

Alamance	Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation Randolph Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Alexander	Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Alleghany	Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation
Anson	Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation Union Power Cooperative Duke Energy
Ashe	Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation
Avery	Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation French Broad Electric Membership Corporation Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation Mountain Electric Cooperative Duke Energy
Beaufort	Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation Tideland Electric Membership Corporation City of Washington Town of Belhaven Greenville Utilities Commission Duke Energy Dominion North Carolina Power
Bertie	Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation Roanoke Electric Cooperative Dominion North Carolina Power
Bladen	Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation Four County Electric Membership Corporation South River Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy

Brunswick	Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation City of Southport Duke Energy
Buncombe	French Broad Electric Membership Corporation Haywood Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Burke	Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation Mountain Electric Cooperative City of Morganton Town of Drexel Duke Energy
Cabarrus	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Union Power Cooperative City of Concord Duke Energy
Caldwell	Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation Town of Granite Falls EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Camden	Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation City of Elizabeth City Dominion North Carolina Power
Carteret	Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Corporation Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Caswell	Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation Town of Granite Falls Duke Energy
Catawba	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation City of Newton Town of Maiden Duke Energy

Chatham	Central Electric Membership Corporation Randolph Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Cherokee	Haywood Electric Membership Corporation Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation Tri-State Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Chowan	Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation Roanoke Electric Cooperative Town of Edenton Dominion North Carolina Power
Clay	Haywood Electric Membership Corporation Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Cleveland	Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation City of Kings Mountain Broad River Electric Cooperative, Inc. Town of Shelby Duke Energy
Columbus	Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation Four County Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Craven	Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Corp. Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation Tideland Electric Membership Corporation Greenville Utilities Commission City of New Bern Duke Energy
Cumberland	Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation South River Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Currituck	Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation Dominion North Carolina Power
Dare	Cape Hatteras Electric Membership Cooperative Dominion North Carolina Power Tideland Electric Membership Cooperative

Davidson	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation City of High Point City of Lexington Duke Energy
Davie	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Duplin	Four County Electric Membership Corporation Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Durham	Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation Wake Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Edgecombe	Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation Pitt and Greene Electric Membership Corporation City of Rocky Mount City of Wilson Town of Fountain Town of Macclesfield Town of Pinetops Town of Sharpsburg Town of Tarboro Duke Energy Dominion North Carolina Power
Forsyth	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Franklin	Wake Electric Membership Corporation Town of Louisburg Duke Energy
Gaston	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation Town of Cherryville Town of Dallas City of Gastonia Duke Energy

Gates	Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation Roanoke Electric Cooperative Dominion North Carolina Power
Graham	Haywood Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Granville	Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation Wake Electric Membership Corporation Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative Duke Energy Dominion North Carolina Power
Greene	Pitt and Greene Electric Membership Corporation Greenville Utilities Commission Town of Hookerton Town of Stantonsburg Town of Walstonburg City of Wilson Duke Energy
Guilford	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation City of High Point Duke Energy UNC - Greensboro
Halifax	Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation Halifax Electric Membership Corporation Roanoke Electric Cooperative Town of Hobgood Town of Scotland Neck Duke Energy Dominion North Carolina Power
Harnett	Central Electric Membership Corporation South River Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Haywood	Haywood Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Henderson	Duke Energy

Hertford	Roanoke Electric Membership Corporation Dominion North Carolina Power
Hoke	Central Electric Membership Corporation Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation South River Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Hyde	Tideland Electric Membership Corporation Dominion North Carolina Power
Iredell	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation City of Statesville Duke Energy
Jackson	Haywood Electric Membership Corporation Western Carolina University Duke Energy
Johnston	South River Electric Membership Corporation Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation Wake Electric Membership Corporation Town of Benson Town of Clayton Town of Selma Town of Smithfield Duke Energy
Jones	Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Corporation Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation City of New Bern Duke Energy
Lee	Central Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Lenoir	Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation Pitt and Greene Electric Membership Corporation Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation Town of La Grange City of Kinston Duke Energy

Lincoln	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation City of Lincoln Duke Energy
McDowell	Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation Mountain Electric Cooperative Duke Energy
Macon	Haywood Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy Town of Highlands
Madison	French Broad Electric Membership Corporation Haywood Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Martin	Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation Halifax Electric Membership Corporation Greenville Utilities Commission Town of Hamilton Town of Robersonville Town of Washington Dominion North Carolina Power
Mecklenburg	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Union Power Cooperative Town of Cornelius Town of Huntersville Town of Pineville Duke Energy
Mitchell	French Broad Electric Membership Corporation Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Montgomery	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation Randolph Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Moore	Central Electric Membership Corporation Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation Randolph Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy

Nash	Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation Halifax Electric Membership Corporation Wake Electric Membership Corporation City of Rocky Mount Town of Sharpsburg City of Wilson Dominion North Carolina Power Duke Energy
New Hanover	Duke Energy
Northampton	Roanoke Electric Cooperative Dominion North Carolina Power Mecklenburg Electric Membership Corporation
Onslow	Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Corporation Four County Electric Membership Corporation Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Orange	Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy UNC – Chapel Hill
Pamlico	Tideland Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Pasquotank	Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation City of Elizabeth City Dominion North Carolina Power Elizabeth City State University
Pender	Four County Electric Membership Corporation Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Perquimans	Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation Roanoke Electric Cooperative Town of Hertford Dominion North Carolina Power
Person	Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy Mecklenburg Electric Membership Corporation

Pitt	Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation Pitt and Greene Electric Membership Corporation Town of Ayden Town of Farmville Town of Fountain Town of Washington Town of Winterville Greenville Utilities Commission Dominion North Carolina Power Duke Energy
Polk	Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation Broad River Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Randolph	Central Electric Membership Corporation EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Randolph Electric Membership Corporation City of High Point Duke Energy
Richmond	Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Robeson	Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation South River Electric Membership Corporation City of Lumberton Town of Red Springs
Rockingham	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Rowan	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Union Power Cooperative Duke Energy Town of Landis
Rutherford	Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation Town of Bostic Town of Forest City Broad River Electric Cooperative, Inc. Duke Energy

Sampson	Four County Electric Membership Corporation South River Electric Membership Corporation Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Scotland	Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Stanly	Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation Union Power Cooperative City of Albemarle Duke Energy
Stokes	EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Surry	Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Swain	Haywood Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Transylvania	Haywood Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Tyrrell	Tideland Electric Membership Corporation Dominion North Carolina Power
Union	Pee Dee Electric Membership Corporation Union Power Cooperative City of Monroe Duke Energy
Vance	Wake Electric Membership Corporation Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative Duke Energy

Wake	Wake Electric Membership Corporation Town of Apex Town of Wake Forest Duke Energy
Warren	Halifax Electric Membership Corporation Mecklenburg Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Washington	Tideland Electric Membership Corporation Dominion North Carolina Power
Watauga	Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation Mountain Electric Cooperative New River Power and Light Company
Wayne	Pitt and Greene Electric Membership Corporation South River Electric Membership Corporation Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation Town of Fremont Town of Pikeville Town of Stantonsburg Duke Energy
Wilkes	Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
Wilson	Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation Pitt and Greene Electric Membership Corporation Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation Town of Black Creek Town of Fountain Town of Lucama Town of Sharpsburg City of Wilson Town of Stantonsburg Duke Energy

Yadkin

EnergyUnited Electric Membership Corporation
Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation
Duke Energy

Yancey

French Broad Electric Membership Corporation
Duke Energy

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

**An Agency of the US Department of Agriculture Providing
Loans for the Electric and Telephone Co-op Infrastructure**

Purpose of Rural Utilities Service for Electric and Telephone Cooperatives

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) provides much-needed infrastructure or infrastructure improvements to rural communities that include electric power and telecommunications services. All of these services help to expand economic opportunities and improve the quality of life for rural residents. The electric program provides funding to maintain, expand, upgrade and modernize America's rural electric infrastructure. The loans and loan guarantees finance the construction or improvement of electric distribution, transmission and generation facilities in rural areas. The program also provides funding to support demand-side management, energy efficiency and conservation programs and on-and-off-grid renewable energy systems. Loans are made to cooperatives, corporations, states, territories, subdivisions, municipalities, utility districts and non-profit organizations.

The telecommunications program improves the quality of life in rural America by providing funding for the deployment of rural telecommunications infrastructure. USDA Rural Development is committed to ensuring that rural areas have access to affordable and reliable telecommunications services comparable to those available throughout the rest of the United States. With this access, rural America will see improved educational opportunities, health care, safety, security, and higher employment.

Any North Carolina electric or telephone cooperative desiring to secure a grant or loan from any agency of the USDA must first apply through the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority and not directly to the United States agency and the Authority has the responsibility to provide those applications to the USDA for the cooperatives.

Under the authority of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, the Electric Program makes direct loans and loan guarantees to electric utilities (wholesale and retail providers of electricity) that serve customers in rural areas. The loans and loan guarantees finance the construction or improvement of electric distribution, transmission and generation facilities in rural areas. The Electric Program also provides funding to support demand-side management, energy efficiency and conservation programs, and on-and off-grid renewable energy systems. Providing reliable, affordable electricity is essential to sustaining the economic well-being and quality of life for all of the nation's rural residents.

RUS also provides loans through the Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) which provides loans to co-ops that agree to make affordable loans to help consumers implement cost-effective and energy efficiency measures. RESP will help lower energy bills for rural families and businesses and will reduce barriers for investment in energy efficiency projects and activities.

The telecommunications program improves the quality of life in rural America by providing capital for the deployment of rural telecommunications infrastructure. The USDA rural development is committed to ensuring that rural areas have access to affordable, reliable, advanced telecommunications services comparable to those available throughout the rest of the United States. With this access, rural America will see improved education opportunities, health care, safety and security and ultimately, higher employment. The USDA provides rural utility programs that provide a variety of loans and grants to build and expand broadband networks and deliver service to rural households and businesses. The programs provide capital for rural telecommunications companies and broadband providers and the grants are reserved for communities with the highest need. USDA Rural Development is committed to ensuring that rural areas have access to affordable and reliable telecommunications services comparable to those available throughout the rest of the United States.



THE TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATIONS

Competition and Technology are Driving the Market



TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE UPDATE

Communication is vital to everyone and has drastically changed through the years from operators answering and completing calls from switchboards to customers using smartphones, tablets and iPads which allows them to video chat with loved ones across the globe and receive messages and have conversations from their Smart watch. Technology for telecommunications has evolved and makes our lives easier and new innovations will continue to be introduced beyond our current expectations. The telephone co-ops in North Carolina provide broadband service to over 152,000 accounts and the members of the co-ops live and work in thirty of the State's one hundred counties. Due to changes in the telecommunications market and the push for rural broadband deployment, the co-ops now provide service outside of their traditional serving areas as Competing Local Providers ("CLPs"). The co-ops have installed and maintain approximately 25,000 miles of copper and fiber and are committed to bringing state-of-the-art connectivity to their members. The areas served by the co-ops are very rural with an average customer density of nine customers per route mile. The daily operation of their business model is exemplary of the Seven Cooperative Principles that are followed by all of the co-ops.

The co-ops continue to pursue federal and state grant opportunities for fiber connectivity in unserved and underserved areas. The programs have enabled the co-ops to provide broadband service to areas that would otherwise be uneconomic to serve. In 2022, the telephone co-ops applied for loans and grants from the USDA's ReConnect, Community Connect and Cares Act programs and also applied for and received funds from North Carolina's GREAT program. Following are examples of some grants for which the TMCs applied:

- One TMC applied for and was awarded two grants from the ReConnect program that totaled \$25m; another TMC applied for a Community Connect grant in the amount of \$2.3m which was awarded by the USDA and
- Two other TMCs also applied for grants from the ReConnect program.

The awarded funds will be used by the co-ops for deployment of broadband in the rural areas of our State. Broadband access is proving indispensable for day-to-day activities that allow us access to many applications which include community events, higher learning opportunities for schools and students, telehealth and tele-medicine, applying for jobs and working from home. The pandemic provided proof of the critical need for broadband as work-at-home and school-at-home policies were enacted.

A principal initiative for the leaders of North Carolina is the deployment of broadband to the most rural areas of our State. Fiber optics have now been deployed by all North Carolina co-ops which is critical to ensure North Carolina's rural area customers receive many of the same services with higher internet speeds that the urban counterparts enjoy at reasonably comparable costs.

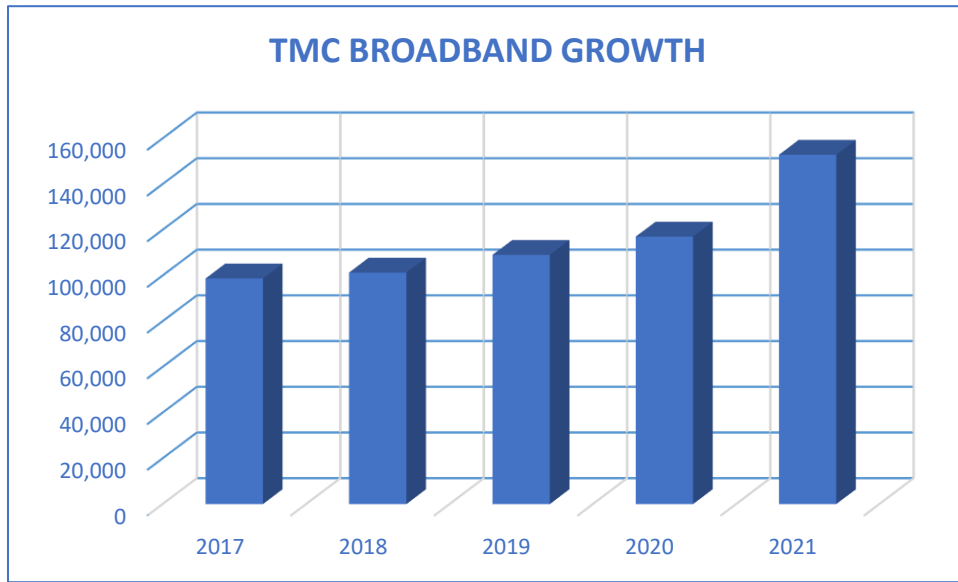
The vision and determination of the co-ops have allowed them to make their companies better by being innovative and offering new services which allow customers to be on the cutting edge of technology and receive the same technology that is available in urban areas of our State. All of the State's seven telephone co-ops provide voice, video, high speed Internet, camera surveillance, computer services, business networking, Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH), security and other state-of-the-art communications services in the areas they serve. It has been said that the internet era is history's fourth great network revolution and there have been many other revolutions that have

changed the world and the Internet revolution promises to be the most transformative of all. The Internet has brought and will continue to bring helpful and valuable innovations to our society. The co-ops will continue to invest in the network that serves their customers and the communities with the best of connected communications and they will continue to deploy fiber optics and advanced means of communications daily.

Today, state-of-the-art connectivity is no longer defined by a basic telephone but by broadband services that connect rural consumers to the Internet at speeds that are equivalent to access provided to consumers that live in urban areas. Even amid constant technological change and challenges, the co-ops will continue to provide high quality service with the best and most innovative services available because they know that is what their rural customers expect and deserve. The story of the telephone co-op is filled with vision, courage, and determination and that statement continued to be true in 2022 and will continue into the future by providing state-of-the-art communications and next generation technology to enhance the quality of life in the communities they serve.

**KEY DATA AND ACTIVITIES
TRACKED BY THE
AUTHORITY FOR THE
TELEPHONE CO-OPs**

**Growth Trends for
Broadband and Subscriber Data**



As this chart shows, broadband subscription for the co-ops has increased through the years. Broadband is critical in the rural areas to assist schools and students with better educational performance, provide online access for healthcare services, helps promote economic development in communities which increases employment and population growth. Broadband provides higher speeds for improved technology and communication which makes lives easier and more manageable in today's busy world. The TMCs serve the very rural areas of our State and there is growth in those communities for broadband deployment as the above chart represents. As this chart shows, there has been an increase of 35.42% for co-op broadband subscription from 2017 to 2021.

TELEPHONE CO-OP SUBSCRIBER DATA

COMPANY	TOTAL ROUTE MILES	SUBSCRIBERS PER MILE	OPERATING REVENUES PER SUBSCRIBER	NET INCOME PER SUBSCRIBER
			\$	\$
Focus Broadband d/b/a ATMC-ATLANTIC TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION	2,620	21.26	2,323.64	502.00
RANDOLPH COMMUNICATIONS	3,368.15	6.87	1,508.69	524.73
SKYLINE TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION D/B/A SKYLINE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION	3,897	5.60	1,356.63	972.09
STAR COMMUNICATIONS	5,260	2.48	1,518	570
SURRY TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION	5,523	2.07	960.00	75.00
WILKES TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION D/B/A WILKES COMMUNICATIONS/RIVERSTREET NETWORKS	2,643.8	4.78	2,319.33	483.57
YADKIN VALLEY TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION D/B/A YADTEL	1,725	18.69	554.61	127.94

*Data extracted from RUS Form 479 for year ending 2022

TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATIONS

Current and Future Plans for Each Co-op

Telephone Membership Corporations

FOCUS Broadband *(formerly ATMC)*

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 3198
Shallotte, NC 28459

Website

www.focusbroadband.com

Phone

(910) 755-1603

Key Staff

Whitney King, Board President
Keith Holden, Chief Executive Officer
Kim Edwards, Vice President – Accounting & Finance
Jody Heustess, Vice President – Marketing & Customer Service
Joseph Kardos, Vice President – Human Resources
Clint Berry, Vice President – Network Operations
Marcus Peterson, Vice President – Plant Operations
Jeremy Noble, Vice President – Information Services

Annual Meeting: October

County Served: Brunswick, Columbus, Robeson, Duplin, Pender

Current and Future Plans

Recognizing that its core mission both now and in the future is that of a broadband provider, in 2022, Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation rebranded itself as FOCUS Broadband. This new identity better captures the company's goal to be the premier broadband provider in every market it serves. FOCUS Broadband is the largest communications cooperative in North Carolina and one of the largest in the nation serving over 60,000 customers between its cooperative and competitive local provider service areas. FOCUS Broadband is committed to providing excellent value and technology backed by award-winning customer service and has been named 'Best Customer Service' in the Best of Brunswick Awards for 15 years. Providing fast, reliable, and affordable broadband internet is the company's primary focus. FOCUS Broadband is a leader for residential and business security services, business-class broadband, cable television, managed and hosted services, ethernet services, and IT Support.

In 2022, FOCUS Broadband announced a \$100 million dollar, multi-year project that will replace the company's copper and coaxial networks within its Brunswick County service area with a new 100% FOCUS fiber optic network. Once completed, the company's entire footprint will be served by fiber optics. Several communities have already been upgraded to the new fiber optic network

and work is currently underway in additional areas. FOCUS Broadband has gigabit broadband service available to 99% of its customers and is actively deploying multi-gigabit broadband services.

FOCUS Broadband has been very aggressive in working to expand broadband internet into unserved and underserved areas of rural North Carolina. Since 2019, FOCUS Broadband has won more than \$100 million dollars through sixteen state grants and four federal grants to serve more than 35,000 homes and businesses in Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, Robeson, Pender, Hoke, Scotland, Bladen, Chowan and Perquimans counties. With additional investment from FOCUS Broadband, these projects will invest over \$150 million in broadband infrastructure in rural North Carolina.

The company has been designated as a ‘Smart Rural Provider’ and ‘Gig-Certified Provider’ by the Rural Broadband Association.

Randolph Telephone Membership Corporation
d/b/a Randolph Communications

Mailing Address

317 East Dixie Drive
Asheboro, N.C. 27203

Phone

(336) 879-5684

Fax

(336) 879-2100

Key Staff

Kimberly L. Garner, CEO & General Manager
Mel Nunn, President
Dee Lowe, Financial Director
Glenn Garner, Director of Operations
Jeff Rice, Plant Manager
Daniel Nicodemus, COE Manager
Rachel Bowman, Customer Care Manager
Stephanie Gee, Marketing Director

Annual Meeting: Second Saturday in August

Counties Served: Randolph, Chatham, Moore, Davidson, Montgomery, Alamance, Guilford and Lee

Current and Future Plans

Locally owned and operated, Randolph Communications is proud of its more than 68 years of providing services to exchanges in Badin Lake, Bennett, Coleridge, Famer, High Falls, Jackson Creek, Liberty and Pisgah.

Randolph Communications is a full-service communications provider offering High-Speed Internet, Voice, Computer Services, VOIP Services, Home Security, Business Networking, Wireless and much more. We are committed to providing the most advanced communications technology and services coupled with the highest level of customer service.

In 2021, Randolph Communications was recognized as a Smart Rural Community and Gig-Certified Provider by NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association for delivering the most robust, sustainable infrastructure to the residents and businesses we serve. In addition to our outstanding services, Randolph Communications is committed to investing in the communities we serve through scholarships, grant programs, event participation and sponsorships.

As we are completing fiber deployment within our cooperative footprint, we are actively working to meet the high-speed internet demands in areas contiguous to our boundaries that have been left unserved.

Through October 2022, Randolph has completed 94 percent of its' ILEC territory mainline fiber.

Skyline Telephone Membership Corporation
d/b/a Skyline Membership Corporation

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 759
West Jefferson, NC 28694

Website

www.skybest.com

Phone

336-877-3111

Fax

336-877-2020

Key Staff

Kim Shepherd, Chief Executive Officer
Brian Tester, Chief Operations Officer
Robbie Farmer, Chief Technology Officer
Laura Shepherd, Chief Financial Officer
Edward Hinson, Chief Marketing and Sales Officer

Annual Meeting: first Tuesday in October

Counties Served: Ashe, Avery, Alleghany, Watauga

Current and Future Plans

In spite of the unprecedented challenges of a major worldwide pandemic in 2020, SkyLine has been a beacon of stability, strength and adaptability during this period. The company's historic 2003 decision to build a fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) network has enabled our company to respond rapidly and effectively, where remote work and remote learning became a priority for communities across the U.S.

Continued adoption of broadband (and the fiber-rich speeds we offer through our services) continues to be in great demand across our region, and the company has maintained a busy work schedule for its entire staff by further employing additional telework applications and experiencing no reduction in staff or hours during this period.

While COVID-19 brought a state of uncertainty and unprecedented challenges to our community, state, country and world in mid-March, SkyLine found itself among the 'essential' businesses that undergirded the region. SkyLine joined with the FCC in its "Keeping Americans Connected" Pledge, provided more than 200 new broadband connections to families with children at home so they could receive school instruction remotely in the spring, and it provided support to economic development efforts to keep local businesses open and joined a local school system in provided WiFi hotspots in anticipation of remote internet access needs for the 2020-21 public school year.

With the focus on broadband connectivity further elevated by necessity during COVID-19, SkyLine continues to work collaboratively with various public and community entities to expand our robust network's assets to underserved or unserved communities in contiguous communities and counties beyond our traditional service footprint. Our company and its subsidiaries continue to pursue federal and state grant funding to construct fiber to more areas, and we were the recipient this year of multiple state grants to expand fiber services in Johnson County, Tennessee and in Lawrence County, Tennessee.

As we approach our 70th year as a cooperative in 2021, the cooperative spirit of serving and caring for our members and communities remains resilient as ever. We are committed to providing the very latest in telecommunications and the most advanced fiber broadband infrastructure across the region and to being an engaged community partner, supporting education, rural healthcare, economic development and numerous charitable and community organizations.

Star Communications

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 348
Clinton, NC 28329

Phone

(910) 564-4194

Fax

(910) 564-4199

Key Staff

Donna Bullard, Executive Vice President & CEO
Johnny Eason, Vice President of Operations
Steve Harrison, Vice President of Engineering
Bobbie Rosenberger, Vice President of Human Resources
Kyle Randleman, Vice President of Marketing and Customer Relations
Neil Faircloth, Vice President of Finance

Annual Meeting: Second Saturday in November

Counties Served: Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Sampson

Current and Future Plans

STAR COMMUNICATIONS has previously received broadband funding opportunities through the North Carolina Great Grant and USDA/RUS Reconnect and Community Connect Programs. With these programs, STAR will overbuild its current outside plant facilities with fiber optic technology. These long-term projects provide high speed Internet with 1 gig capabilities and increase bandwidth for IPTV with high-definition abilities. STAR is completing its NC Great Grant Project in Bladen County. This project allowed us to provide fiber to more than 400 homes, businesses, and farms. Also, in process, is our USDA/RUS Reconnect Fiber Project. This 5-year project in its entirety will allow us to provide fiber to over 8,600 locations in Sampson and Bladen counties upon completion. STAR will continue to pursue grant opportunities as they become available and strive to provide cutting edge technology to our serving area.

STAR is a corporate sponsor of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, the United Way, and the local Chamber of Commerce. STAR supports various community recreational leagues and educational projects. Its scholarship program provides opportunity to deserving students who reside within its serving area and plan to attend college. During the COVID-19 pandemic, STAR provided free wi-fi hot spots to multiple community-based locations and schools to assist those in need of broadband access for remote learning. STAR proudly stands by its moto of "Neighbors Serving Neighbors" and will continue to invest in the communities it serves.

Surry Communications

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 385
Dobson, N.C. 27017

Phone

(336) 374-5021

Fax

(336) 374-5031

Key Staff

Richie Parker, Chief Executive Officer
Amy R Hanson, Chief Operating Officer
Melanie Senter, Marketing Manager
Frankie Southard, Commercial Manager
Sunny Chrismon, Accounting Manager
Mike Lawson, Plant Manager
Scott Mosely, Network Manager
Andy Hull, Engineer Manager

Annual Meeting: Third Saturday in March

Counties Served: Surry, Stokes & Davidson

Current and Future Plans

Today, with 50 plus employees, Surry Communications serves over 30,000 members and customers with Traditional Landline, High Speed Internet, IPTV, Wireless, Home Networking, Fiber to the Premise (FTTP), Home Security and Medical Alert. A top priority at Surry Communications is the focus on outstanding Customer Experience. Through new, higher-speed symmetrical internet services on Surry's robust fiber network, customers have a better screen experience for education, entertainment and career. Their highly trained employees can assist customers in-person or remotely with wi-fi networks provided by Surry Communications. In addition to serving customers with superior service, Surry Communications is committed to the communities they serve through involvement by their management and staff and sponsorships that help assist communities. Surry Communications' employees have worked to collect food and supplies for local charities, toys for Christmas, host Blood Drives and host an Annual Turkey Day Fun Run in which we give the funds raised to a charity of our choice each year. Surry Communications is proud to be a part of the communities they serve and hope to better these areas through their involvement and the technology they offer.

Through the years, Surry has continued to grow their market area and increase their service options. As the pace of technological advancements continues to hasten, the management team and staff at Surry Communications are committed to remaining at the forefront of the marketplace. For more information on Surry Communications, please visit online at www.surry.net.

Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation
d/b/a Wilkes Communications/Riverstreet
Networks

Mailing Address

[1400 River Street](#)
[Wilkesboro, NC 28697-2108](#)

Phone

(336) 973-3103

Website

www.myriverstreet.net

Key Staff

Jimmie Church - Board Chairman

Eric Cramer - President and CEO

Greg Coltrain - Vice President of Business Development

Kimberley Johnson - Vice President of Accounting, Regulatory, HR and IT

Amanda Perry - Vice President of Sales and Marketing

Zack Church – Director of Engineering & Construction

Heather Berrier – Director of Network Operations & Support

Annual Meeting: September or October

Counties Served: Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Avery, Beaufort, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Columbus, Forsyth, Henderson, Hoke, Hyde, Graham, Lincoln, Madison, Montgomery, Moore, Person, Polk, Richmond, Robeson, Rutherford, Scotland, Stokes, Washington, Watauga, Wilkes

Current and Future Plans

Today, the co-op serves more than 9,600 residential and business access lines over 2,644 miles of fiber optics, totaling 10,941 accounts. The cooperative and subsidiaries combined serve a total of over 19,000 access lines. Wilkes Communications was created as a subsidiary of Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation in 2004 to better reflect the wide range of services offered. Wilkes Communications' goal is to continue growth in and out of its core market in Wilkes County. Wilkes offers a variety of services, including local and long distance voice, high speed Internet, digital television, security and fire monitoring, business phone systems, VoIP, directory advertising, wireless broadband and wireless networking. Wilkes has finished a complete over build of its existing ILEC service area with a Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) deployment, allowing for internet speeds of up to 1-Gig to each subscriber. Wilkes also operates an all fiber optic CLEC expansion into the remainder of Wilkes County.

Reliable broadband no longer is a luxury, but rather a necessity. Currently the co-op and its subsidiaries serves 25,307 total broadband customers. This total broadband count consists of

15,286 (9,825 co-op) ILEC customers and 10,021 CLEC customers. Of the CLEC customers, 6,089 are fixed wireless broadband customers.

Merger with Tri-County Telephone Membership Corporation

In November of 2017 the respective boards and members of Wilkes TMC and Tri-County TMC approved a merger of the two cooperatives, which occurred on October 1, 2018. This event marked one of only a few known nationally voluntary mergers of two cooperatives in recent memory. While Wilkes has already connected its members to its Fiber To The Home Network, Tri-County has also passed all of its customers with its own Fiber Optic Network and should be completed in the next few years. The merger expanded the cooperative service area from the mountains to the coast including new members located in eastern North Carolina in Beaufort, Hyde and Washington counties. Although Wilkes TMC was the surviving entity of the merger, Tri-County Communications continues to expand CLEC services in and around the surrounding counties. The company acquired Red's Cable TV located in the adjoining historic Town of Bath near the Tri-County service area in 2019.

Creation of RiverStreet Management Services and RiverStreet Networks

In 2014 Wilkes created RiverStreet Networks and shortly thereafter acquired three other North Carolina ILECs – Saluda Mountain Telephone Company, Barnardsville Telephone Company and Service Telephone Company in 2015. Wilkes | RiverStreet has already started a complete FTTH overbuild of these legacy copper properties transforming them into broadband service areas. Also, in 2015 Wilkes | RiverStreet entered into a public private partnership with Stokes County Government to build and expand an all-fiber optic network to serve over 5,500 residents in unserved and underserved areas of the county. This network continues to expand and with a recent acquisition of Stokes WiFi, plans to reach further into rural parts of the county.

In 2018, in addition to the merger with Tri-County TMC, Wilkes | Riverstreet acquired Ellerbe Telephone and ETComm located in Ellerbe, North Carolina, serving customers in six surrounding rural counties in south central North Carolina. The company also acquired Peoples Mutual Telephone Company and Gamewood Technology Group located in Gretna and Danville, Virginia, in Pittsylvania County. The acquisition of Gamewood included a pre-existing public private partnership with King and Queen County, Virginia, as well as the City of Danville, Virginia, through the nDaville Fiber Optic Network expansion partnership throughout the citywide electric service footprint.

In 2019 RiverStreet completed the acquisition of SkyTek Communications in Murphy, NC, Mountain Broadband in Barnardsville, NC and North Carolina Wireless in Hickory, NC. RiverStreet recently acquired Electronic Services Company of Hamlet NC and Acelanet / SCS Broadband of Arrington VA in January of 2021. All combined RiverStreet Wireless of NC and VA have over 6,000 fixed wireless broadband subscribers.

The company has also established a ground-breaking endeavor via the creation of the jointly owned RBN (Rural Broadband Networks) with the North Carolina Electric Membership

Cooperatives. The partnership was created to help deploy and expand broadband services through a joint partnership with participating coops throughout the state to help provide service to the unserved and underserved in rural areas who lack reliable and affordable high speed broadband Internet access.

State Funding for Fiber Optic Network Expansion

Utilizing the North Carolina GREAT Grant program, the company and subsidiaries were awarded \$366,080 allowing fixed wireless coverage for 256 locations in Person County, another \$761,788.80 grant to assist in the construction of a Fiber-to-the-Home network passing 114 customers in the Service Telephone Exchange in Columbus County and an additional special supplemental round award in Caswell County in the amount of \$1,541,800.00 to build a fixed wireless coverage overlaying 2,918 potential customers.

Federal Funding for Fiber Optic Network Expansion

Both Wilkes and Tri-County TMCs were previously awarded over a combined \$29 Million in ARRA Federal Stimulus grant funding through the USDA administered BIP program for fiber optic network expansion in its core cooperative service areas. In 2019 the company was awarded over \$32 Million in Connect America Fund (CAF) Phase II funding in the FCC auction 903 for expanding fiber optic service to over 14,500 locations in nine rural counties in Virginia and three in North Carolina. The company was also awarded a \$48M broadband loan from the USDA ReConnect Broadband program in 2020 to a FTTH project covering over 20,000 locations. In 2021, the company and its subsidiaries were awarded just over \$46 Million in Rural Digital Opportunity Funded (RDOF) subsidies to assist in passing over 39,000 customers in rural North Carolina and Virginia with fiber based broadband service beginning in 2021 / 2022. In conjunction with this award, Wilkes completed a project in 2021 expanding fiber to 273 locations, most of which are located in the eastern part of Wilkes County, NC (CLEC area). The RDOF funded projects in Virginia are well underway with the first of these nearly completed in King & Queen County, VA.

In late 2019, Service Telephone received a USDA Community Connect award to serve the rural parts of Columbus County in part of the Service Telephone Company exchange, a subsidiary of the Wilkes TMC subsidiary RiverStreet Management Services. This award, in the amount of \$1,933,204.00, constructed fiber-based broadband service passing 347 customers. Construction for this project was completed in mid 2021.

Awards and Recognitions

Wilkes Communications was awarded the Excellence in Business Award by the Chamber of Commerce for 2005, and the Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award in 2010. Wilkes was one of the first thirteen cooperatives recognized by NTCA (The National Telecommunications Cooperative Association) as a Smart Rural Community “Trail Blazer” in 2014 and one of first 12 companies to receive the NTCA Gigabit Certification as well. In 2017 Wilkes was awarded the Excellence in Management Innovation Award from NTCA, the NTCA Tele-Choice Award for

Excellence in Marketing for the RiverStreet Networks website and was also awarded the Excellence in Business Award from the Wilkes County Chamber of Commerce. Most recently Wilkes was awarded the Smart Rural Community designation by NTCA in 2018 for its efforts in the Tri-County service area. Wilkes was recognized as being “Fiber Certified” by the Fiber Broadband Association in the latter half of 2018. Wilkes received recognition as a Smart Rural Community by NTCA in September of 2019. Most recently, in 2023, RiverStreet Communications of North Carolina, Inc., a subsidiary of Wilkes, received the King Chamber of Commerce’s Business Innovation of the Year Award for expanding a Fiber Optic Network in rural Stokes County, North Carolina.

Yadkin Valley Telephone Membership Corporation
d/b/a Zirrus

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 368
Yadkinville, N.C. 27055

Phone

(336) 463-5022

Fax

(336) 463-5005

Key Staff

Michael R. Morton, President
Ken Mills, Chief Executive Officer
Janet Culpepper, VP of Human Resources & Public Relations
Brad Worthen, Senior VP of Operations
Sandy Bates, Director of Customer Solutions
Allen Barker, Director of Engineering
Ryan Gardner, VP of Technology
Zane Riddle, Director of Support Services
Robert Desatnick, VP of Marketing
Chad Cartwright, Senior Director of Sales Operations
Hayden Baugess, Director of Branding, Advertising, & Consumer Insights
Ron Schwartz, Director of Security and Connected Technologies
Catherine Chambliss, Director of Accounting

Annual Meeting: Determined annually by Board of Directors

Counties Served: Alexander, Davie, Iredell, Rowan, Wilkes, Yadkin

Current and Future Plans

Since 1950 when Yadkin Valley Telephone Membership was incorporated, the Cooperative has made a complete transformation. It evolved from being only a voice provider for regulated services to also a provider of deregulated services. A subsidiary company was established to provide non-regulated services to both Yadkin Valley Members and customers in its trade area who are not members. Yadtel provides residential telephones and in-house wiring as an ILEC and a CLEC, Internet access, wireless service, VOIP, long distance, Internet Protocol Television (IPTV), security systems, managed wi-fi, home automation services, and managed business services.

In 2006, the Cooperative ordered the materials to begin a Fiber-to-the-Home build out project. By July 2008, the first customers were serviced by fiber. The goal of the cooperative is to eventually provide Fiber-to-the-Home to the entire serving area. As of year-end 2022, approximately 82% of the total structures in the serving area have fiber available. Service provided over fiber includes high-speed Internet up to 6 Gig, voice service, and home security. Business class services are also offered including dedicated circuits, IT services, VOIP, and business systems.

Currently, the Cooperative has three retail stores located throughout its service territory where the primary focus is reselling the top 2 (in the nation) wireless providers' services.

Carolina-Virginia Broadband Membership Association, Inc.

The Carolina-Virginias Broadband Membership Association, Inc. (CVBMA) was incorporated on May 27, 1957 as a non-profit, tri-state, trade association for the rural telephone companies in North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia. The mission of the CVBMA is to provide education and dissemination of information to managers and directors of member companies. The Association is comprised of the rural telephone cooperatives in North Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia, as well as businesses (associate members) that provide goods and services to the telecommunications industry. The Secretary of the State of North Carolina chartered the Association on May 27, 1957. The website address is www.cvtma.org.

OFFICERS - 2022-2023

Whitney E. King, President
Focus Broadband
Shallotte, North Carolina

Kim Shepherd, Vice President
Skyline Membership Corporation
West Jefferson, North Carolina

Mel Nunn, Secretary-Treasurer
Randolph Communications
Shallotte, North Carolina

Matt Hill, Asst Secretary-Treasurer
Scott County Telephone Cooperative
Gate City, Virginia

Scott Sherman, Past President
Hardy Telecommunications
Lost River, West Virginia

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2022-2023

Keith Holden, Focus Broadband
Whitney King, Focus Broadband
Donna Smith, Citizens TC
Shelby Quesenberry, Citizens TC
Scott Sherman, Hardy Telecommunications, Inc.
Greg M. Zirk, Hardy Telecommunications, Inc.
Jason Dudding, Pembroke TC
Leon A Law, Pembroke TC
Kim Garner, Randolph TMC
Mel Nunn, Randolph TMC

William Franklin, Scott County TC
John Kilgore, Scott County TC
Kim Shepherd, SkyLine TMC
R. C. Mitchell, SkyLine TMC
Donna Bullard, Star TMC
Thurman Smith, Star TMC
Richie Parker, Surry TMC
Chris Younger, Surry TMC
Eric Cramer, Wilkes Comm
Jimmie Church, Wilkes Comm
Ken Mills, Zirrus
Michael Howard, Zirrus

North Carolina Telephone Cooperative Coalition (“CarolinaLink”)

CarolinaLink, the trade name for the North Carolina Broadband Cooperative Coalition, Inc. (formerly the North Carolina Telephone Cooperative Coalition, Inc.) was organized in 2000 to bring more public awareness to the efforts made by the member cooperatives that provide modern communications services to some of the State’s most rural areas, located in all or parts of 36 North Carolina counties. Originally voice telephone providers, these companies now provide broadband (high-speed Internet), video, web hosting, alarm, and other state-of-the-art services, in addition to the traditional landline voice service. Because of the increasing necessity for broadband, which became even clearer due to the impacts of the Pandemic, increased emphasis has been placed on the need for rural broadband service. Member companies are now providing broadband service to all members in their traditional service territories and have broadened their efforts to bring broadband service to other rural areas that are either unserved or underserved. CarolinaLink also assists member companies in advocating public policy goals that will assure that rural areas continue to have the same state-of-the-art communications services available in urban areas at reasonably comparable prices. Each member of CarolinaLink is organized as a member owned, not for profit cooperative; however, to reflect the changing nature of their businesses, some member companies operate under different names and manage separately organized subsidiary companies, particularly outside of their traditional service territories.

Address:

4030 Wake Forest Road

Suite 115

Raleigh, NC 27609

info@carolink.org – (919)838-0529

Web Site: www.carolinalink.org

The members of CarolinaLink providing these state-of-the-art services and the locations of their headquarters are listed below:

- ATMC- (now FOCUS), Shallotte
- Randolph Communications, Asheboro
- SkyLine Telephone Membership Corporation d/b/a Skyline Membership Corporation, West Jefferson
- Star Communications, Clinton
- Surry Telephone Membership Corporation, Dobson
- Wilkes Telephone Membership Corporation d/b/a Wilkes Communications/RiverStreet Networks, Wilkesboro
- Yadkin Valley Telephone Membership Corporation, d/b/a Zirrus, Yadkinville