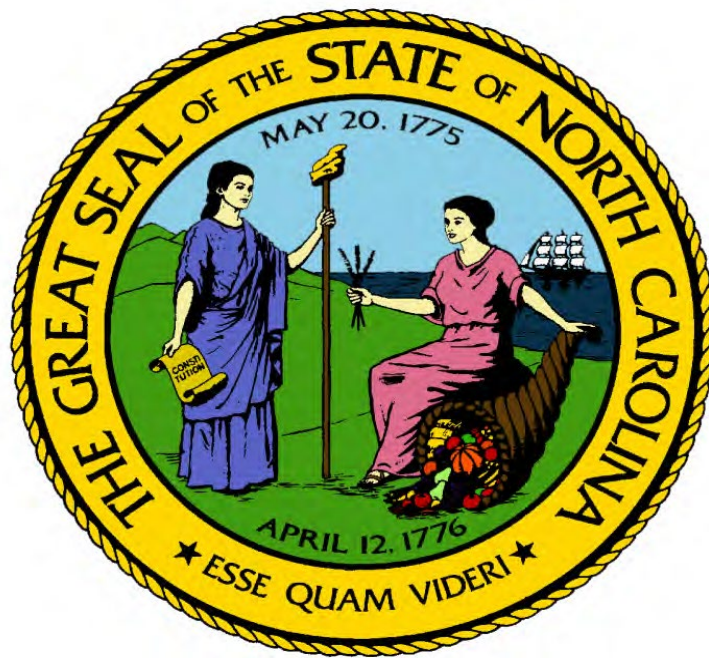


North Carolina  
Rural Electrification  
Authority  
2024 Biennial Report







## NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Josh Stein, Governor

Lee Lilley, Secretary

June 23, 2025

The Honorable Josh Stein, Governor  
116 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina

Dear Governor Stein:

Enclosed is the 2024 Biennial Report that was prepared by the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority ("the Authority"). Our Agency provides limited oversight for the electric and telephone cooperatives that provide service in the rural areas of our State, and we operate under the requirements of Chapter 117 of the North Carolina General Statutes ("G.S."). We are proud to be one of the agencies within State Government that contribute to the provision of essential services by ensuring that 2.5 million citizens receive safe and reliable service as well as assisting with economic development, broadband expansion, and other projects that make life easier. We feel confident our presence makes a difference to the State of North Carolina as well as the electric and telephone cooperatives ("co-ops") and their members. The enclosed report will provide updates for our Agency as well as statistical data and other information regarding the electric and telephone 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 from the co-ops and the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation ("NCEMC"). The Authority submits these requests along with Board decisions to the appropriate agency of the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA"). The Authority approved \$414 million of USDA loans and grants during FY 2022-23 and 2023-24; more detailed information is provided in the report. The funds for the loans and grants are used for the construction work plans for the co-ops which allows them to make upgrades to their infrastructures, expand broadband in the most rural areas of our State, contribute to projects that provide needed economic development to communities the co-ops serve, provide more efficient emergency services, and create and retain existing jobs in those areas. The Authority is also responsible for receiving and researching complaints from the members of the co-ops.

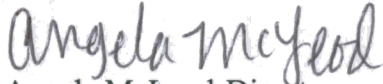
As you are aware, there are continual changes in the electric and telecommunications industries, both at the State and Federal level, and our Agency strives to ensure that the members of the co-ops receive safe, reliable, and affordable service in compliance with G.S. 117.

**Angela McLeod, Director - Rural Electrification Authority**  
4321 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4321 • Phone: (984) 236-4295

The Honorable Josh Stein, Governor  
Page 2

The Authority is appreciative of the support that will be provided to us by your office, and we thank you and your administration for the dedication and leadership that will be given 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 cursive script that reads "Angela McLeod".

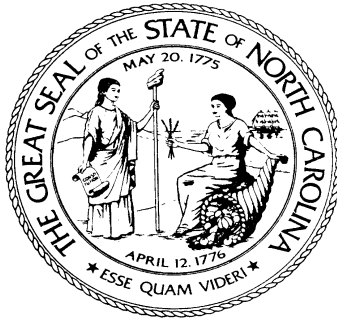
Angela McLeod-Director  
North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority

Enclosure

CC: NCREA Board members  
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, the 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 appropriate USDA agency.
3. Receive and investigate complaints from members of the co-ops.
4. The Authority has a 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. The agency also reviews and provides decisions from TMCs for Eligible Telecommunications Carrier ("ETC") applications and Numbering Resource requests.
5. 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.
6. Perform all other requirements of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Laws as documented in Chapter 117 of the General Statutes.
7. 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.

## NCREA UPDATE

The Authority is responsible for providing oversight for thirty-one electric and seven telephone co-ops that provide service to customers in the rural areas of our State. Our Agency is responsible for and strives to ensure the members of the co-ops receive safe, reliable and affordable service as required in Chapter 117 of the North Carolina General Statutes (“G.S.”) as well as requirements from the State and Federal agencies. Following are some of the accomplishments and contributions that were provided by our agency during the previous two years and supports our overall purpose to secure dependable electric and telephone service for 1.2m customers served by the co-ops in predominately rural areas from the coast to the mountains.

The Authority and the NCREA Board review and provide decisions for loan and grant requests that are received from the electric and telephone co-ops and the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (“NCEMC”). During fiscal years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, the Authority considered and approved eight Rural Utility Service (“RUS”) loans which totaled \$387 million and the funds will be used for construction work plans which allows improvements and provides safe and reliable service. Examples of those upgrades include the following:

- Improvement to the distribution system;
- Line extensions;
- Update equipment and facilities;
- Install new or upgrade existing substations; and
- Installation of fiber.

The NCEMC requested approval for two RUS loans during this time period in the amount of \$137,647,000. They are a joint owner of the Catawba Nuclear Station (“CNS”) and responsible for approximately 31% of the cost of capital additions at the CNS. Duke Energy Carolinas is the operator of the CNS and the funds will be used to support projects for the upkeep of the CNS that include:

- General maintenance, upgrades, additions, and deletions;
- Security;
- Upgrades for computer software and hardware;
- Monitoring and control of radiation;
- Projects relating to the upgrade of the water service systems;
- Regulatory projects;
- Projects relating to the management and storage of spent nuclear fuel; and
- Projects relating to the purchase of tools and equipment.

The co-ops also apply for USDA Rural Economic Development Loans and Grants (“REDLG”) and some of these projects provide economic development, create and retain jobs, provides faster response times for emergencies and deploys broadband to homes, schools, and businesses in the communities they serve. In fiscal years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, the Authority considered and approved thirty-seven REDLG loans and grants for 17 EMCs which totaled \$27 million and following is a list of the projects that the funds will be used for:

- The purchase of fire trucks, ambulances, patrol and rescue vehicles, and medical equipment
- Construction of a building for a daycare facility
- Construction of two shell buildings for new businesses
- Construction of a detention center
- Renovation of four fire stations

The Authority is also responsible for the review and approval of loan and grant applications submitted by the co-ops for the deployment of broadband. Those funds are distributed from programs created by the USDA that include the ReConnect, Community Connect, Cares Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act programs. Broadband is an important and critical initiative for the Authority as well as leaders of North Carolina and more importantly to the citizens of our great State. The co-ops have made that deployment a major part of their agenda as well.

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 the urban counterparts enjoy. Some of the telephone co-ops also apply 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 support these efforts and appreciate the strides the leaders of our State have made and continue to make to ensure these funds are available.

The REA is also responsible for the review of and decision-making process for interconnection agreements negotiated between the telephone co-ops and other local providers which outline terms, conditions, and rates for the interconnection of their networks. During this period, the Authority reviewed and approved eight agreements that were filed by five telephone co-ops.

The Authority contributes to economic development, more efficient emergency services and other projects for North Carolina through our involvement in the USDA RUS and REDLG loans and grants and our involvement in the deployment of broadband which is critical to the citizens in the most rural areas of our State. We face challenges with dedication and pride and always strive to deliver good outcomes for the responsibilities that are assigned to us. We are certain these contributions make a difference to the success of our great State.

**Current Board and Staff**  
**RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AUTHORITY**

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

4321 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4321  
Telephone: 984-236-4295

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Paul Spruill  
Chair  
Pantego, NC

Eric Cramer  
Vice-Chair  
Wilkesboro, NC

Carolyn Bradley  
Jackson, NC

Donna Bullard  
Clinton, NC

Roger Oxendine  
Rowland, NC

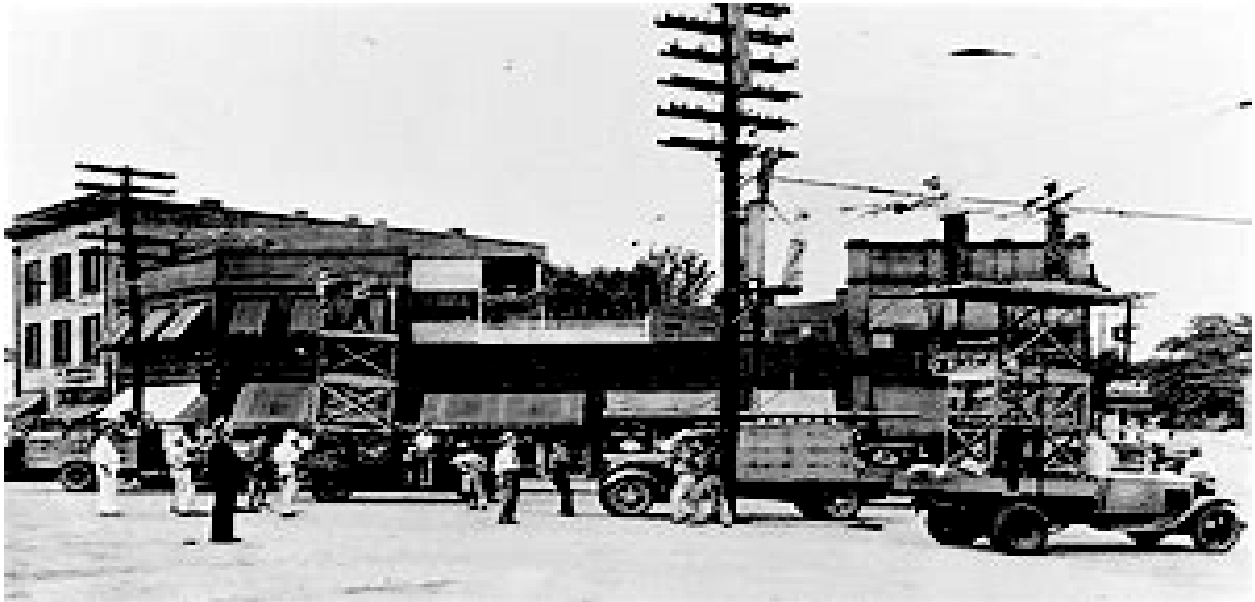
**STAFF**

Angie McLeod  
Director  
4321 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

Vacant  
Program Coordinator II  
4321 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699

NOTE: The Board of Directors are Governor appointed and serve four-year terms.

# THE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATIONS







## ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP COOPERATIVE UPDATE

There are thirty-one electric co-ops that provide service in North Carolina with the headquarters for 26 of the co-ops located in our State and five located in other states surrounding North Carolina. North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives are powering a brighter future for 2.5 million people in rural communities in 93 of North Carolina's 100 counties and maintain more than 106,000 miles of power lines primarily in the state's most rural areas and serve approximately 24% of the State's population. The goal of the co-ops is to provide member satisfaction in the quality of the electric service they receive and the price they pay. Approximately 99 percent of the electric co-op customers are residential and small businesses and the co-ops collectively employ more than 2,400 skilled people.

Co-ops are committed to providing electricity to members at the lowest possible cost while also enhancing sustainability and setting a significant goal of net-zero carbon emissions by the year 2050. To meet this target and ensure reliability and affordability, North Carolina's electric co-ops prioritize emissions-free nuclear energy and are coordinating a growing number of renewable resources and new technologies through advanced grid operations. The introduction of new technologies has the potential to make lives easier, save money and support a sustainable future and the smart electric grid is the network that will make it all possible. The electric co-ops are at the forefront of deploying cost effective, member-focused solutions that meet increasingly diverse energy needs for their members. The co-ops support the sustainability goals set forth in Executive Orders 80 and 246 and the co-ops have 600 megawatts (MW) of renewable, distributed energy and edge-of-grid resources connected to their systems. The following are some recent examples for those efforts:

- In 2024, Brunswick EMC launched a 500 kw solar project in collaboration with the NC Department of Adult Correction which served as a new model for solar energy in NC Government. The project will hopefully pave the way for increased energy efficiency in the State's public infrastructure and the contract will include innovative energy efficiency projects at six correctional facilities statewide.
- EnergyUnited's latest solar project is adding even more clean energy to the portfolio. The Perendale Solar Farm will generate enough renewable energy to power approximately 1,400 homes annually. The project is part of EnergyUnited's broader solar work plan which is projected to develop 25 MW of solar power over the next two years and a greater goal of 100 MW by 2031.

These projects demonstrate how partnerships between innovative, forward-thinking energy-companies can deliver tangible benefits to communities through the generation of clean renewable energy. Due to the sparsely populated areas many of the electric co-ops service, they have a higher average cost for service than the investor-owned utilities.

One of the co-op's principles is "cooperation among cooperatives" which was demonstrated in September and October 2024 after Hurricane Helene made landfall in our State. Heavy rains and winds caused devastating, unprecedented damage in the western part of our State for the citizens there as well as the electric co-ops. On Friday, Sept. 27, there was a peak of 239,000 electric cooperative members without power. More than 500-line workers from over thirty electric co-ops in North Carolina and ten other states traveled to NC to join the power restoration effort. Historic damage left many areas inaccessible to heavy machinery, and crews set poles by hand, utilizing

spades and hand diggers as well as iron bars to loosen rock. It was necessary to rebuild large portions of the electric infrastructure before power could be restored and one week after Hurricane Helene, power had been restored to 80 percent of co-op members. Staff from the affected co-ops advised it was the worst tragedy they had witnessed and the co-ops and people in the western part of the State are continuing to struggle after this massive storm wreaked havoc but there is one thing for sure, the co-ops worked together diligently through many long hours for multiple weeks to restore service due to the concern they had for their members.

The electric co-ops continue to stand out as national leaders in their use of RUS and REDLG loans and grants which are reviewed by the Authority and our Board renders a decision for the requests which are then submitted to the USDA for funding. The funds received from the REDLG program assists with economic development, more efficient emergency services, and creates new jobs and retains 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 reality through the REDLG program and following are some of those projects:

- Promoting economic development;
- creating business incubators;
- providing more efficient and faster response times for emergency situations through the purchase of fire trucks and other emergency vehicles and equipment;
- more advanced learning opportunities for schools, teachers and students; 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.

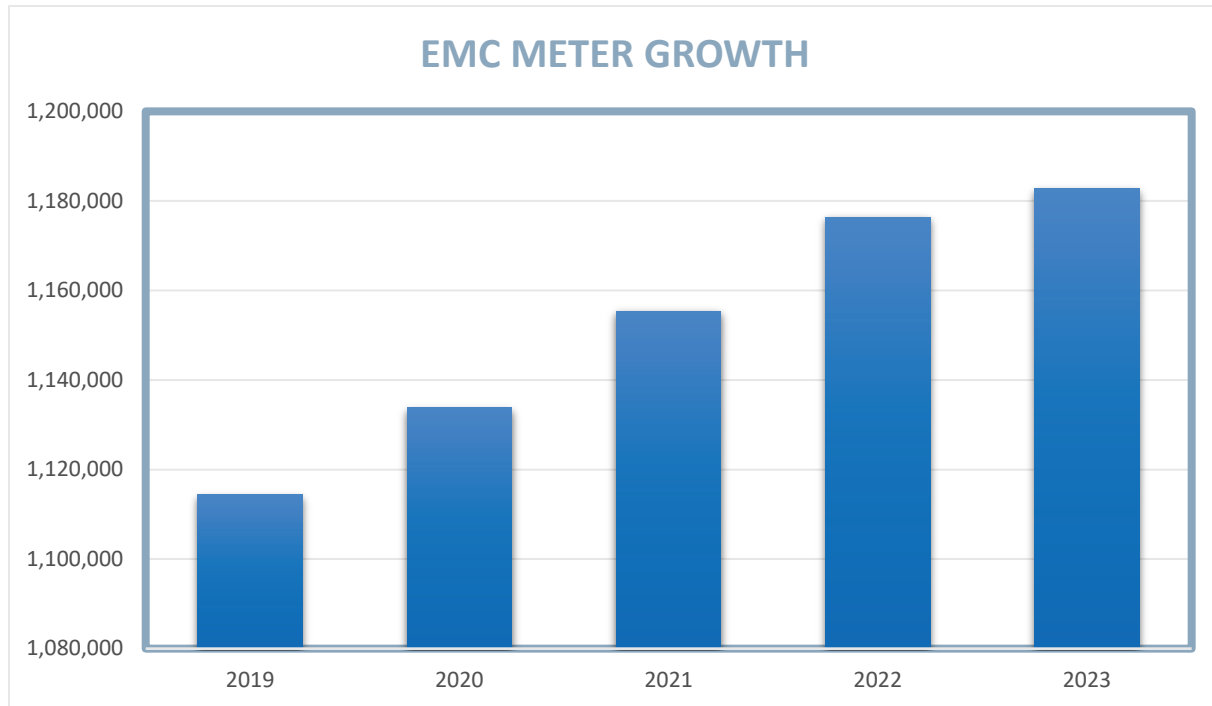
The co-ops support community colleges and their outside workers receive training from these colleges, and they offer scholarships to students who reside in the communities they serve. Some of the co-ops are currently offering broadband service to their members and others are researching the possibility 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 EMC's 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 and some of those options are microgrids to enhance local reliability and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to make internal processes more efficient.

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

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







The electric co-ops serve the rural areas in 93 of the 100 counties in North Carolina and deliver new energy and technology solutions to their members and as the chart demonstrates, they continue to experience steady growth. For the period ending December 31, 2023, the co-ops were providing service to approximately 1.2 million homes and businesses and to more than 2.5 million members which represents an increase of 6.13% since 2019.

## INDIVIDUAL COOPERATIVE GROWTH TRENDS

CORPORATION	CONSUMERS ON RURAL LINES	CONSUMER ON RURAL LINES	CONSUMERS ON RURAL LINES
	2021	2022	2023
ALBEMARLE	13,434	13,500	13,696
BLUE RIDGE MTN.*	18,976	19,348	19,802
BLUE RIDGE	78,602	79,531	80,466
BROAD RIVER*	459	482	492
BRUNSWICK	102,632	106,213	110,792
CAPE HATTERAS	7,937	8,029	8,078
CARTERET-CRAVEN	41,825	42,374	42,764
CENTRAL	23,784	24,085	24,396
EDGECOMBE-MARTIN	11,517	11,651	11,689
ENERGYUNITED	135,230	137,923	140,160
FOUR COUNTY	33,872	34,430	34,907
FRENCH BROAD	39,785	40,310	40,935
HALIFAX	12,029	10,699	12,249
HAYWOOD	28,067	28,518	28,883
JONES-ON SLOW	79,141	80,913	81,851
LUMBEE RIVER	64,474	65,036	66,479
MECKLENBURG*	133	134	134
MOUNTAIN ELECTRIC*	19,609	19,823	20,002
PEE DEE	21,537	21,749	22,010
PIEDMONT	33,455	33,850	34,291
PITT & GREENE	8,922	8,997	9,073
RANDOLPH	32,907	35,067	35,234
ROANOKE	14,234	14,226	14,362
RUTHERFORD	73,780	74,936	75,956
SOUTH RIVER	46,421	47,133	47,625
SURRY-YADKIN	28,289	28,559	28,585
TIDELAND	23,562	23,869	24,168
TRI-COUNTY	25,739	26,072	26,464
TRI-STATE*	1,501	1,549	1,655
UNION	82,264	84,726	86,494
WAKE	51,221	52,886	54,798
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,155,338</b>	<b>1,176,618</b>	<b>1,198,904</b>

\*Corporations Headquartered Outside North Carolina

# OUTAGES RECORDED BY CORPORATION

EMC SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS 2023												
Average Minutes per Customer by Cause												
CORPORATION	Supplier		Extreme Storm		Pre-Arranged		All Others		Totals		5 Year	5 Year
	Year 2023	5 Year	Year 2023	5 Year	Year 2023	5 Year	Year 2023	5 Year	Year 2023	5 Year		
ALBEMARLE EMC	53.730	28.940	18.710	85.730	.940	5.110	48.180	66.440	121.560	186.220		
BLUE RIDGE EMC	5.350	7.450	11.460	29.210	3.640	3.640	60.470	59.290	80.920	99.590		
BRUNSWICK EMC	.269	.731	31.090	200.194	.948	1.661	24.308	31.264	56.615	233.850		
CAPE HATTERAS EMC	0.00	34.380	0.00	544.940	31.760	75.690	23.210	26.440	54.970	681.450		
CARTERET-CRAVEN EMC	9.434	8.880	98.562	203.260	12.012	12.000	59.944	62.000	179.952	286.140		
CENTRAL EMC	0.08	7.91	12.64	48.98	7.35	6.29	295.44	270.02	316.51	333.20		
EDGEcombe-MARTIN	47.160	9.620	24.750	28.240	0.00	0.00	129.460	136.010	201.370	173.870		
ENERGYUNITED	28.797	13.150	91.676	178.400	5.934	4.355	94.617	98.401	221.024	294.306		
FOUR COUNTY EMC	0.00	.870	32.550	77.480	3.470	5.610	88.760	84.680	124.780	168.640		
FRENCH BROAD EMC	6.420	9.648	125.640	49.932	9.000	6.792	72.600	58.524	213.660	124.896		
HALIFAX EMC	0.00	16.850	195.340	117.180	.360	10.400	250.890	188.690	446.590	333.120		
HAYWOOD EMC	109.638	207.230	74.046	173.324	27.900	22.930	356.418	311.855	568.002	715.339		
JONES-ONSLow EMC	4.54	2.34	0.00	121.66	4.56	6.89	48.33	64.77	57.43	195.66		
LUMBEE RIVER EMC	0.00	.990	50.050	100.340	.030	2.350	123.660	98.470	173.740	202.150		
PEE DEE EMC	0.00	19.850	83.850	254.180	23.410	15.360	105.230	122.370	212.490	411.760		
PIEDMONT EMC	47.964	23.070	44.274	275.760	2.106	1.482	117.744	107.069	212.088	407.381		
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	9.880	66.860	148.010	128.730	7.580	5.580	105.160	88.330	270.630	289.500		
ROANOKE EMC	0.09	7.52	2.19	205.11	1.76	6.14	126.05	123.19	130.09	341.97		
RUTHERFORD EMC	14.870	7.063	47.378	69.276	1.650	2.195	80.463	69.978	144.361	148.512		
SOUTH-RIVER EMC	2.82	9.30	0.00	27.84	0.42	3.41	49.68	53.74	52.92	94.29		
SURRY-YADKIN EMC	30.700	40.700	216.000	343.100	1.100	1.100	125.600	123.600	373.400	508.500		
TIDELAND EMC	2.040	16.480	175.740	635.430	27.450	26.110	254.270	187.040	459.500	865.060		
TRI-COUNTY EMC	84.000	44.000	0.000	61.000	38.000	15.000	110.000	124.000	232.000	244.000		
UNION EMC	3.590	1.790	28.760	60.130	.440	1.160	55.250	52.870	88.080	115.950		
WAKE EMC	45.50	15.00	77.90	36.50	5.20	4.20	149.10	115.20	277.70	168.98		
BLUE RIDGE MTN. EMC*	1.760	2.340	319.020	260.020	11.400	14.690	308.830	294.730	641.010	571.780		
BROAD RIVER EMC*	12.700	6.500	0.00	54.000	.600	2.900	82.000	83.300	95.300	146.700		
MECKLENBURG EMC*	4.313	.863	0.00	418.318	11.630	10.558	230.399	190.815	246.342	620.554		
MOUNTAIN ELECTRIC EMC*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	.120	69.590	496.040	303.370	496.160	372.960		
TRI-STATE EMC*	5.126	50.892	234.992	103.492	4.987	13.206	136.566	36.456	381.662	204.046		
* Foreign Corporations domesticated in NC												

RUS LOANS  
July 1 – June 30

Corporation Name	Year 2018-2019	Year 2019-2020	Year 2020-2021	Year 2021-2022	Year 2022-2023	Year 2023-2024
ALBERMARLE EMC	\$15,000,000					
BLUE RIDGE EMC			\$94,000,000			
BRUNSWICK EMC		\$97,472,200			\$70,000,000	7,500,000
CAPE HATTERAS EMC		\$13,499,000		\$19,487,000		
CARTERET-CRAVEN EMC				\$28,000,000		
CENTRAL EMC						
EDGEcombe-MARTIN EMC						
ENERGYUNITED EMC			\$80,000,000			
FOUR COUNTY EMC			\$40,000,000			
FRENCH BROAD EMC				\$45,000,000		
HALIFAX EMC				\$12,000,000		
HAYWOOD EMC		\$24,000,000				
JONES-ONslow EMC						
LUMBEE RIVER EMC				\$45,000,000		
N. C. ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP	\$16,698,000	\$51,117,000	\$23,607,000	\$35,400,000	\$58,181,000	\$79,466,000
PEE DEE EMC	\$20,200,000				\$21,000,000	
PIEDMONT EMC		\$60,000,000				\$72,000,000
PITT & GREENE EMC						
RANDOLPH EMC	\$26,000,000			\$32,000,000		
ROANOKE EMC		\$6,000,000				
RUTHERFORD EMC		\$25,000,000		\$38,000,000		\$44,000,000
SOUTH-RIVER EMC						
SURRY-YADKIN EMC		\$27,000,000				\$35,000,000
TIDELAND EMC		\$31,689,000				
TRI-COUNTY EMC				\$32,000,000		
UNION EMC				\$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**						
<b>YEARLY TOTAL</b>	<b>\$95,539,493.23</b>	<b>\$322,278,200</b>	<b>\$237,607,000</b>	<b>\$350,887,000</b>	<b>\$149,181,000</b>	<b>237,966,000</b>

\*\*Corporations Headquartered

Outside of NC

Fiscal Yearly Activity for

2018-2024

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS AND GRANTS  
JULY 1 – JUNE 30

Cooperation Name	Year 2018-2019	Year 2019-2020	Year 2020-2021	Year 2021-2022	Year 2022--2023	Year 2023-2024
Albemarle EMC						
Blue Ridge EMC	\$300,000	\$2,496,000	\$240,000	\$1,168,330	\$508,332	\$1,177,780
Brunswick EMC			\$1,000,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	
Cape Hatteras EMC	\$300,000					
Carteret Craven EMC						
Central EMC						\$300,000
Edgemcombe Martin EMC			\$300,000		\$300,000	
EnergyUnited EMC			\$300,000		\$3,500,000	
Four County EMC	\$600,000		\$300,000	\$1,200,000	\$3,000,000	\$2,600,000
French Broad EMC				\$300,000		
Halifax EMC	\$300,000	\$700,000			\$760,000	
Haywood EMC					\$416,665	
Jones Onslow EMC					\$300,000	
Lumbee River EMC			\$300,000			\$3,650,000
Pee Dee EMC	\$412,829	\$442,832	\$478,400	\$2,897,296	\$520,640	
Piedmont EMC	\$704,000				\$2,346,838	\$1,523,000
Pitt & Greene EMC						
Randolph EMC	\$4,000,000	\$300,000	\$480,000		\$100,000	\$300,000
Roanoke EMC	\$439,166					
Rutherford EMC						
South River EMC						
Surry Yadkin EMC		\$300,000			\$280,000	
Tideland EMC		\$1,000,000				
Tri County EMC	\$390,000	\$1,440,000				\$5,593,000
Union Power EMC						\$216,823
Wake EMC						
Blue Ridge Mtn EMC**		\$2,000,000				
<b>Yearly Total</b>	\$7,445,995	\$8,678,832	3,398,400	5,865,626	\$12,332,475	\$15,360,603

\*\*Corporations Headquartered  
Outside of NC  
Fiscal Yearly Activity for  
2018-2024



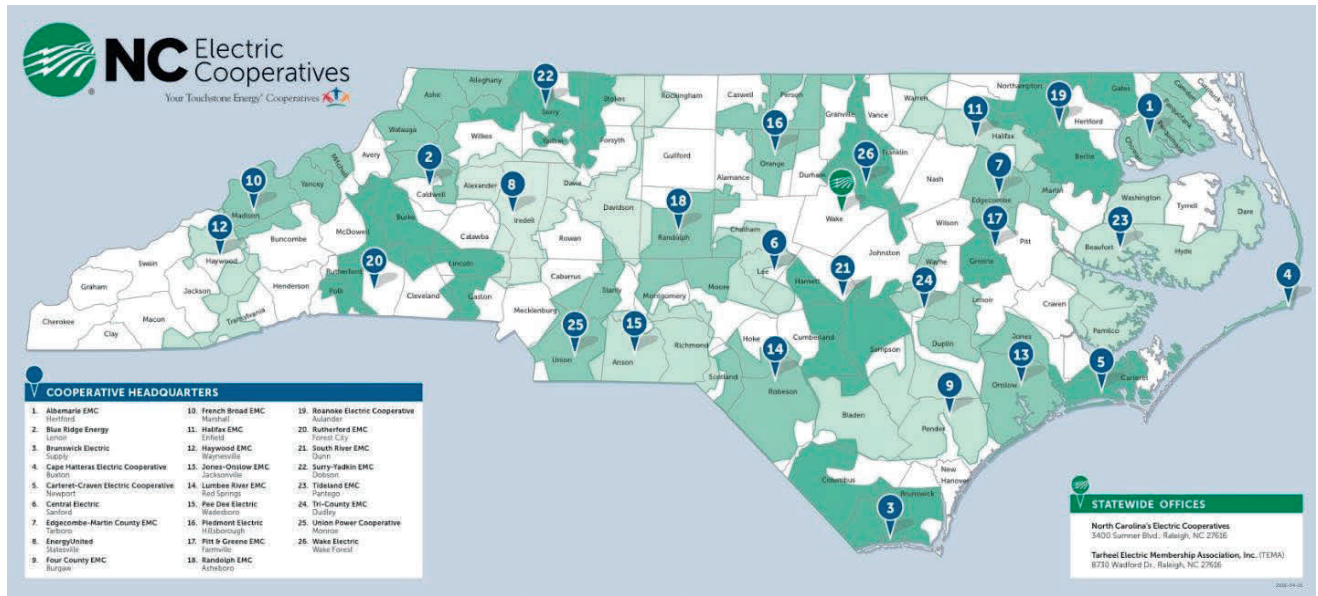


# ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATIONS

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](http://www.aemc.coop)

#### **Key Staff**

Kevin Heath, Executive Vice-President & General Manager  
John W. Spence, Board President  
Evelyn Gray, Manager of Human Resources  
Heather Ashley, Administrative Assistant  
Roy O'Neal, Manager of Operations  
Erin Stallings, Manager of Finance and Member Services  
Travis Riddick, Manager of Technical Services  
James Whitfield, Manager of Information Technology  
Chris Powell, Direct of Public Relations

**Annual Meeting:** September or October

**Active Meters:** 13,852

**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.

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 \$1.53 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 three 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 Bethel distribution substation on our system. In the next year, we plan to deploy fiber to our substations to increase communications reliability for our SCADA and AMI systems.

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

Crystal Spencer, Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer Elect

Jason Smith, 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:** 80,466

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

### **Current and Future Plans**

In 2024, Blue Ridge Energy announced the final piece of the cooperative's largest reliability project to date is now complete. The \$46 million investment includes a major upgrade to 17 miles of 230kV transmission to serve the cooperative's mountain districts and includes a transmission substation. The project increases capacity and improves reliability for all members by converting an existing 100 kV line to a 230 kV line to meet current and future member growth and demand for electricity. The new substation will provide electricity and backup capacity for all members and all parts of Blue Ridge Energy's system.

Regarding grant-funded broadband, Blue Ridge Energy and sister cooperative SkyLine/SkyBest continue to make progress through their partnership to bring high-speed internet to unserved areas in the cooperative's footprint. The most current project was funded with an American Rescue Plan grant awarded by the Watauga County Board of Commissioners to bring access to 1,700 homes and businesses.

In the area of REDLG, in 2023 over \$1 million in zero-interest, federally funded loans were provided through Blue Ridge Energy to Laurel Springs Volunteer Fire Department, Little River Volunteer Fire Department and Caldwell Memorial Hospital Foundation.

In 2023, Blue Ridge Energy's Propane and Fuels subsidiary played a pivotal role by giving \$2 million of excess cash to the parent company, aiding in stabilizing the rates for members. The contributions from the cooperative's two subsidiaries are instrumental in mitigating rising pressure on wholesale power cost. The profits generated by the subsidiaries are not only pivotal for maintaining affordable rates but also serve a noble cause. Each year, a portion of these profits is dedicated to the Blue Ridge Energy Members Foundation, assisting in addressing urgent heating needs and supporting various quality-of-life initiatives led by local not-for-profit organizations.

Finally, the cooperative's Blue Ridge Energy Members Foundation, funded by Operation Round Up and subsidiary contributions, continues improving local quality of life. The Foundation has provided more than \$3 million in crisis heating assistance and fuel bill assistance for more than 23,500 local families. Fulfilling our guiding principle to make life better for the communities we serve, the Foundation also awarded more than \$180,000 in grants to 26 community organizations in 2024. This is all made possible through the support of more than 22,000 members, employees and board members who gave to the Foundation through Operation Round Up® and Operation Round Up Plus®.

Learn more at [www.BlueRidgeEnergy.com](http://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](http://www.bemc.org)

### **Key Staff**

Joshua L. Winslow, Chief Executive Officer & General Manager  
David Gore, 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  
Robert Maxwell, Vice President, Engineering & Operations

**Active Meters:** 123, 668

**Counties Served:** Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen and Robeson

### **Current and Future Plans**

BEMC became an industry leader in 2010 when it began offering a prepaid power option to its membership and currently has 9,641 prepaid accounts representing approximately 8% 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 \$22 million in Weatherization Loans over the past 36 years, from the following sources: \$7.0 million in ERC loans from BEMC; \$4.7 million from the REDLG/USDA program; and \$10 million from repayments of loans. The activity generated by these loans has a significant impact on the local economy.

BEMC's renewable energy portfolio includes 885 solar installations. Two 100kW community solar farms with a total of 769 panels provide an option for members who want to participate in solar power without a home installation. All panels are fully subscribed and there is a waiting list. BEMC analyzes data to improve load management capabilities through its Connect to Save smart thermostat programs, which has 5,995 members participating. In June of 2019, they introduced a Time-of-Use rate option and now have approximately 150 members participating 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 its 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 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 \$767,000; a community grants program that has awarded approximately \$790,000 to community groups working to improve the quality of life in our service area; college scholarships totaling \$152,000; 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](http://www.chec.coop)

### **Phone**

252-995-5616

### **Fax**

252-995-4088

### **Key Staff**

Susan E. Flythe, Executive Vice President & General Manager  
Earl Fountain, Manager of Operations  
Stephanie Snead, Manager of Finance  
Laura Ertle, Director of PR & Marketing  
Richard Midgett, President

**Annual Meeting:** May

**Active Meters:** 8166

**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.

## **Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative**

### **Mailing Address**

PO Box 1490  
Newport, NC 28570

### **Phone**

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

### **Fax**

(252) 247-0235

**Website:** [www.ccemc.com/](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  
Shellie Flory, Director of IT  
Tara Alderman, Vice President of Finance & Accounting  
Melissa Glenn, Director of Communications  
Michael Barts, Line Superintendent  
Amy Lock, President, Board of Directors

**Annual Meeting:** First Thursday in May

**Active Meters:** 46,048

**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 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, has 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.

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. Foundation board members are dedicated to enriching the community by awarding grants, with a focus on individual members meeting individuals' needs.

Each month, Operation Round-UP® participants' electric bills are rounded up to the nearest dollar amount. The average amount rounded up yearly is \$6 per member. The maximum amount is \$11.88.

Since inception, the Carteret-Craven Electric Foundation has funded many worthy requests from individuals and organizations. Here are just a few examples of CCEC empowering the members and communities we serve:

- Providing scholarships for more than 196 high school seniors and community college students
- Funding more than 852 Bright Ideas Grants impacting more than 175,000 students
- Supporting Relay for Life as a sponsor and raising funds throughout the year. The CCEC Relay for Life team has raised more than \$389,000 for cancer patients and their families over the years.
- Providing 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 the Carteret County Domestic Violence Program, Carteret County Veterans Services, Habitat for Humanity, Hope Mission Soup Kitchen & Outreach, Matthew 25 Food Pantry, 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:** 28,989

**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** – 11,577

**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, Chief Human Resources Officer  
LaQuisha Parks, VP Energy Services & Corporate Communications  
Ryan Gardner, VP of Information Technology

**Annual Meeting:** Third Week in September

**Active Meters:** 141,890

**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 140,000 member metering points and provides for a peak electric demand of more than 732,000 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 2000, Burgaw, NC 28425

**Phone:** (910) 259-2171

**Fax:** (910) 259-1860

**Website:** [www.fourctv.org](http://www.fourctv.org)

**Key Staff**

Don Gatton, Chief Executive Officer

Chuck Reynolds, Vice President of Finance and Accounting

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:** 35,356

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

### **Current and Future Plans**

Four County Electric Membership Corporation (Four County EMC) serves 35,356 active meters across its core counties (Bladen, Sampson, Duplin, and Pender) and to a lesser degree in Columbus, Cumberland, and Onslow counties. The cooperative operates 5,163.97 miles of line, including 210.47 miles of transmission, 3,965.65 miles of overhead, and 987.85 miles of underground lines. Service is supported by 27 substations and 6 points of delivery.

The Four County Community Solar Program provides an affordable and low-risk opportunity for members to benefit from renewable solar energy without the need to install or maintain a personal solar array. By subscribing to one or more solar panels in the community solar facility, members receive a monthly energy credit corresponding to the energy produced by their subscribed share. This initiative empowers members to contribute to a sustainable energy future while enjoying the financial benefits of solar power.

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 low interest loans to assist local communities regarding economic and community development.

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](http://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 proudly upholds their Director Gold credential status from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), reflecting their dedication to ongoing education and cooperative excellence. Our newest board member, Mary McGill Rose, is already making impressive strides, having nearly completed two of the three requirements for this esteemed distinction.

In 2024, the cooperative returned \$1.3 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 Energy 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/CEO  
John Chandler, President  
Tracy Evans, Burnsville District Manager  
Greg Fowler, Marshall District Manager  
Phyllis Holt, CFO

**Annual Meeting:** First Saturday in May

**Active Meters:** 40,723

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

## **Current and Future Plans**

French Broad EMC has grown into a modern-day cooperative, with 22 substations serving over 42,000 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 2.8% increase in member growth annually and about 4.3% growth in sales. Growth in our area remains consistent in residential and small commercial accounts, and kilowatt hour sales have increased in all our classes of service except our Extra-Large Power category.

In October of 2024, French Broad EMC was devastated by Hurricane Helene, causing system-wide infrastructure damage. All 42,000 meters were without service for over 48 hours, some customers off as long as six weeks. To date, we have replaced over 2,400 poles and hundreds of miles of power lines. Recovery continues in the aftermath of the storm and more of our electric grid will need upgrades and repairs. We continue to expand our automated meter reading system from Tantalus. This 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 \$22 million in grant funding to provide Fiber to the Home service to many of its customers in Madison County, and now has over 11,000 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. A new billing and accounting system is being developed with in house staff and a contract software company. Development will continue in 2025 with an anticipated roll-out in the fall of 2025.

## **Halifax Electric Membership Corporation**

### **Mailing Address**

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

### **Phone**

(252) 445-5111

### **Fax**

(252) 445-2398

### **Key Staff**

Adam Tucker Lemley, Chief Executive Officer  
Robin Williams, President  
Lauren Bowser, Director of Finance & Accounting  
John Lassiter, Director of Operations  
Melanie Mohorn, Director of Human Resources  
Julia Allsbrook, Director of Member Services & Community Engagement  
Tyler Harriett, Director of Engineering  
Debra Montgomery, Director of Administrative Services

**Annual Meeting:** Third Saturday in May

**Active Meters:** 12,249

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

### **Current and Future Plans**

Incorporated over 86 years ago on December 15, 1938, Halifax EMC serves Halifax and Warren counties, parts of Nash and Martin counties, as well as a portion of Mecklenburg, VA and provides wholesale power to the Town of Enfield.

Halifax Electric Membership Corporation recognizes the importance of its role in driving local economic development and strives to make a meaningful impact. By fostering collaboration with state, regional, and county economic development organizations, Halifax EMC has established itself as a leader and valuable resource in this field. The cooperative remains committed to supporting potential businesses through various means, including USDA loans or grants, NCEMC zero-interest business development funds, and assistance in identifying industrial sites and buildings.

Since 2017, Halifax EMC has secured nine zero-interest loans funded by the USDA's Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant program, as well as funded four more zero-interest loans through our Community Revolving Loan 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 emphasize our interest as being a regional partner in economic development efforts and recognize the strength that comes from collaboration and are dedicated to being an active partner in the economic development efforts of our community and northeastern North Carolina.

In 2024, we were pleased that the US 301 industrial site located on the Halifax EMC system was chosen as one of the NC Selectsites. This was a highly competitive process which evaluated more than 60 sites across North Carolina that are best positioned to attract advanced manufacturing projects, and the US 301 was among the top fifteen.

## **Haywood Electric Membership Corporation**

### **Mailing Address**

376 Grindstone Road  
Waynesville, N.C. 28785

### **Phone**

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

### **Fax**

(828) 456-9443

### **Key Staff**

Tom Batchelor, Executive Vice-President & Chief Executive Officer  
Lucas Sorrells, Board President  
Joshua Deaver, Chief Operation Officer  
Mitch Bearden, Chief Communication Officer  
John Boate, Assistant General Manager/COO  
Sheila D, Chief Technology Officer

**Annual Meeting:** First Thursday in August

**Active Meters:** 32,948

**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 79 employees, plus approximately 30 contractor employees serving over 32,000 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:**

259 Western Boulevard  
Jacksonville, NC 28546

### **Phone Numbers:**

(910) 353-1940  
(800) 682-1515  
(910) 353-7117 (Power Outage)  
(800) 681-4146 (Power Outage)

### **Fax**

(910) 353-7735

### **Key Staff:**

Gary Ray, Chief Executive Officer  
John L. Pierce, Chairman  
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:** 84,050

**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 over 2,500 miles of line serving over 84,000 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**

P. O. Box 4210  
Pembroke, N.C. 28372

### **Phone**

(910) 843-4131  
(800) 683-5571

### **Fax**

(910) 843-2079

### **Key Staff**

Jon T. Locklear, President & Chief Executive Officer  
Rory Eddings, Chairman - Board of Directors  
John Dyson, Chief Operating Officer  
Matt Epps, Vice President of Engineering & Operations  
Daniel Leonard, Chief Financial Officer  
Marie Hussey, Vice President of Human Resources  
Ruby Clark Quick, Vice President of Member Services & Community Relations  
Mark Walters, Director of Safety  
Josh Locklear, Key Accounts Manager  
Craig Davis, Vice President of Information Technology

**Annual Meeting:** Second Thursday in October

**Active Meters:** 67,766

**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. Liberty.

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 and telephone services on a fiber network system to residences, businesses and public facilities located in underserved or unserved areas of Robeson County and Hoke County through our subsidiary RIVR Tech. In addition, Lumbee River EMC is able to deploy various smart grid technologies using the fiber network.

With a membership that exceeds 55,000 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**

9825 US HWY 74E  
Lilesville, NC 28091

### **Phone**

(704) 694-2114  
(800) 992-1626

### **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  
Jeremy Dewberry, Vice President of Communications & Member Services  
Janet Carson, Vice President of Information Technology

**Annual Meeting:** First Thursday in October

**Active Meters** – 21,896

**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**

### **Mailing Address**

P. O. Drawer 1179  
Hillsborough, N.C. 27278

### **Phone**

(919) 732-2123  
(800) 222-3107

### **Fax**

(919) 644-1030

### **Key Staff**

Jordan Overbee, President & General Manager  
Larry Hopkins, Vice President, Engineering  
Lisa Kennedy, Vice President, Financial Services  
Robert Riley, Vice President of Operations  
Sarah Bohlin, Vice President of Corporate Services  
Ed Durham, Manager of Energy Services  
Brandon Reed, Manager of Member Services & Public Relations  
Scott Rowland, IT Manager

**Annual Meeting:** April

**Active Meters:** 34,291

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

### **Current and Future Plans**

Piedmont Electric Cooperative remains committed to empowering our members, fostering community growth, and embracing innovation to meet the evolving needs of those we serve. Since our founding, we have grown to support more than 34,000 members across Alamance, Caswell, Durham, Granville, Orange, and Person counties in central North Carolina.

Operating more than 3,600 miles of line and delivering approximately 500 million kWh of electricity annually, Piedmont Electric ensures reliable and affordable energy. Our membership consists of 89% residential, 11% commercial, and less than 1% industrial members. Residential members use an average of 1,200 kWh per month, at an average weighted cost of less than 12 cents per kWh, highlighting our dedication to affordability.

With headquarters in Orange County and district offices in Caswell and Person counties, we strive to provide exceptional service that is both reliable, sustainable and affordable.

**Supporting Our Communities** - We continue to invest in the communities we serve, fostering long-term growth and resilience.

- Since its inception, Piedmont Electric's Helping Hand Foundation has contributed almost \$1 million in community grants via funding energy assistance, education and local community initiatives.
- Piedmont Electric commemorated 10 years of collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through the Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant (REDLG) program, providing more than \$23 million in zero-interest USDA loans for vital local projects.
- Piedmont Electric has been a steadfast supporter of rural broadband expansion, working closely with local organizations to bring high-speed internet access to underserved areas. Through our foundation, we contributed \$25,000 to Caswell County's broadband initiative, helping to improve connectivity and provide better access to education, telemedicine, and essential community services.

**Enhancing Member Experience** - We continue to prioritize exceptional service and member engagement, as reflected in several key achievements.

- Expanded communication tools by providing a text notification system for power outages and introducing virtual annual meetings, encouraging greater member participation and accessibility.
- Returned capital credits to members, demonstrating our commitment to sharing financial success with those we serve.
- Launched a new mobile-friendly website, offering enhanced features such as website chat for real-time member support, improving ease of access and interaction.

**Advancing Sustainability and System Enhancements** - We continue to focus on using sustainable and innovative solutions while continuing to work to improve reliability for our members.

- Promoted beneficial electrification by offering EV-specific overnight charging rates and the installation of fast-charging stations in Carrboro and Mebane, supported by federal grants.
- Continued progress on renewable energy initiatives, reaffirming our 'Brighter Future' initiative to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- Upgraded system meters with advanced technology, enhancing outage response and operational efficiency.

Looking ahead, Piedmont Electric remains focused on enhancing reliability, promoting sustainability, supporting community growth and member engagement.

- Upgrading infrastructure at key substations and completing advanced metering technology deployment by 2025.
- Advancing toward net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 with a focus on nuclear power, renewable energy, and greener technologies like electric vehicles.
- Exploring battery energy storage systems (BESS) and grid analytics to boost efficiency and reliability.
- Leveraging data analytics from advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) to segment members, predict usage patterns and offer personalized programs such as time-of-day rates, ensuring a more responsive and member-focused experience.
- Community Development: Continue supporting local communities through scholarships, grants, USDA zero-interest loans and other educational initiatives.

## **Pitt & Greene Electric Membership Corporation**

### **Mailing Address**

P. O. Box 249  
Farmville, N.C. 27828

### **Phone**

(252) 753-3128  
(800) 622-1362

### **Fax**

(252) 753-3136

### **Key Staff**

Mark A. Suggs, EVP & General Manager  
Glenn Smith, President  
Tammy Murphy, Director of Human Resources & Executive Assistant  
Tony Barrow, Vice President of Engineering  
Matt Starling, Director of Engineering  
Milton Grant, Director of Operations  
Pasty Rowe, Director of Finance and Accounting

**Annual Meeting:** First Thursday in November

**Active Meter:** 9,030

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 9,030 and the corporation serves 1,098 miles of line.

## **Randolph Electric Membership Corporation**

### **Mailing Address**

P. O. Box 40  
Asheboro, N.C. 27204-0040

### **Phone**

(336) 625-5177  
(800) 672-8212

### **Fax**

(336) 626-1551

### **Key Staff**

Dennis Mabe, Chief Executive Officer  
Jay Albright, District Vice President  
Michael Trent, Vice President of Member Services & Public Relations  
Jacob Barlow, Vice President of Engineering & Operations  
Fred Smith, Vice President of Economic Development & Compliance

**Annual Meeting:** Third Friday in June

**Active Meters** – 34,257

## **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, 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 2024, more than \$200,000 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 \$140,000 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 30 years, REMC has provided over \$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 Cooperative**

### **Mailing Address**

P. O. Box Drawer 1326  
Ahoskie, N.C. 27910

### **Phone**

(252) 209-2236  
(800) 433-2236

### **Fax**

(252) 209-5040

### **Key Staff**

Marshall Cherry, President & Chief Executive Officer  
Allen W. Speller, Board Chairman

**Annual Meeting:** Fourth Saturday in August

**Active Meters:** 14,300

**Counties Served:** Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, and Perquimans

## **Current and Future Plans**

In 2023, Roanoke Electric Cooperative rebranded as Roanoke Cooperative, aligning with its expanded services beyond electricity to better support member-owners and communities.

The cooperative's Upgrade to \$ave program, using the Pay-As-You-Save (PAYS) model, now oversees a portfolio exceeding \$4.5 million, deployed to help member-owners lower their energy costs through energy efficiency retrofits. This program has already benefited over 1,300 member-owners, and participation continues to grow as more cooperative members take advantage of its offerings.

As a pioneer in North Carolina's Community Solar initiatives, Roanoke Cooperative provides member-owners the opportunity to invest in locally generated renewable energy. This program not only promotes clean energy but also enables philanthropic sponsors to help low-income member-owners access the benefits of renewable energy, fostering equity within the cooperative's service area. Additionally, two new solar-plus battery storage units are set to come online in 2025, further expanding community solar offerings, strengthening grid resiliency, and supporting distributed energy resource management.

The cooperative is preparing for significant growth in 2025 as two of its largest metered services come online: a renewable natural gas facility and a natural gas compression site. Alongside this, the cooperative now serves the largest Tesla charging network in the area and has collaborated with local school systems to introduce electric school buses. For residential members, an EV home

charging program is offered on a subscription model, making home-based electric vehicle charging convenient and affordable.

Roanoke Cooperative has also made substantial progress in enhancing its "smart" grid infrastructure with advanced fiber technology deployed across 2,000 miles of substations and distribution lines. These improvements have reduced energy losses and minimized outage durations. Additionally, this infrastructure supports broadband internet access, providing high-speed service to many member-owners in underserved rural areas and addressing the digital divide in the region.

In 2023, Roanoke Connect Holdings rebranded as Fybe, a wholly-owned broadband subsidiary. Fybe has made substantial strides in extending fiber-optic broadband services, now reaching over 9,800 member-owners, with nearly 4,000 of those subscribing to the service. Including subscribers outside the cooperative's electric membership, Fybe now serves nearly 5,800 total subscribers across various areas. With a commitment to connecting every member-owner by the end of 2025, Fybe is well on track to achieve this goal.

Fybe's efforts to bridge the broadband gap and deliver high-quality service have earned it recognition as a top Fiber-To-The-Home company by Broadband Communities, highlighting its positive impact on local economies and quality of life.

Through its 501(c)(3) nonprofit affiliate, Roanoke Cooperative Alliance, the cooperative continues to champion economic sustainability across the Roanoke-Chowan and Roanoke Valley regions of North Carolina. One of the Alliance's flagship initiatives, the Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Program, supports local landowners in preserving and managing their forests, contributing to long-term environmental and economic resilience in the community.

In addition, the cooperative offers solar operation and maintenance services for solar projects across North Carolina through its for-profit subsidiary, Roanoke Cooperative Solutions, extending its commitment to renewable energy support statewide.

Roanoke Cooperative remains dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for its member-owners and communities, with future plans focused on expanding energy efficiency, broadband access, and community development.

## **Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation**

### **Mailing Address:**

P. O. Box 1569  
Forest City, NC 28043-1569

**Website** [www.remc.com](http://www.remc.com)

### **Phone**

828-245-1621 or  
800-521-0920

### **Fax**

828-248-2319

### **Key Staff**

S. Dirk Burleson, General Manager  
J. Dean Carpenter, Board President  
Jeffrey C. Brittain, Vice President of Engineering  
Tommy Chapman, Vice President of Corporate & Member Services  
Colon L. Saunders, Vice President of Operations  
Brad Bridges, Director of District Operations

**Annual Meeting:** Last Saturday in October

**Active Meters:** 82,051

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

## **Current and Future Plans**

Rutherford EMC is proud to celebrate 87 years of service to its members in 2024. What began with a handful of determined farmers, 10 miles of line and 30 members, has grown to provide electricity to more than 82,000 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 returned to an in-person Annual Meeting in 2023, the first in-person meeting since 2019. Our director elections continue to be conducted via mail-in ballot and have received a tremendous response from our members. We have found that offering an in-person meeting in conjunction with a mail-in ballot process has allowed us to reach a larger group of members.

In September 2024, we experienced the most devastating natural disaster our area has ever seen. Hurricane Helene damaged over 90% of REMC's infrastructure and left 68,500 members without power. Despite the devastation, our community pulled together to help in every way possible, from neighbors donating supplies and providing meals, to out-of-town line crews assisting with power restoration.

In the wake of the storm, Rutherford EMC continues to work on different projects to maintain system reliability and strengthen community relations. Progress is made each day on our new transmission line in our fastest growing district in Lincoln County, and we prioritize the support of our local students and educators through the Electric Cooperatives Youth Tour and Bright Ideas Grant Program.

## **South River Electric Membership Corporation**

**Address**

17494 US 421 S  
P. O. Box 931  
Dunn, N.C. 28335

**Phone**

(910) 892-8071

**Fax**

(910) 230-2981

**Website**

[www.sremc.com](http://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  
Pam Carter, Vice President of Corporate Services  
David Keith, Vice President of Engineering & Operations  
Andrew Radford, Vice President of Information Technology

**Number of Employees - 115**

**Annual Meeting:** April

**Active Meters** – 47,045

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

### **Current and Future Plans**

In 2024, South River EMC has implemented the first rate change in more than a decade. Another rate change is anticipated for May 2025 due to inflation, growth, cost of power and sustained higher interest rates.

South River EMC continued its community support efforts through Operation Round Up and the Bright Ideas educational grant programs. In 2024, the Cooperative funded \$217,696 of grants to local non-profit, educational and emergency services organizations. The program has funded \$3.3 million in grants since its inception in 2007. Educators received \$59,670 in classroom grants through the Bright Ideas program. This program has awarded \$1.69 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.

In 2024, South River EMC received one of the top 5 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI®) scores for energy utility services among all cooperatives participating in the quarterly measurement for Touchstone Energy three times.

## **Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation**

### **Mailing Address**

P. O. Box 305  
Dobson, N.C. 27017

### **Phone**

(336) 356-8241  
(800) 682-5903

### **Fax**

(336) 356-9744

### **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, Director of Human Resources and Safety

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

**Active Meters:** 28,319

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

**Mission Statement:** Provide safe, 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 28,319 meters and operate 18 substations. Our cooperative has 112.8 miles of transmission line and 3,617.49 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 80 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. Some of these upgrades include being awarded a U.S. Department of Energy Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) grant, which will allow us to improve the sustainability and reliability of our infrastructure while keeping the cost down for our member-owners over a five-year period. The cooperative continues to actively pursue additional state and federal grant funding to help take the burden of needed upgrades and projects off our member-owners.

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.

Since 2021, SYEMC has replaced 2,105 distribution poles and 36 transmission poles. In addition, the cooperative has replaced 60.74 miles of copper lines.

Surry-Yadkin EMC has community electric vehicle (EV) charging network. It has Level 2 chargers at six 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.

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, Christmas meals and toys for under-privileged children; and our annual Surry-Yadkin EMC charity golf tournament. Our charity golf tournament annually raises around \$30,000 to \$40,000 for nonprofits in the region. In addition, we've been able to donate \$8,500-\$10,200 to nonprofits each year since 2023, proceeds from a fall Bingo and auction.

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 and Surry County Economic Development Partnership, is closing on a 30-acre site in 2024 and will begin the certification process in 2025.

## **Tideland Electric Membership Corporation**

### **Mailing Address**

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

### **Phone**

(252) 943-3046

### **Fax**

(252) 943-3510

### **Key Staff**

J. Douglas Brinson, President  
Paul Spruill, General Manager & CEO  
Tonya Little, Executive Assistant/Payroll Specialist  
Jim Chrisman, Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer  
TW Allen, Director of Engineering for Edge of Grid Assets  
Adam Fyle, Manager of Operations  
Myra Beasley, Manager of Human Resources, Risk Management & Benefits  
Heidi Smith, Manager of Energy Services & Corporate Communications  
Linda Carawan, Customer Service Supervisor

**Annual Meeting:** May

**Active Meters:** 24,448

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

### **Current and Future Plans**

Tideland is not only focused on its core business function in 2025 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 technology. 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 1.8 linear miles of armored submarine cable replacing overhead conductor vulnerable to erosion at the southern tip of Hatteras Island. This capital investment greatly improved the reliability for Ocracoke. In 2017 Tideland hosted a unique microgrid within the village of Ocracoke complete with solar, battery energy storage, controllable thermostats and water heaters, and diesel generation. In 2023 Tideland benefitted from a strong partnership with North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives as our Generation and Transmission provider. Together, we delivered the State's largest solar plus battery energy storage microgrid to the campus of Rose Acre Farms which is Hyde County's largest private employer. Tideland EMC members also continue to benefit from the December, 2014 completion of Tideland's first community solar project closely followed by a second community solar project completed in 2016. Technology, real time information accessible to our members, 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**

[www.tcemc.com](http://www.tcemc.com)

### **Phone**

(919)735-2611

### **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 Operations  
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:** 26,798

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

## **Current and Future Plans**

At Tri-County EMC, community-oriented programs are at the heart of our mission. One of the most impactful initiatives we established in 2000 is Operation Round-Up. This program has become a lifeline for many individuals in need and numerous non-profit organizations across our area. With a participation rate of 95%, our members have collectively contributed over \$2.5 million, making a significant impact on our community.

We also understand the vital role that education plays in shaping the future. In today's economic climate, many students need help to afford the cost of education after high school. In response, we proudly offer scholarships to deserving high school seniors within our service area. Since 2001, we have awarded scholarships to more than 1,200 students, amounting to \$520,350. These scholarships empower the promising leaders of tomorrow, contributing to a brighter future for all.

Another cornerstone of our commitment to education is the Bright Ideas Grant Program, which has been enriching the teaching landscape since its inception in 1994. This innovative program has funneled millions of dollars into classrooms across North Carolina, enabling teachers to bring their

creative educational projects to life. To date, we have proudly granted \$2,079,943.90 to educators in our service area, funding 2,363 unique teaching initiatives.

As a member-driven cooperative, Tri-County EMC has navigated a landscape filled with changes and challenges within the electric industry. Nevertheless, our mission remains firm. We are deeply committed to delivering reliable electric power at affordable rates and providing exceptional service to our members while being active in the communities we serve. Our dedication to our mission and the communities we serve will continue to thrive as we look toward the future and any upcoming challenges.

## **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  
Dent H. Turner, 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:** 87,620

**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 88,000 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. 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, upgrading of transmission lines, and beginning phases of a new transmission line, are in the works. These investments will provide value to our membership for decades to come.

Through our collaboration with NC's Electric Cooperatives, Union Power is investing in technologies, including battery storage and microgrids, which are essential for achieving our sustainability goals and ensuring a brighter future. These innovations enable us to enhance grid stability, integrate renewable energy sources more effectively, and provide our members with reliable, sustainable power. System maintenance programs are critical to ensuring we maintain our

99.9% service reliability. Our vegetation management program is a key component of these programs, involving the regular clearing of trees, limbs, and other obstructions from our rights of-way to prevent outages and enhance system safety.

We continue to support our members through various community involvement initiatives, including educational grants, scholarships, and assistance with obtaining low-interest economic development loans. Union Power recently announced the formation of the Union Power Charitable Foundation. The Union Power Charitable Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Cooperative. Its mission is to provide financial assistance to local not-for-profit organizations that help people in the local communities. All of these efforts are designed to enhance the quality of life for our members and foster economic growth throughout our service territory.

## **Wake Electric Membership Corporation**

### **Mailing Address:**

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

### **Website**

[www.wemc.com](http://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:** 57,236

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

## **Current and Future Plans**

Wake Electric provides electric service to approximately 50,000 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 of which, over 50% is underground. Our customer service office is located in Wake Forest and our engineering/operations personnel are located in Youngsville.

Wake Electric is one of 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. As of 2024, Wake Electric has helped over 700 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 (2024), Wake Electric returned \$2,000,000 in patronage capital to existing and former members for their individual share of the capital credits earned between 1999 and (2022).

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:**

875 Main Street East  
Young Harris, Georgia 30582

**Phone**

(706)379-3121  
(828)837-1017

**Fax**

(706)379-4834

**Key Staff:**

Allan Glidewell, Executive Vice-President & General Manager  
Alicia King, 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  
Sharon Kyser, Director of Member Services  
Alex King, Director of Broadband

**Annual Meeting:** Second Saturday in September

**Active Meters:** 20,240 in North Carolina as of end of December, 2024 – 34.27% 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 59,062 electric meters as of the end of December, 2024. 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 area. 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 December, 2024, BRMEMC is serving just over 18,000 consumers with broadband (fiber optic) services and supports over 2,800 miles of fiber-optic line.

## **Broad River Electric Membership Corporation**

### **Physical Address:**

1036 Webber Rd  
Cowpens, SC 29330

### **Mailing Address:**

P. O. Box 828  
Cowpens, SC 29330

[www.broadriverelectric.com](http://www.broadriverelectric.com)

### **Phone**

(864) 489-5737  
(866) 687-2667

### **Fax**

(864) 487-7808

### **Key Staff:**

Terry Mallard, CEO  
Cary Johnson, Chief Operating Officer  
Kenny Griswold, VP Information Technology  
Clary Phillips, VP Member Services  
Jeff Humphries, VP Economic Development  
Wes Allsbrook, Chief Strategic Officer

**Annual Meeting:** Last Thursday in April

**Active Meters - 490**

(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](http://www.meckelec.org)

### **Phone:**

(434) 372-6200

### **Fax:**

(434) 372-6101

### **Key Staff**

Casey Logan, President & CEO  
Carolyn Glass, Executive Assistant  
James Guy, General Counsel & V.P. of Administration  
David Lipscomb, V.P. Member and Energy Services  
Dwayne Long, V.P. Information Technology  
B.J. Seamans, V.P. Engineering and Operations  
Robert Lankford, Director of Operations  
Brian Woods, Director of Engineering

**Annual Meeting:** Third Wednesday in June

**Active Meters in NC:** 145

**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 32,000 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, MEC furthers its green initiatives. ODEC purchases the most cost-effective solar power from four regional solar arrays totaling 55 MW. Additionally, ODEC has added 30MW from multiple small scale PV projects throughout its member Cooperatives' service territories with the first located in MEC's footprint. ODEC also provides 264 MW of renewable wind energy sourced from three wind farms in Pennsylvania and one in Maryland.

MEC utilizes the state-of-the-art NISC Accounting, Business Solution, Member Care and Billing software suite. 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 review of their home energy use. 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. "Safety First" is not just a motto ... it is woven into the fabric of everything MEC does!

To further recognize 2024 as a banner year for the organization, MEC advanced its fiber-to-the-home initiative as its subsidiary, EMPOWER Broadband, has made service available to over 20,000 locations. Over the next year, service will extend past 30,000 premises.

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**

(423) 727-1800

### **Fax**

(423) 727-1822

### **Key Staff:**

Rodney Metcalf, General Manager  
Steve Bishop, Director of Engineering & Operations  
Sally Snyder, Director of Member Services  
Kyle Holtsclaw, District Manager  
Amber Bumgardner, Director of Accounting & Financial Services

**Annual Meeting:** September

**Active Meters:** 20,259

(In North Carolina)

**Counties Served:** Avery, Burke, McDowell, Watauga

## **Current and Future Plans**

Currently MEC has approximately 7 miles of a 69kV transmission line under construction in the Banner Elk area to complete a loop feed to our distribution substations. This line will allow us to back feed our system in the event of a damaged line. Estimated completion date of May-2025.

Future plans include the rebuilding of two aged 69kV transmission lines serving the Banner Elk and Newland substations. The total length of these lines will be 15+ miles. These projects are slated to start in the fall of 2025.

Plans also include the rebuilding of the Newland substation. This station currently serves 4500+/- customers. The equipment in this station has met its life expectancy and is planned for replacement. Rebuilding will include modernization for more intelligent equipment in preparations for a future SCADA system.

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's wholesale power supplier, the Tennessee Valley Authority, has programs available. The *Green Switch* program provides a method for members to purchase green power as part of their individual energy usage. The *Dispersed Power Production* program provides members a method to generate green power and sell it back to MEC's wholesale power supplier. For more information, visit [www.tvagreen.com](http://www.tvagreen.com).

Mountain Electric Cooperative, Inc. (MEC) distributes electricity to over 36,600 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:**

2310 Blue Ridge Dr.,  
Blue Ridge, GA 30513

**Phone:**

(706) 492-3251

**Fax:**

(706) 492-7617

**Website:**

[www.tsemc.net](http://www.tsemc.net)

**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:** 1,797

(In North Carolina)

**Counties Served:** Cherokee

### **Current and Future Plans**

Tri-State continues to be proactive with changes and new innovations. TSEMC has plans to energize our newest substation located on Scenic drive in Blue Ridge in late December 2024 or January 2025. Weather will factor when substation can be energized. This will reduce Blue Ridge Sub Station and Blue Ridge Hydro loads tremendously. We continue to increase 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 – three years. We will also be looking into replacing our current metering system for the RF (radio frequency) metering within the next two years. Also, upgrading equipment (trucks, computers, communications headquarters) 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

North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation (NCEMC) – is one of the largest generation and transmission electric cooperatives in the nation, providing reliable, affordable electricity to its 25 member cooperatives. NCEMC owns power generation assets, purchases electricity through contracts, identifies innovative energy projects and coordinates transmission resources for its members. The NCEMC has been planning for a brighter, more sustainable future for a long time. They have spent the past decade reducing their dependence on carbon-intensive power generation, and as a result, the current fuel mix is more than sixty percent carbon free. Coal-fired generation makes up five percent of their portfolio, compared with the national average of twenty-four percent. More than half of their power comes from emissions-free nuclear generation, an extremely reliable, safe and affordable source of electricity. Their early investment in nuclear energy has allowed electric cooperative members and communities to benefit from the lowest carbon electricity in the Southeast. In addition, they are increasingly integrating renewables into their already diverse array of power sources as new technology, such as battery storage, which makes renewable energy a more accessible option. To achieve a low-cost, low-carbon future, they are working toward net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and to meet that goal, the NCEMC plans to prioritize emissions-free nuclear as a key part of their energy future while maintaining reliability and affordability.

The 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 several ways, including:

- Ownership of a 61.51 percent share of the Catawba Nuclear Station’s (“CNS”) Unit 1 in York County, South Carolina. Since 1980, NCEMC has been a part owner of the CNS and Duke Energy operates and maintains the station, which has been operational since 1985.
- Ownership of a 13.33 percent 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.
- Ownership and operation of natural gas peak generating plants located in Anson and Richmond counties. These plants provide a combined capacity of 672 megawatts.
- Ownership and operation of peaking generators on the Outer Banks at Buxton (15 megawatts) and Ocracoke (3 megawatts).
- Future ownership of a 16.55 percent share of a planned 1,360-megawatt hydrogen capable combined-cycle natural gas plant in Person County. If approved, construction is set to begin in 2025 with an anticipated 2028 operation date. An application for this project has been filed with the North Carolina Utilities Commission and hearings will be held.
- Purchases from wholesale markets, primarily PJM and wholesale suppliers such as Duke Energy, American Electric Power (“AEP”), Southern Power, BP Energy Company, Shell and Morgan Stanley.

The NCEMC also provides the following related services for most of the 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 DNCP

The NCEMC also works with electric cooperatives to meet Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standard (REPS) regulatory and compliance requirements. They are currently looking for North Carolina based swine and poultry waste renewable energy certificates (“RECs”). The North Carolina cooperatives are industry leaders in integrating new sustainable grid technologies. The cooperatives served by the NCEMC for all of their power requirement are planning to join a Duke Energy project to harness energy from a state-of-the-art hydrogen-cable natural gas combined cycle generating plant, which will lower emissions in the state by replacing an older coal-fired power plant. As a result of all of these efforts, the fuel mix for the North Carolina electric cooperatives is 20% more carbon-free than the national average. The NCEMC is working with national partners to ensure that the EPA’s rules prioritize reliability and affordability for co-op members and will continue to work toward a sustainable future but doing so with a commitment to provide reliable power at the lowest possible cost to its members.

#### NCEMC OFFICERS:

Susan Flythe, President  
Cape Hatteras EC

Josh Winslow, Vice President  
Brunswick EMC

Gary Ray, Secretary-Treasurer  
Jones-Onslow 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 training, safety and education for the State's twenty-six electric co-ops and the general public. Following are some of the responsibilities of the NCAEC:

- Promote government relations in Raleigh and in Washington, D.C.
- Develop and distribute Carolina Country magazine, published monthly since 1946, engaging members with their electric co-ops through platforms including the print publication and carolinacountry.com.
- Provide training programs and conferences for co-op directors, managers and staff.
- Encourage and promote youth scholarships, education programs and tours to Washington, D.C.
- Provide safety and job training for all co-op employees and specialty training for line workers
- Initiate strategic marketing and communications planning, advertising, branding and community relations efforts on behalf of the member cooperatives
- Provide member cooperatives with market research services through customized research initiatives and consumer satisfaction tracking
- Discover and support local economic development opportunities, develop assets and work with member cooperatives to secure USDA funds for community development. Since 2014, the cooperatives have contributed to 10,000+ new jobs, \$100 million invested with grants and loans and \$30 million in local revolving loan funds as well as other projects for the communities that are served by the EMCs.

**NCAEC OFFICERS**

Tammie Phillips, President  
Randolph EMC

Winston Howell, Vice President  
Edgecombe-Martin EMC

Eric Locklear, Secretary-Treasurer  
Lumbee River EMC

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

Kristie Aldridge, Senior Vice President and COO, Association Services  
North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

\*\*\*\*\*

Chartered as North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc., on October 3, 1977.



## **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 service company which supplies the materials needed to operate and maintain electric utility systems. The organization was established in 1975 and is non-profit and dedicated to service, quality and cost containment. TEMA provides materials and supplies at competitive prices to twenty-six North Carolina member cooperatives, eight Virginia member cooperatives and one Maryland member cooperative and their modern warehouse contains 112,000 square feet of storage space. TEMA maintains a multi-million-dollar inventory to respond rapidly to customer needs and some of the material on hand includes:

- Protective equipment: arrestors, cutouts, switches
- Conductor: primary and secondary, overhead and underground
- Transformers: three-phase and single-phase
- Junction boxes: three phase and single phase
- Hardware: bolts, connectors, splices and sleeves
- 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, Central EMC, Secretary-Treasurer

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
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Yancey	French Broad Electric Membership Corporation Duke Energy
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# **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 Rural Utility Service organization is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Through their programs, the organization helps rural Americans in many ways by offering loans, grants and loan guarantees that create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment, water, electric and the communications infrastructure.

The commitment and resources that the agency offers to rural communities helps with the expansion of access to high-speed internet, electric, and transportation infrastructure, and support business growth, healthcare, education, housing, and other community essentials. The co-ops can request funding through the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) which can be used for upgrades to the electric and telephone facilities which allows them to maintain, expand, upgrade and modernize the infrastructure they use to provide service in the most rural areas of North Carolina. 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. They also offer a program call the Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (“REDLG”) which allows the co-ops to request funds which assist with economic development, upgrades for emergency services, create jobs and expand businesses.

The USDA offers loans and grants to the telephone co-ops to ensure that rural areas have access to affordable and reliable service comparable to those available in throughout the rest of the United States. The Telecommunications Program improves the quality of life in rural America by providing funding for the deployment of rural telecommunications infrastructure through the deployment of broadband. Funding for the deployment of broadband is available through the ReConnect program and other loan and grant opportunities. With this access, rural America will see improved educational opportunities, health care, safety, security, and higher employment and funds are available to electric and telephone providers.

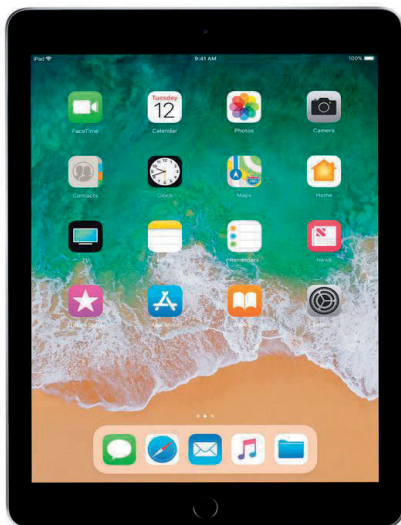
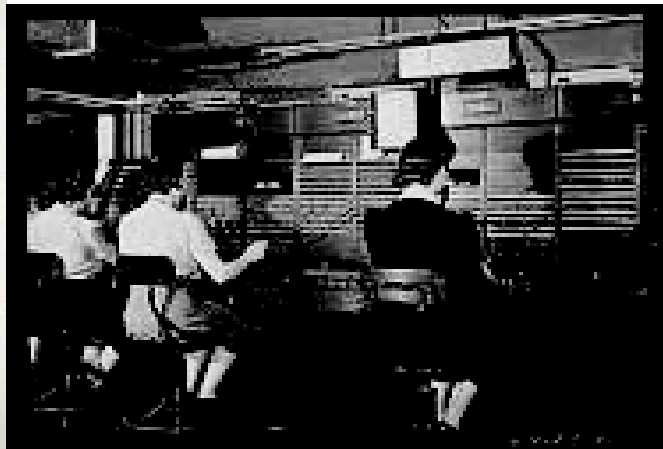
Any North Carolina electric or telephone cooperative desiring to secure a grant or loan from any agency of the USDA must first apply through the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority and not directly to the United States agency and the Authority has the responsibility to provide

those applications to the USDA for the cooperatives. The USDA 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, energy efficiency measures. RESP will help lower energy bills for rural families and businesses and will reduce barriers to investment in energy efficiency projects and activities.



# THE TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATIONS

Competition and Technology are Driving the Market



## TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP COOPERATIVE UPDATE<sup>1</sup>

For almost four decades, competition and advanced technology have caused the TMCs to change their focus from being landline voice service providers to communication and broadband cooperatives. Currently, more data is carried over the network than voice communications and high-speed broadband is no longer a luxury but a necessity. Today's population has become dependent on smartphones, smartwatches, tablets, iPads and other devices which allow them to video chat with loved ones across the globe, interact through text messages, conduct meetings through video services, work at home, and rely, at times, on digital learning. New technology will continue to be developed and introduced to make our lives easier and faster. Technology for telecommunications has evolved and new gadgets and services will continue to be introduced beyond our current expectations. The telephone co-ops in North Carolina provide broadband service and other state-of-the-art services to more than 196,000 accounts within and outside of their service territory. Members of the co-ops live and work in fifty-four of the one hundred counties. The co-ops have installed and maintain approximately 27,302 miles of copper and fiber and are committed to bring the next generation of connectivity to their members. The areas served are very rural with an average customer density of seven customers per route mile, which is just a fraction of the population density in more urban areas. The daily operation of their business model is exemplary of the Seven Cooperative Principles that are followed by all the co-ops, and they have completed Fiber-To-The-Home (FTTH) deployment which will allow higher Internet speeds for new and existing members.

The co-ops had a vast network of existing infrastructure, primarily copper wires, which was repurposed to deliver Internet service and allow them to leverage their existing networks to provide broadband as the market shifted away from traditional landline. The legacy network is being rapidly supplemented and replaced by fiber optic cable. The transition also enabled them to maintain a revenue stream to facility new investments as their consumer needs evolved into more advanced technology. Two of the co-op principles are "neighbor helping neighbor" and "concern for community". In September 2024, Hurricane Helene wreaked havoc on the western part of North Carolina and two of the co-ops were impacted in a major way. Skyline TMC and Wilkes Communication suffered major damage to their networks. Other co-ops in North Carolina that weren't directly affected sent generators, other equipment and service technicians to assist in rebuilding the networks and getting service reconnected to the members as quickly as possible. Concern for these communities was expressed through the efforts of the co-ops that were not affected and lent a helping hand to rebuild facilities and networks to restore service.

The co-ops continue to pursue federal and state grant opportunities for fiber connectivity in unserved and underserved areas. The awarded funds are used by the co-ops for deployment of broadband in the rural areas of our State. The co-ops are also actively involved with community events, with higher learning opportunities for schools, which contribute to and promote economic development in the areas they serve. Focus Broadband, Skyline TMC, Skybest and Star Communications were recipients of funds from the Competing Access to Broadband (CAB)

Note 1: Chapter 117, Article 4, of the General Statutes reference Telephone Membership Corporations, which have evolved into Broadband Communication providers.

program which will allow these co-ops to continue to deploy services to some of the remaining underserved and unserved areas in the rural areas of the State. The amount of these awards totaled \$67 million and will connect 15,835 customers and businesses with high-speed Internet.

The co-ops provide innovative and 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, at comparable rates. All seven telephone co-ops provide voice, video, high speed Internet, IPTV, 4G wireless, camera surveillance, computer services, business networking, FTTH, security and other state-of-the-art communications services in all or part of fifty-four counties in North Carolina. The Internet has brought and will continue to bring advanced technology and helpful innovations to our society and the co-ops will continue to invest in fiber optic-based networks that serve their customers and the communities with the best of connected communications.

The competitive pressures from wireless providers, cable television providers and other local competitors are impacting rural co-ops just as they are impacting more urban telephone companies. The difference is that rural co-ops do not have a large volume of customers or, with few exceptions, access to wireless spectrum that helps larger companies offset revenue losses. In today's world, 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 excellent customer service and updated and innovative technology. The goal of the co-ops is to enhance the quality of life for their members in the communities they serve.

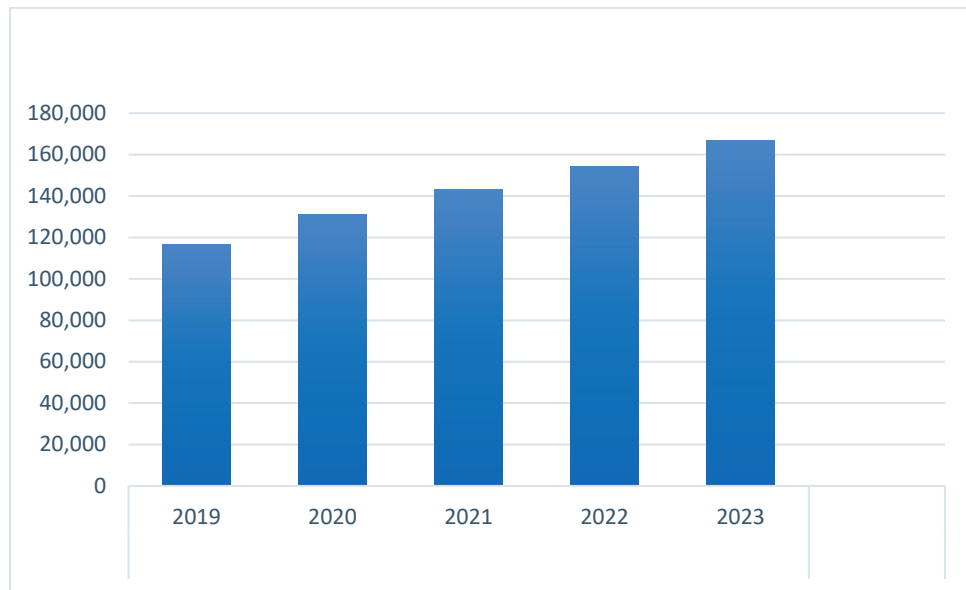


**KEY DATA AND ACTIVITIES  
TRACKED BY THE  
AUTHORITY FOR THE  
TELEPHONE CO-OPs**

**Growth Trends for  
Broadband and Subscriber Data**







The TMCs have become broadband/communication providers through the years due to the decrease in subscription for landline services and 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, and help promote economic development in communities which increases employment and population growth. Broadband provides higher speeds for improved technology and communication which makes our lives easier and more manageable in today's busy world. The TMCs serve the very rural areas of our State and the need for internet at higher speeds is evident and there is also growth in those communities with the deployment of broadband. There has been an increase of 42.96% in subscriptions from 2019 to 2023 which proves how vital broadband and higher internet speeds are to rural areas in our State.

## 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	3,777	17.54	1873.37	536.74
RANDOLPH COMMUNICATIONS	3,758.04	6.41	1,101.01	300.93
SKYLINE TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION d/b/a SKYLINE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION	3,897	7.62	1,078.08	610.42
STAR COMMUNICATIONS	5,721	2.51	1,550	366
SURRY TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION	5,235	2.28	1,076.49	426.07
WILKES TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION d/b/a WILKES COMMUNICATIONS/RIVERSTREET NETWORKS	2,968	3.69	2,109	567.04
YADKIN VALLEY TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION d/b/a YADTEL	2,185	10.22	1,652.02	209.20

\*Data for Broadband/Communication providers ending December, 2023

# 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](http://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  
Brent Brinson, Vice President– Engineering

**Annual Meeting:** October

**Counties Served:** Bladen, Brunswick, Chowan, Columbus, Duplin, Hoke, Pender, Perquimans, Robeson, Scotland

## **Current and Future Plans**

Founded in 1955, FOCUS Broadband is the largest communications cooperative in North Carolina and one of the largest in the nation. Between its cooperative and competitive local provider service areas, the company provides broadband to over 75,000 customers across portions of ten counties. FOCUS Broadband is committed to delivering excellent value and technology, backed by award-winning customer service. It has been named *Best Customer Service* in the *Best of Brunswick* Awards for 17 years. Providing fast, reliable, and affordable broadband internet is the company's primary focus. FOCUS Broadband is also a leader in residential and business security services, business-class broadband, managed and hosted services, Ethernet services, and IT support.

FOCUS Broadband is currently in the fourth year of a \$100 million project to replace its coaxial network within its Brunswick County service area with a new, 100% fiber-optic network. Upon completion in 2031, the company's entire footprint will be served by fiber optics. Several communities have already been upgraded, and work is actively underway in additional areas.

FOCUS Broadband currently offers gigabit broadband service to 100% of its customers and is actively deploying multi-gigabit broadband services.

FOCUS Broadband has been aggressive in expanding broadband access to unserved and underserved areas of rural North Carolina. Since 2019, the company has secured more than \$130 million through a combination of state and federally funded grants to serve over 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 represent a total investment of over \$160 million to improve broadband infrastructure in rural North Carolina.

The company has been designated as both a *Smart Rural Provider* and a *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 70 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. Our co-op is committed to making sure our communities are ready for future possibilities, emerging challenges and rapid advancements associated with our industry. Through September 2024, Randolph has completed 97 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](http://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**

SkyLine remains strong and continues to expand throughout unserved and underserved areas. It is a company priority to connect, communicate with and serve those who need service most. As access to adequate broadband is crucial, SkyLine's fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) network is here to meet those needs.

Although the company experienced setbacks due to the unprecedented challenges brought by Hurricane Helene, SkyLine's dedication to restoration was and continues to be unwavering. In just two months, our company recovered from having 95% of the core network down to resuming business as usual. While full recovery from the damage experienced will take time, the progress made demonstrates SkyLine's commitment to improving the quality of life for its members.

SkyLine works collaboratively with various public and community entities to broaden the reach of our expansive network. Ongoing efforts allow our company to expand into neighboring towns and communities. SkyLine and its subsidiaries continue seeking federal and state grant funding to support new fiber construction across surrounding areas. This year, we were awarded nearly \$10 million to bring high-speed broadband connection to more than 950 eligible locations in Avery County.



Additionally, SkyLine's cooperative spirit of serving and caring for our members and communities is as 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, USDA RUS Reconnect, and RUS Community Connect grant programs. With these programs, STAR will continue overbuilding its current outside plant facilities with fiber optic technology. These long-term projects provide high speed Internet with gig capabilities and increased bandwidth for telecommunication services. STAR is completing its NC Great Grant Project in Bladen County. This project allowed us to provide fiber to more than 1,500 homes, businesses, and farms. Also, in process, is our USDA/RUS Reconnect I and IV Fiber Project. This 5-year project in its entirety will allow us to provide fiber to over 13,000 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  
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 11,800 members and over 3000 CLEC 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](http://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](http://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 Miller - Vice President of Sales & Billing

Micheal Brown - Vice President of Operations

Mike Meinel- Vice President of Marketing

**Annual Meeting:** September, October or November

**Counties Served:** Alexander, Alleghany, Anson, Avery, Beaufort, Bladen, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Columbus, Craven, Davidson, Duplin, Forsyth, Graham, Guilford, Halifax, Harnett, Henderson, Hoke, Hyde, Iredell, Jones, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Nash, Onslow, Orange, Person, Pitt, Polk, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Rutherford, Scotland, Stanley, Stokes, Surry, Transylvania, Union, Warren, Washington, Wake, Watauga, Wilkes, Wilson, Yadkin

**Current and Future Plans**

Today, the co-op serves more than 11,076 residential and business access lines over 2,968 miles of fiber optics, totaling 11,001 accounts. The cooperative and subsidiaries combined serve a total of over 18,906 access lines. RiverStreet's goal is to continue growth in and out of its core market in Wilkes County. RiverStreet offers a variety of services, including local and long distance voice, high speed Internet, security and fire monitoring, business phone systems, VoIP, wireless broadband, and wireless networking. RiverStreet 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. RiverStreet also operates an all-fiber optic CLEC expansion into the remainder of Wilkes County.

Reliable broadband is no longer a luxury, but rather a necessity. Currently, the co-op and its subsidiaries serve 26,168 total broadband customers. This total broadband count consists of 12,373 (10,220 co-op) ILEC customers and 13,795 CLEC customers. Of the CLEC customers, 4259 are fixed wireless broadband customers.

With a mission to serve unserved and underserved communities, RiverStreet is actively building a state-of-the-art fiber network across 16 counties in Virginia. This ambitious \$394 million project is made possible through \$297 million in grants and strategic community partnerships. When completed, over 100,000 homes and businesses will have access to high-speed fiber internet. In addition, RiverStreet's recent acquisitions of AmeliaTelephone Corporation, New Castle Telephone Company, and Citizen's Cablevision reflect their commitment to expanding broadband access and strengthening connectivity for even more communities.

### **Introducing RiverStreet**

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 nDanville 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 4259 fixed wireless broadband subscribers.

The company continues to look for ways to capitalize off the relationship built with the North Carolina Electric Cooperatives through the jointly owned RBN (Rural Broadband Networks Company).

In 2024, Wilkes Communications and RiverStreet Networks united under a single name: RiverStreet. With over 70 years of experience, RiverStreet remains dedicated to delivering reliable broadband and innovative solutions across NC and VA. This rebrand simplified the company's identity while reinforcing its commitment to the communities they serve. As RiverStreet, communities can continue to count on the same dependable service, local support, and community-focused values they have trusted since 1951.

### **State Funding for Fiber Optic Network Expansion**

Recently, RiverStreet applied for 4 additional 2025 NC CAB 2 grants in Camden County, Wilkes County, Currituck County, and Stokes County. They are currently waiting to hear back from the NCDIT.

### **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 in 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 the 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.

In 2018, Wilkes was awarded the Smart Rural Community designation by NTCA for its efforts in the Tri-County service area. Wilkes was recognized as “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 2019.

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.

Most recently, in 2024, RiverStreet (formally Wilkes Communications) was awarded the Wilkes County Hall of Fame Legacy Award by the Wilkes County Chamber of Commerce. The Legacy Award recognizes organizations who have significantly impacted Wilkes County through service and dedication to their community.

**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**

Ken Mills, Chief Executive Officer  
Brad Worthen, Senior VP of Operations and Finance  
Scott Hall, VP of Sales, Customer Service, and Human Resources  
Darrell Walker, VP of Technology  
Michael Goode, Director of Retail and Customer Care  
Allen Barker, Director of Telecommunications Engineering  
Zane Riddle, Director of Support Services  
Sharon Hamilton, Director of Customer Support – Tech Support  
Hayden Baugess, Director of Branding, Advertising, & Consumer Insights  
Catherine Chambliss, Director of Accounting  
Billy Link, Director of IT

**Annual Meeting:** Determined annually by Board of Directors

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

**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. Now known as Zirrus, the company provides residential telephones and in-house wiring as an ILEC and a CLEC, Internet access, mobile service, VOIP, long distance, security systems, managed wi-fi, and managed business services.

In 2006, the Cooperative began an expansive Fiber-to-the-Home build out project. By July 2008, the first customers were serviced by fiber, with the goal to provide high-speed fiber internet service to 100% of its trade area by 2026. As of 2024, approximately 96% of the total structures in the service 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 customers can purchase mobile devices and plans serviced through a nationwide reseller network.



## **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](http://www.cvtma.org).

### **OFFICERS - 2023-2024**

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  
Asheboro, 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 – 2023-2024**

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.  
Chad Kimble, Highland Telephone Cooperative  
Denise Waybright, Highland Telephone Cooperative  
Jason Dudding, Pembroke TC  
Leon A Law, Pembroke TC  
Kim Garner, Randolph TMC  
Mel Nunn, Randolph TMC

Matt Hill Scott County TC  
Brad Bowen, Scott County TC  
Kim Shepherd, SkyLine TMC  
Bill Burleson, 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. 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, member companies are now providing broadband service to customers 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 ensure 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, for-profit subsidiary companies, particularly outside of their traditional service territories.

Address:

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[info@carolink.org](mailto:info@carolink.org) – (919)838-0529

Web Site: [www.carolinalink.org](http://www.carolinalink.org)

The CarolinaLink staff consists of Dwight and Brady Allen and the CarolinaLink Board is comprised of the CEOs from the seven co-ops listed below:

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