



**Apply for  
Basketball Camp**

17



**A Cooperative  
Day in Your Life**

18

## Increase Energy Savings With Spring Home Projects

Adding a few items to your list of Spring chores can help make your home more energy efficient and deliver electric bills that won't make you sweat when temperatures soar.

Start with your air conditioner. Spring and early Summer are good times to make sure your cooling system is ready to work when you flip the switch.

- Get help from a professional who can inspect and service your unit.
- Give your air conditioner a do-it-yourself cleaning. Shut the unit off, and clear away leaves and yard debris outside.
- Inside your home, replace filters to keep air moving efficiently, and vacuum floor and ceiling registers to remove any dust buildup.



- When using window units, ensure that weather stripping is in place. Placement should be between the middle of the top window pane and the bottom pane.

Also check out your roof and see how well it has weathered the winter. Roof leaks can damage the insulation in your attic, which can affect the comfort and efficiency of your home. A roofing professional can assess and repair things like loose or missing shingles and leaks.

## Have a successful planting season rooted in safety

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Pitt & Greene EMC and the Safe Electricity program ([safeelectricity.org](https://safeelectricity.org)) urge them to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines. Operating large equipment near these lines is one of the often overlooked, yet potentially deadly hazards of working on a farm.

Start by making sure everyone knows to maintain a 10-foot clearance minimum from power lines. Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. Helpful safety steps include using a spotter and designating preplanned routes that avoid hazard areas.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors now have tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

Simply working too close to a power line is dangerous as electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting objects, such as a ladder, pole or truck.

Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness,

dust and dirt contamination.

If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call Pitt & Greene EMC. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground. Even if a line has landed on the ground, there is still potential for the area to be energized. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until help arrives.

If exiting the cab is absolutely necessary because of fire, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet together, hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

For more tips and information on how to stay safe this planting season, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://SafeElectricity.org).



## The Power Behind Your Power

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Pitt & Greene EMC strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals that spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst—co-op lineworkers.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, lineworkers are responsible for keeping 1,095 miles of lines across six counties working, in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the

years, namely the use of technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous, requiring them to work near high voltage lines day and night in the worst of conditions. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 10. So during the month of April, if you see a lineworker, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on, regardless of the conditions.



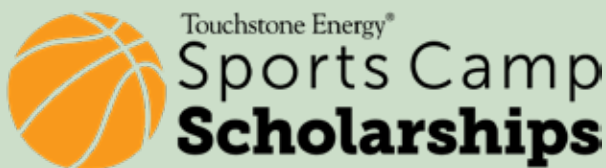
## Attention Students: Apply for Basketball Camp This Summer!

North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives are partnering with North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to offer educational and athletic opportunities.

Pitt & Greene EMC encourages rising 6th and 7th grade students, whose parent or guardian is a member of Pitt & Greene EMC, to apply for an all-expense paid scholarship to attend basketball camp.

- Boys may apply for Basketball Camp at UNC-Chapel Hill and must be rising 6th and 7th grade students for the 2023–2024 school years. This camp runs June 17–21.
- Girls may apply for the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State University and must be a rising 6th or 7th grade student for the 2023–2024 school years. This camp runs June 18–22.

Applications will be judged on their academic records, extra-curricular activities and an essay that must be submitted with the application. Campers must have permission from a parent or guardian to attend camp and must provide their own transportation to and from the camp. Learn more about the sports camp scholarships and apply online at [ncelectriccooperatives.com](https://ncelectriccooperatives.com).



## Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit [call811.com](https://call811.com) to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



April is National Safe Digging Month.

Pitt & Greene EMC will be closed Friday, April 7, in observance of Easter.



## Bright Ideas 2023–2024

The Bright Ideas grant program is offered by all 26 of North Carolina's electric cooperatives and supports educators in need of funding to implement creative, hands-on learning projects in their classrooms.

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric co-ops have awarded more than \$15 million in Bright Ideas grants to teachers statewide. These projects have benefited well over 3.5 million North Carolina students.

Pitt & Greene EMC is now accepting applications for Bright Ideas education grants for the 2023–2024 school year. Teachers in K–12 classrooms with innovative ideas are encouraged to apply for a grant up to \$2,000.

Grant applications will be accepted April 1 through



Sept. 15. However, it could pay to apply early: all teachers who submit their applications by Aug. 15 will be entered into an early bird drawing. Deadline for applications is Sept. 15.

Teachers at qualifying schools can apply individually or as a team, and grants are available for all subjects. To apply, or for more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit [NCBrightIdeas.com](https://NCBrightIdeas.com).



# A Cooperative Day In Your Life

So how did you spend your day? Chances are cooperatives were a big part of it from dawn until bedtime. Take a moment to read this quick overview of how co-ops might be impacting you every day.

Your morning orange juice might have come from Florida's Natural, a producer-owned cooperative based in Florida, but distributing throughout the U.S. If your morning coffee came from Equal Exchange ([equalexchange.coop](http://equalexchange.coop)), you get bonus points because they source their coffee from farmer-owned co-ops in developing countries, and they are a worker-owned co-op. The milk you use in your coffee or cereal, more than 86 percent of what is consumed is produced by a cooperative.

The wheat in your muffin or toast was most likely processed through a farmer-owned grain elevator in the Midwest. If you had cranberries in that muffin, they likely came from Ocean Spray, or maybe you used Land O'Lakes Butter or Welch's Concord Grape Jam—all producer-owned co-ops that make the products we love on our toast.

After that big co-op breakfast, it is time to start the day. Working parents might drop off their young children at

one of the over 1,000 pre-school co-ops that operate throughout the U.S.

Perhaps this is the day to make some improvements to your home. Ace Hardware, True Value and Do It Best are all examples of purchasing co-ops. These are small businesses that come together to form a co-op so that they can compete with big box retailers that are not owned by people in the local community.

You might need to stop by the credit union for a loan or pick up some cash for that home project from one of their 25,000 ATMs in their network. More than 100 million people in the U.S. are members of a credit union, and yep, you guessed it, credit unions are co-ops.

On your way home, you may stop at one of the 300 community-owned cooperative grocery stores in the country. Many of the meat products and vegetables are also sourced from co-ops. If you are in a hurry, maybe you swing by KFC, Taco Bell or Pizza

Hut to pick up dinner. The franchise owners of these fast food restaurants are all members of a purchasing co-op, just like the hardware stores above. So are the owners of Dunkin Donuts and many other franchises.

After dinner, perhaps you are watching TV from one of the more than 1,000 small cable companies that serve rural America that have come together to form a co-op that helps keep costs as low as possible.

Travel plans? If you are on a business trip or vacation and staying in a Best Western—that is also a purchasing co-op!

And when it's time for "lights out," you can flip that switch knowing you're receiving safe, reliable electricity from your local electric cooperative, your friends at Pitt & Greene EMC. From morning until night, you can have a very cooperative day.



Published monthly by Pitt and Greene EMC

## Co-op Office Hours

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
252-753-3128 | 1-800-622-1362 |  
252-747-7600

## POWER OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES

During weekends, holidays and  
after office hours: 252-753-8778

De lunes a viernes de 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
252-753-3128 | 1-800-622-1362 |  
252-747-7600

## CORTES DE SUMINISTRO ELÉCTRICO Y EMERGENCIAS:

Durante fines de semana, días festivos  
y después del horario de oficina:  
252-753-8778