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Proudly serving the members of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation

Albemarle Sounds

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**Albemarle Electric
Membership Corporation**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections®

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*Albemarle EMC is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.*



Hertford Grammar School student Lilah Copeland was the winner of the Albemarle EMC Christmas card contest, held in December. Her drawing was used on the company Christmas card.

Albemarle EMC Turns 81

Albemarle EMC turns 81 on Feb. 24. To celebrate, we will be giving out packaged cookies in the co-op's lobby and drive-through.

For more than eight decades, Albemarle EMC has served the mostly rural parts of northeast North Carolina. The co-op was incorporated in 1945 during a time when the only way to bring electricity to rural America was through nonprofit cooperatives. We appreciate our past, present and future members.

Basketball Camp Applications Now Being Accepted



Many young basketball players dream of playing under the bright lights of a college arena, showcasing their skills on the hardwood. Albemarle EMC is helping make that dream a reality for two lucky students by once again partnering with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and N.C. State University.

Through the Cooperative All-Stars Sports Camp Scholarship program, Albemarle EMC will provide one young woman with a scholarship to attend the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp at N.C. State, which will be June 14-17. Young men can apply for a scholarship to attend the Carolina Basketball School which will be held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill June 27-30.

The scholarships cover all expenses at the overnight camps, which provide a glimpse into life on a college campus. Campers stay overnight in dorms, learn fundamental skills that will help them excel on and off the court and receive individual and group instruction from Division 1 coaches to enhance their basketball and team-building abilities.

To apply, students must complete and submit the online application by March 31. Eligible applicants must be in sixth or seventh grade during the 2026-2027 school year.

"Over the years in coaching and watching talent develop, I have found that athletic skill and potential are not bound by where you live, where you go to school, or your background," said NC State University Women's Basketball Coach Wes Moore. "Because of this partnership with North Carolina's electric cooperatives, we can help kids from all over the state attend our camp and discover their true potential on and off the court."

More than 50 students will be awarded Cooperative All-Star's Sports Camp Scholarships from electric cooperatives in North Carolina. Now in its 23rd year, the scholarship program demonstrates the electric cooperatives' commitment to building a brighter future through continued support for education and community programs.

Service Pins Awarded



Lineman First Class Aaron Pippen receives a 20-year service pin from John Spence, president of the Albemarle EMC Board of Directors.

The following employees recently were awarded pins recognizing their years of service to Albemarle EMC.

Employees

Aaron Pippen — 20 years
Bridget Sawyer — 20 years
Austin Cooke — 10 years
Cody Stokely — five years
Sarah Parsons — five years

Director

Robbie Whitehead — five years



In December, Albemarle EMC delivered Christmas toys to schools in the co-op's service area. More than 500 children received toys from the 2025 toy drive.

Four ACT Grants Approved



Albemarle EMC General Manager Kevin Heath presents a \$2,500 ACT grant to Dina Hurdle (center) and Kim Stites, with the Open Door Food Pantry of Perquimans.



Albemarle EMC General Manager Kevin Heath presents a \$2,500 ACT grant to Ashley Gregory (left) and Matt Thomas, with the Cale Community Foundation.

Four organizations will receive funding for their projects thanks to the Albemarle Community Trust.

The ACT Board recently approved funding for the following ACT grant applicants. The Cale Community Foundation received a \$2,500 grant to purchase and install a water bottle-filler station. The bottle station will be used by their camp participants.

Children's Cancer Partners of the Carolinas, Inc. received a \$2,100 grant for their Childhood Cancer Safety Net program. The program helps to reimburse families for out-of-pocket expenses associated with traveling to and from their homes to their child's treatment hospital.

The Open Door Food Pantry received a \$2,500 grant to purchase food for households in need of assistance.

The Tidewater Council Boy Scouts of America received a \$2,100 grant to provide registration costs and supplies for the afterschool ScoutReach programs in the Albemarle region. The ScoutReach program provides character-building programs to youth in underserved communities.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation (AEMC) is a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance effort is Kevin Heath, general manager of Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination action, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purpose of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



Albemarle EMC is at Your Service



Energy Saver NC Now Available

The state of North Carolina's Energy Saver NC program is now available in all of the counties within Albemarle EMC's service territory.

The program is designed to make it more affordable for low- to moderate-income households to install energy- and cost-saving measures such as heat pumps, electrical panels and insulation.

Households may apply online, by email, phone or mail. Energy Saver NC also has a customer care team available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 866-998-8555.

Last year, the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality launched Energy Saver NC, which includes more than \$208 million for federally funded rebates. Energy Saver NC includes two federal programs: Homeowners Managing Efficiency Savings (HOMES) and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR). As part of HOMES, eligible households can receive up to \$16,000 for home efficiency improvements, such as air sealing or energy-efficient HVAC units. The HEAR program covers up to \$14,000 for high-efficiency electrical appliances such as heat pump water heaters and electric stoves. The program was gradually rolled out through 2025, with residents in northeast North Carolina recently becoming eligible to apply. Energy Saver NC is expected to run through 2031 or until funds are depleted.

Rebate amounts depend on household income and projects' modeled energy savings. Initially, Energy Saver NC has focussed on single-family, owner-occupied or rented housing, particularly those in high energy-burdened, disadvantaged regions and in areas with

storm impacts.

Single-family homeowners making less than 80 percent of their area median income (AMI) may be eligible for full rebates. Rebates at lower amounts will be available for moderate-income homeowners earning between 80 percent and 150 percent of their AMI.

Four-person households earning up to \$64,650 could be eligible for a full rebate. Single-family homeowners and tenants, with their owners' permission, may apply. A full breakdown of income eligibility can be found at energysavernc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/AMI_Income_Summary_NC_v8_250612_ENG.pdf.

Once income eligibility is confirmed, households that selected the HOMES program will need to schedule a free home energy assessment. Assessors will help households understand how their homes use energy and provide a list of qualified energy efficiency improvements.

Households must use an Energy Saver NC contractor, who are registered, licensed and trained.

After reviewing quotes, households will approve the projects and their prices with the rebate applied. Contractors will then submit the project to the Energy



Certain households may qualify for state assistance with energy efficient upgrades, such as heat pumps.

Saver NC program for approval. Once approved, the contractor will complete the work.

Energy Saver North Carolina rebates are available through Homeowner Managing Efficiency Savings (HOMES) and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR). HEAR offers various upgrades, including:

- **Up to \$8,000 for an ENERGY STAR® certified electric heat pump.**
- **Up to \$4,000 for an electrical panel.**
- **Up to \$2,500 for electrical wiring.**
- **Up to \$1,750 for an ENERGY STAR certified electric heat pump water heater.**
- **Up to \$1,600 for ENERGY STAR certified insulation, mechanical ventilation products and air sealing.**
- **Up to \$840 for an ENERGY STAR certified heat pump dryer or combo washer/dryer.**
- **Up to \$840 for an ENERGY STAR certified electric range or cooktop.**

Each Energy Saver North Carolina rebate has certain eligibility requirements for the existing materials/appliances you replace and the materials/appliances you replace them with.

Once you're eligible, your next steps depend on the program you choose. For rebates through Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR), use the registered contractor finder, filter for the products you want to install, and get quotes. For rebates through Homeowner Managing Efficiency Savings (HOMES), schedule a free home assessment. This will show you potential projects and upgrades that qualify for rebates and federal tax credits.