



Your Wake Electric Connections is now part of the Carolina Country magazine. Check these center pages every month for news and information from your electric cooperative.

Wake Electric offers recycling for compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)

Wake Electric, a non-profit electric utility, recently expanded its commitment to promoting energy efficiency by launching a consumer compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulb recycling program at all Wake Electric offices. This free service for Wake Electric members provides additional options for making environmentally conscious decisions, from purchase to disposal.

“The American public is rapidly switching from traditional light bulbs [called incandescent] to CFLs,” said Jim Mangum, Wake Electric’s CEO. “It’s an easy change that helps use less electricity at home and prevents greenhouse gas emissions that may lead to global climate change.”

Mangum said that lighting accounts for up to 20 percent of the

average home’s electric bill. CFLs use 75 percent less electricity than incandescent light bulbs, last up to 10 times longer, cost little up front, and provide a quick return on investment.

There has been some concern, however, by consumers about the trace elements of mercury contained in the bulbs.

CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing—about 4 milligrams—or roughly the amount that would cover the tip of a ballpoint pen. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury—an amount equal to the mercury in 125 CFLs. Mercury is an essential part of CFLs because it allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact (not broken) or in use.

If the bulbs are thrown in the household trash, however, there is a possibility the bulbs will break and the minute amount of mercury will leak out.

“Some of our members have expressed concern about the small traces of mercury in these bulbs,” said Mangum. “They were worried about how to safely and properly dispose of them. Wake has addressed this concern for its members by offering a CFL recycling program.”

At each Wake Electric office, members can simply bring in any expired, unbroken CFL bulbs, and give them to the customer service representative behind the front desk.

The CFL recycling program is an extension of Wake Electric’s continued commitment to promoting feasible options for the public to save energy and to conserve at home.

“With our CFL recycling program, Wake Electric gives its members yet one more way to reduce energy consumption in their homes. Our surveys show that our members are concerned with two major issues: saving money on their electric bill and how to reduce their impact on the environment,” said Jim Mangum.

With recycling stations in Youngsville, Wake Forest, Oxford, and Zebulon, Wake Electric has made CFL recycling convenient for its 33,000 members throughout its service territory, which includes Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Vance, and Wake counties.

“We are committed to providing money-saving, energy efficient solutions to our members,” said Mangum.

The recycling program is for Wake Electric residential members only. Bulbs can be dropped off at any office during business hours. For more information on the program and for specific office locations, please visit www.wemc.com or call 1.800.474.6300.



Wake Electric's Operation RoundUp program accepting grant applications

Wake Electric is seeking grant applications from non-profit organizations in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Wake and Vance counties. Through its Operation RoundUp program, the Wake Electric Foundation board will consider grant requests for projects and proposals that:

- Serve a broad range of individuals
- Use funds for educational, charitable, or economic development purposes.

Grant requests can be made for up to \$5,000 and are given out in January, April, July, and October. The next grant application deadline is Friday, September 12.

For more information or for an application, go to www.wemc.com or contact Angela Perez, Public Relations/Communications Specialist for Wake Electric, at 919.863.6300 or 1.800.863.6300.

The funds for Operation RoundUp grants come from voluntary contributions from WEMC members.

Non-profit organizations like the Youngsville Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) benefit from the Operation RoundUp grant program. The PTO will use its grant money to build a new playground for students to have a safe place to play.



Bright Ideas Early Bird deadline approaching

Wake Electric reminds area teachers that the deadline for Bright Ideas grant application submission is fast approaching.

Teachers who apply by August 28 will be entered into a drawing for a \$500 VISA GIFT CARD. The final deadline to submit all grants is September 26.

All North Carolina certified K-12 teachers are eligible for a Bright Ideas grant, the only program exclusively for the state's classroom educators. Wake Electric will award grants in November for innovative instructional projects that teachers will execute during the 2008-2009 school year. Wake Electric Bright Ideas grants are awarded to teachers serving grades K-12 in Durham, Granville, Franklin, Johnston, Wake, Vance, and Nash counties, and are awarded for projects in any discipline as long as they use creative teaching techniques to improve instruction. Projects are

eligible for grants of up to \$1,500.

For information or to apply go to www.ncbrightideas.com. Only online applications will be accepted.



**BRIGHT
IDEAS**

Call to report outages:
919.863.6499 or 800.743.3155

Regular Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Telephone Hours: M-F, 7 a.m.-9 p.m.
863.6300 or 800.474.6300

Underground locating service—call 811

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Wake Electric presents...

Your Home Energy Savings Check List

Before making these changes, please contact one of the energy experts at your local electric cooperative

Attic Check List

- Make sure soffit vents are not blocked with insulation.
- Bath, stove and dryer vents should vent to the outdoors, not into the attic.
- If joists in your attic are visible, you need more insulation.
- Insulation depth should be 10-12 inches of batt or 13-17 inches of blown-in.
- If light is visible from the living area below, you need to seal air leaks and add insulation.
- Insulate and weather-strip the attic access.
- Minimize the amount of flooring placed over attic insulation.
- Avoid storing boxes over your insulation.

Living Quarters Check List

- Set thermostat on 78 or higher in summer and 68 or lower in winter. For every degree below 78 in summer, or above 68 in winter energy costs could increase by 3%.
- Check for air leaks around windows and doors.
- Replace cracked caulking.
- Replace single pane windows with double pane.
- Avoid covering air vents and return registers with plants, furniture and rugs.
- Fill holes around pipes under the sink with caulk or other sealant.
- Repair leaky faucets.
- Buy energy-efficient appliances. Look for the EnergyStar label that compares energy use among similar products.
- Close the refrigerator door on a dollar bill. If it slides easily, clean or replace the gasket (cool air is escaping).
- Dust refrigerator coils.
- Install gaskets behind switch plates on exterior walls to keep the cold air out.
- Wash dishes and clothes only when you have a full load.
- Keep drains and filters clean so that your dishwasher, washer and dryer can work efficiently.
- Use microwave or small appliances (they use less energy than big ones).
- Use flow restrictors on shower heads.
- Use insulating shades and window coverings to reduce heat loss and gain.
- Use ceiling fans. In summer raise your thermostat up 2-4 degrees when fans are in use. Turn fans off when you leave the room.
- Install compact fluorescent bulbs (they can reduce lighting energy expenses by 75%).

- Use a programmable thermostat if you are routinely away from home during the day. It will automatically adjust before you return.
- Close fireplace damper when not in use.
- Have a professional energy auditor inspect your home. Consider having a blower door test performed to quantify and target your home's air losses.

Outdoors Check List

- Don't let debris or shrubbery hamper air flow around your outdoor heat pump unit.
- Clothes dryer should vent at least 2 feet away from outdoor heating and cooling components.
- Efficient exterior doors are insulated or solid.
- Place weather-stripping around your doors.

Basement or Crawl Space Check List

- Insulate ceiling of the basement or crawl space with R-11 batts. Insulation vapor barrier (brown paper side) should be toward the living space.
- Straighten crimped duct work.*
- Seal duct leaks with mastic adhesive paste.
- Insulate duct work with R-4 to R-6 batt insulation.
- Call HVAC contractor for an overall inspection of heating and cooling system.*
- Change air filters monthly.
- Repair pipe leaks.*
- Insulate exposed hot water pipes.
- Cover dirt floor of a crawl space with continuous vapor barrier.

Water Heater Check List

- Install water heater blanket around electric water heater.
- Set water heater temperature to 120 or "medium."^{**}
- Place a timer on your water heater to heat water for the times you use it.

*Professional assistance may be required.

For more energy savings tips visit www.esta-energy.gov

Give Us an A winners

Four times during the academic year, Wake Electric draws 40 report cards from among entries in the "Give Us an A" contest to receive a \$50 U.S. savings bond.

To enter, students should include:

- A copy of the report card
- Parents' or guardians' names (if applicable)
- Home address
- E-mail address that is checked regularly
- School
- Telephone Number

Students in any grade in Durham, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Nash, Vance and Wake counties may apply. Funding for scholarships is made possible by Wake Electric's member-consumers through the Operation RoundUp Program.

For more information on upcoming Give Us an A deadlines and how to enter, visit www.wemc.com.

The June 2008 winners are:

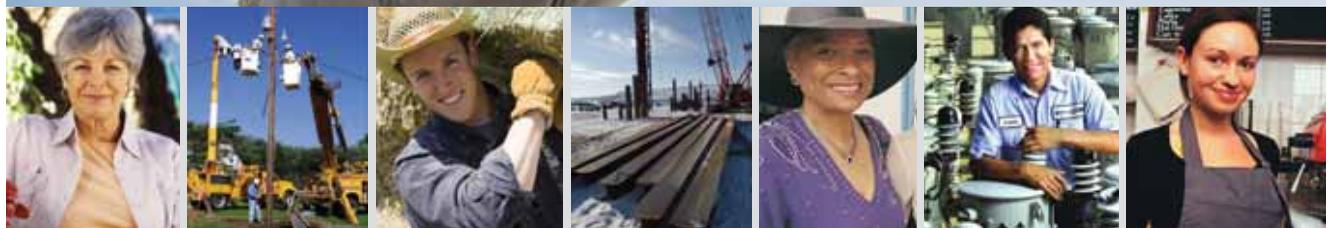
- Jared, Amos, Royal Elementary
- Zachary, Barrows, Youngsville Elementary
- Mark, Bishop, Mount Energy Elementary
- Zachary, Burney, Wilton Elementary
- Jessica, Burney, Wilton Elementary
- Ricardo Lozano, Chavez, Wakefield Middle

- School
- Rachel , Cole, North Raleigh Christian Academy
- Laci, Davidson, Stovall-Shaw Elementary
- Giulia, Deem, Heritage Middle
- Kaylyn , Doherty, Wake Forest-Rolesville High
- Shannon, Edmonson, Victory Christian School
- John Mackenzie, Garner , Archer Lodge Middle School
- Grant, Goethe, Wakefield High
- James, Hamil, Royal Elementary
- Katharine, Harris, Franklin Academy
- Zachary, Harris, Franklin Academy
- Joseph, Hart, S. Granville HS of Bus/Global
- Matthew, Hill, Franklinton High
- Shannon, Jent, Zebulon GT Magnet Middle School
- Hannah, Kienow, Franklinton High
- Arianne, Lamont, Louisburg Elementary
- Kristin , Lawrence, Henderson Middle School
- Shane, Majercik, Gorman Christian Academy
- Erika, McCool, Baileywick Elementary
- James Henry, Moore, South Smithfield Elementary
- Lionel, Morgan, Cedar Creek Middle
- Emily, Myrick, Wake Forest-Rolesville High
- Nearra, Nazario, Royal Elementary
- Michael, Overby, Louisburg Elementary
- Samantha, Pendergraft, Wake Forest-Rolesville High
- Bret, Pienkosz, Mary Potter Intermediate
- Anna, Schulz, Franklin Academy
- Jessica, Scott, Micro-Pine Level
- Olivia, Shaut, Franklin Academy
- Joseph, Shepard, Smithfield Middle School

- Sarah, Sticklin, Heritage Middle
- Jovanhy, Trejo, Granville Elementary
- Michaela, Wall, Mount Energy Elementary
- Nancy, Wheeler , North Raleigh Christian Academy
- Jordan James, Whitaker, Rejoice Academy



Our Energy, Our Future
A Dialogue With America



Let's Start the Conversation with Our Elected Officials...

Ask Tough Questions. Demand Straight Answers.

www.ourenergy.coop