



Connection

Communicating local energy news to Four County Electric members

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

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Four County
Connection

Bright Ideas Grants Energize Learning in Local Classrooms



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Ron Warren, East Bladen High School's visual arts teacher, and class were surprised with a Bright Ideas grant from Four County EMC's Gay Johnson for his winning project "Pendulum Design Painting."

Get the Scoop

Winter Energy Tip



Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.

Four County EMC recently awarded 14 grants totaling \$18,500 to local teachers to fund innovative classroom projects.

These grants will benefit more than 2,800 students at schools in Bladen, Duplin, Pender and Sampson counties. Our prize patrol made the rounds this fall, surprising grant recipients with the news that their proposals were selected for funding.

"Every year, Bright Ideas grants help bring creative learning to life

in classrooms throughout our community," said Gay Johnson, director of Corporate Communications of Four County EMC. "We're pleased to provide funding for innovative projects that support the creativity of our educators and engage our students in new ways of learning."

Since the Bright Ideas grant program began in 1994, Four County EMC has contributed more than \$435,500 to local educators, and more than \$11.5 million has been awarded by North Carolina's 26 electric cooperatives to Tar Heel teachers statewide. The program has

reached 2.2 million students across the state and sponsored 11,000 projects in all subjects including math, reading, science and technology, history, music and the arts.

Bright Ideas grant applications can be submitted each year from April through September, and grant winners are selected by a panel of judges through a competitive evaluation process.

For more information about the Bright Ideas grant program, visit fourcty.org or ncbrightideas.com.

See page 24 for the list of winners.

Make 2019 a Year of Energy Efficiency

This year, resolve to be more energy efficient by making simple changes each month. Follow this guide to save energy and money throughout 2019.

Home Energy Audits.

Kick off the year with a home energy audit. Our energy experts can give you guidance on ways to make your home more energy and cost efficient.

JAN

Free energy services.

We offer services like high usage alerts that help you track and manage your energy use so you can make small changes that add up to bigger savings.

FEB

Air conditioning tune up.

A professional should service your air conditioning system once a year when the weather starts to warm up to maintain peak performance.

MAR

Outdoor HVAC unit clean up.

Trim bushes and shrubs to allow at least two feet of clearance around your HVAC unit and keep leaves and debris from accumulating to maintain proper airflow.

APR

Air filter stock up.

Replace your air filters every 1 to 3 months to make sure your HVAC system performs properly. If you keep a few extra filters on hand, it's easier to change them when needed.

MAY

Smart thermostats.

Get smart about your thermostat and consider investing in a self-learning one like Nest and Ecobee that automatically adjusts your temperature settings to fit your daily life. This can help you save energy and money when you're away during the day, asleep or on vacation.

JUN

Power strips.

Your appliances and devices may be turned off, but they still use a small amount of power—known as phantom energy—when plugged in. You can save by installing a power strip that allows you to turn off all these items in a single switch.

JUL

LED light bulbs.

Switching to LED bulbs is one of the easiest ways to increase energy efficiency in your home. ENERGY STAR-qualified LEDs use 75 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Also, LEDs don't emit heat, which is an added plus during the dog days of summer.

AUG

Heating system tune up.

Just like your air conditioning, your heating system should be serviced once a year as the weather gets cooler to keep it at optimal performance.

SEP

Light timers.

As the sun sets earlier, consider installing a timer so lights come on as needed rather than leaving them on all day.

OCT

Caulking and weather stripping.

Seal up any cracks and gaps around windows and doors to help keep cold air out and warm air in.

NOV

Energy efficient holiday lights.

LED light strands are 70 percent more efficient and last 10 times longer than traditional incandescent lights. They are also cooler to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.

DEC



Apply for a Touchstone Energy Sports Camp Scholarship and Attend Basketball Camp for Free!

Middle schoolers, if you love basketball and want to gain experience training alongside real college basketball players and coaches, we have great news for you!

Four County EMC is now accepting applications for full scholarships to renowned basketball camps at two North Carolina universities this summer. Young men can apply for a scholarship to attend the Roy Williams Basketball Camp at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and young women can apply for a spot at the Wolfpack Women's Basketball Camp held at NC State University in Raleigh.



To apply, you must be a rising sixth, seventh or eighth grade student at a qualifying school. Applicants will be judged on their academics, extracurricular activities and an essay. The application period begins on January 1 and applications must be postmarked by March 31. To learn more or to download an application, visit fourcty.org or ncelectriccooperatives.com/community.

Offices Closed



Four County EMC offices will be closed on Thursday, January 17, 2019, for employee training. Service personnel will be on call and available for emergencies. If you have an emergency, simply call toll free 1-888-368-7289 or your local Four County EMC office.

Burgaw910-259-2361

Elizabethtown.....910-862-3551

Rose Hill910-289-4534

In addition, payment and account information is available online at fourcty.org, at a community kiosk and on Four County's mobile app. We sincerely hope this will cause you little inconvenience, and we thank you in advance for your understanding. This training day is to assist us in providing the quality of service you deserve. All offices will reopen at 8 a.m. on Friday, January 18.

meet your employees...

Each month, one employee will be featured in these pages in an effort to introduce the employees of Four County EMC to you. The January employee is Stacy Hadden.

Stacy, consumer accounting supervisor in the Burgaw Office, has served Four County EMC members for 10 years. She has been involved in the industry for 23 years. Stacy works hard to ensure our Billing and Meter System is working and functioning properly.

Stacy, along with other members of our Four County team, are always available to assure our members are

receiving the best quality service possible.

"I love working at Four County, it always feels like a family atmosphere. We all work together to do the best for our members," says Stacy.

In her spare time, Stacy enjoys spending time at the beach. Stacy is also involved in sports activities at her son's school.



Stacy Hadden, Consumer Accounting Supervisor

Winning Recipe

from the editor

- 2 c. sugar
- 2 c. flour
- 1 stick margarine or butter
- ¼ c. oil
- ¼ c. cocoa
- ¾ c. buttermilk
- ¼ c. water
- 2 eggs beaten
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 t. baking soda
- ½ c. buttermilk

Mix together flour and sugar, set aside in mixing bowl.

In a saucepan, bring butter, oil, cocoa, ¾ cup buttermilk and water to a boil. Remove from heat and combine with sugar and flour mixture. Stir in eggs, vanilla, baking soda and ½ cup buttermilk. Mix well.

Pour into a greased 18" x 12" x 2" pan. Bake at 400 degrees for 18-20 minutes.

Texas Cake



Icing

- 1 stick margarine or butter
- ½ c. cocoa
- ½ c. buttermilk
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 box confectioners' sugar
- pecans (optional)

In a saucepan, melt butter; add cocoa, buttermilk and vanilla, bring to a boil. Remove from heat. Add one box of confectioners' sugar and nuts if desired. Spread on cake as soon as it comes out of the oven.

Four County Connection

Gay Johnson, Editor

Published monthly by Four County Electric Membership Corporation, P.O. Box 667, Burgaw, NC 28425, as a service to our members like:



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Four County EMC 2018 Bright Ideas Grant Winners

	Teacher	School	Grant Title	Amount
BLADEN	Ron Warren	East Bladen High	Pendulum Design Painting	\$1,950
	Dana Mills	West Bladen High	West Bladen Arboretum	\$2,000
	Sabrina Sasser	Dublin Elementary	Lego Land! STEM Activities Develop Character and Communication Skills in 21st Century Learners	\$1,235
DUPLIN	Britani Becher	Chinquapin Elementary	Force and Motion Fridays	\$1,056
	Rebecca Brown	Chinquapin Elementary	Baffling Lock Quandary	\$741
	Shanique M. Sewer	Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary	Math + Art = STEAM	\$1,891
	Sulnora S. Oluyemi	Wallace Elementary	Mud is Magnificent	\$1,415
	Chris Wirszyła	Cape Fear Elementary	I Screen, You Screen, We All Screen, For Green Screen	\$1,285
PENDER	Elaine Linke	Penderlea	Middle School Microscopes	\$925
	Jared Pinkston	Pender High	Bring Pender County Robotics to Deep Space	\$2,000
	Tara Hulsey	Cape Fear Middle	Nitty Gritty Science	\$840
	Jessica Croson	Heide Trask HS	Digging for Answers	\$714
SAMPSON	Dan Chabot	Union HS	Best in Show	\$2,000
	Caren Long	Union Intermediate	Science is SEW Electrifying!	\$456

Four County Electric

Our Mission

To provide highly reliable electric service, innovative energy solutions and outstanding service to our Members and Communities.

Our Values

- Respect
- Integrity
- Trust
- Teamwork
- Commitment
- Excellence

Our Vision

To be an advocate for our Members by:

- Exceeding members' expectations
- Utilizing well trained, motivated employees
- Achieving excellence
- Operating efficiently
- Maintaining hometown values

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

We believe in the Power of Human Connections

1-888-fourcty (368-7289)
customer@fourcty.org

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