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Time is running out for teachers to apply for grants of up to \$2,000 from Halifax EMC's Bright Ideas education grant program. Educators with creative ideas for hands-on classroom projects must submit their application by Friday, Sept. 23. Interested teachers can find the application, grant-writing tips and more information on the Bright Ideas grant website at www.ncbrightideas.com.

Since 1994, the Bright Ideas education grant program has provided more than \$10.2 million for 9,800 projects benefitting more than 2 million students across North Carolina. We are committed to local communities, and we believe there's no better way to contribute than by investing in the education of our youth.

Halifax EMC and North Carolina's electric cooperatives collectively have allocated close to \$600,000 to give to educators across the state during the 2016-2017 school year.

The grants will be awarded in November for projects in all grade levels and all disciplines, including math, science, art, language, English and history. Last year, Halifax EMC awarded more than \$7,500 to fund 11 illuminating classroom projects.

The Bright Ideas grant application requires an outline of the proposed project, a detailed budget and a description of the benefit to students. Applicants are encouraged to highlight the innovative, creative elements of the project and to proofread carefully. Teachers, submit your application by September 23!



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Business Hours

8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Locations

Enfield/Macon: (252) 445-5111

www.halifaxemc.com

Tell Us...

Halifax EMC is your electric cooperative. Your comments and questions are very important to us. Please tell us how we may improve our service. Return your comments/questions along with your payment, or e-mail them to bamartin@halifaxemc.com. Specific account questions will be answered personally. Remember to include your account number for these types of questions.



Electric Lines

“Determining if power lines should be overhead or underground boils down to what is best for the situation.”

by Charles H. Guerry, P.E.

Executive Vice President & General Manager

There are two methods of installing the power lines that carry electricity to your home, overhead and underground. Halifax EMC members sometimes ask why we use one versus the other, or more to the point, why all power lines are not installed using the underground construction method. Isn't one method better than the other? These are great questions, and the answer is that each method has its place.

Overhead line construction starts with the setting of utility poles. Poles can be set in nearly any type of terrain, even rocky. In the case of heavy rock, special equipment is used to auger out the hole. If placement occurs in boggy or wet terrain, many techniques are available to set poles securely. Once the poles are in place, wires can be strung and then equipment—like transformers, fuses and reclosers—are installed. Power can now flow.

Underground line construction requires digging a trench that is deep enough to keep the lines well away from surface activities. Where the terrain is extremely rocky, underground lines may not be an option. Next, wires are laid in the trench directly or placed in conduits for protection. The trench

is filled in, and the surface is restored to its original condition. Padmount transformers and additional equipment are installed as needed, now the system is ready to deliver electricity.

Let's take a look at some of the advantages and disadvantages of each construction method, beginning with overhead.

Overhead construction**Pros:**

- Lower cost, quicker construction, easier to spot damage and faults, less expensive to repair and upgrade, can be built anywhere, any voltage can be placed overhead.

Cons:

- Susceptible to wind, ice and snow; more vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right of way trimming; vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines; susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions; less attractive.

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Underground construction

Pros:

- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches; reduced right of way trimming required; less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions; not impacted by wind, ice and snow; less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines.

Cons:

- Significantly more expensive to build; susceptible to flooding; difficult to locate faults; expensive to repair; fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages and interruptions; limitations on voltages that can be buried underground; can be vulnerable to dig-ins.

Determining if power lines should be overhead or underground boils down to what is best

for the situation. Underground lines might be ideal in situations where there is a desire to keep the poles and wires out of sight, such as a residential neighborhood, park or historical area. There are many cities and towns that construct only underground lines for a variety of reasons.

Overhead systems work well when appearance is not a major concern. Examples include extremely long line distances across country, where the voltages are higher than the limitations set for underground lines.

The ultimate mix of underground and overhead construction used by Halifax EMC provides you, our members, with the highest possible quality of service at the lowest possible price. Cost, appearance, reliability, maintenance and future upgrades will drive which is the better approach, overhead or underground.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider insulating your water heater tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 4 to 9 percent in water heating costs. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$20.

Source: energy.gov

Holiday Closing

Halifax EMC's offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5, for Labor Day.

Co-op takes part in 'Touch-a-Truck'

Halifax EMC recently participated in the Halifax Touch-a-Truck organized by Ross McKinney and Halifax County Sheriff Wes Tripp. The free event was held at the Roanoke Rapids Theatre parking lot.

Kids were able to climb in, climb on, push buttons, pull on air horns and turn on lights and whistles. Little ones who visited HEMC's digger truck also got to try on some of the equipment that the linemen wear for safety.

Butch Vogel, HEMC Senior Lineman, was on hand to answer all of the kids' (and parents') questions about the digger truck as well as pass out Frisbees.

Event organizers asked that attendees bring non-perishable food items to restock the food pantry at the sheriff's office. Sheriff Tripp was pleased with the turnout and grateful for the donations for the food pantry.



Volunteers in Action Educational Opportunity Scholarship



Shontanique Johnson of Enfield was awarded a \$500 Educational Opportunity Scholarship by the HEMC Volunteers in

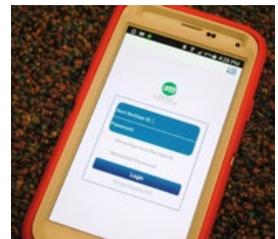
Action.

Shontanique is a graduate of Northwest Halifax High School and is attending Fayetteville State University. She plans to pursue Elementary Education.

There's an App for That!

Did you know HEMC has a mobile app? That's right; you can search for "halifaxemc" on your Apple

or Android powered phone, download the HEMC Mobile app, and log in using your account number. View your kWh usage, pay your bill, and set up alerts and reminders.



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