



Along the LINE

APRIL 2025

For members of
Edgecombe-Martin County EMC

Seth Hartley Selected for the 2025 Electric Youth Tour

Seth Hartley of Greenville has been selected by Edgecombe-Martin County EMC as the winner of the 2025 Electric Youth Tour Contest.

Seth will attend this year's event in Washington, D.C., in June. The Washington Youth Tour is a program offered by electric cooperatives nationwide to high school juniors from their co-op membership. Each year, the winner is selected through an essay contest, where applicants choose one of five available topics to write about.

The Youth Tour gives high school students the opportunity to network with more than a thousand students from across the country. Participants will join together in our nation's capital to see the legislative process in action. Students will also learn about electric cooperatives and the vital role they play in their communities.

Seth is the son of Ginny and Tallinn Hartley of Pitt County. He is actively involved in his community, enjoys playing soccer, building robotic models, 3D printing, cooking, reading, and working in the yard.

"I'm excited about joining the Youth Tour because of the opportunities it presents and the valuable life experiences it offers," Seth said. "Exploring Washington, D.C., will provide me with exposure to the capital and opportunities that are unique and unmatched."

Congratulations to Seth on this exciting achievement!



Holiday Closing

Edgecombe-Martin County EMC will be closed on Friday, April 18 in observance of Good Friday. After-hours and holiday payments can be made using the following options:

- Kiosk under the drive-thru canopy
- Calling our automated telephone service at 1-844-967-2463
- Placed in the night deposit box
- Online bill-pay by logging on to ememc.com

Teachers, Apply Now for Your Bright Ideas Grant

Exciting news for local educators! Edgecombe-Martin County EMC is once again launching the Bright Ideas Education Grant program, opening the application window on April 1 for the 2025-26 school year.

As part of our commitment to the communities we serve, Bright Ideas grants help bring innovative classroom projects to life. These grants give teachers the opportunity to introduce new learning experiences, engage students in creative ways, and make a lasting impact in their schools. Supporting education means investing in the future, and we are proud to be part of that effort.

K-12 educators across all subjects are encouraged to apply, whether individually or as part of a team. The simple online application process is open from April 1 through Sept. 15, with an early bird incentive—teachers who apply by Aug 15 will be entered into a drawing for one of five \$100 Visa gift cards!

If you have a unique idea that will energize your classroom and inspire your students, visit ncbrightideas.com for details and to submit your application. Don't miss this chance to bring your vision to life!



2024-25 Bright Ideas winner Ashley Davis from Edgecombe Early College with principal Matt Smith and Edgecombe-Martin County EMC representatives Monica Speight and Winston Howell

Honoring Our Line Technicians on April 14

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, we rely on a dedicated team of employees across all departments to keep operations running smoothly. Among them, our line technicians stand out as the ones working on the front lines—literally—keeping the power flowing to homes and businesses.

Line Technician Appreciation Day, observed on April 14, is an opportunity to recognize these hardworking professionals who brave tough conditions to ensure reliable electricity for our members. Whether it's responding to power outages after a storm, maintaining the electric grid, or upgrading infrastructure, their job is critical and often performed in extreme weather, high above the ground, and around the clock.

Restoring power isn't as simple as flipping a switch. Line technicians work with high-voltage electricity, troubleshoot complex issues, and navigate obstacles like fallen trees or damaged equipment—all while following rigorous safety protocols. Their expertise and dedication don't just serve our local community; they also travel across the state and beyond to assist other cooperatives in times of need, demonstrating the cooperative principle of Cooperation Among Cooperatives.



While every employee at Edgecombe-Martin County EMC plays a role in delivering reliable service, today, we give a special salute to our line technicians. Their hard work, resilience, and commitment to safety keep the lights on for all of us. Next time you see a line technician at work, take a moment to appreciate the skill and dedication it takes to power our daily lives!

Advocating for Our Members: Co-op Leaders Engage with Legislators in Raleigh and Washington, D.C.

At Edgecombe-Martin County EMC, our top priority is serving our members with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. That's why we actively engage with policymakers at both the state and national levels to advocate for policies that support our mission.

Last month, we joined representatives from all 26 of North Carolina's electric cooperatives at the annual Rally in Raleigh, where we met with state senators and representatives. These conversations focused on key issues impacting our members, including energy reliability, affordability, and innovative solutions for the future.

Our advocacy efforts don't stop at the state level. Later this month, we will travel to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Legislative Conference. This annual event brings together co-op leaders from across the country to meet with congressional representatives and discuss legislative issues affecting electric cooperatives and the communities we serve. By engaging directly with federal lawmakers, we ensure that our members' needs and concerns remain a priority in national energy policy decisions.

With the election behind us and a new administration in place, we are closely monitoring executive orders that could impact our industry. It's crucial to stay engaged with the latest policy developments that may shape the future of the energy sector. As we work through this transition, we continue advocating for policies that support our mission of providing affordable and reliable electricity.

As the energy industry evolves, maintaining a diverse and balanced energy mix is essential for ensuring grid reliability. The premature retirement of critical generation sources can have serious consequences, potentially leading to instability and higher costs for consumers. As we transition toward new energy solutions, it's vital to strike the right balance—embracing innovation while preserving the reliability and affordability that our communities depend on. Policymakers, industry leaders,

and stakeholders must work together to integrate new baseload and peaking generation effectively while ensuring the power grid remains strong and secure.

Electric cooperatives are already implementing innovative energy solutions—such as microgrids and energy storage projects—but these efforts must be supported by policies that prioritize reliability and affordability. By working with lawmakers, we are making sure that the voices of our members are heard as decisions are made about our energy future.

By building strong relationships with legislators, we position Edgecombe-Martin County EMC as a trusted resource, ensuring that the best interests of our members remain at the forefront of policy decisions. Whether in Raleigh or Washington, we will continue advocating for policies that promote innovation while keeping reliability, affordability, and sustainability as guiding principles in our service to you.

Winston Howell

Winston Howell



Statement of Non-discrimination

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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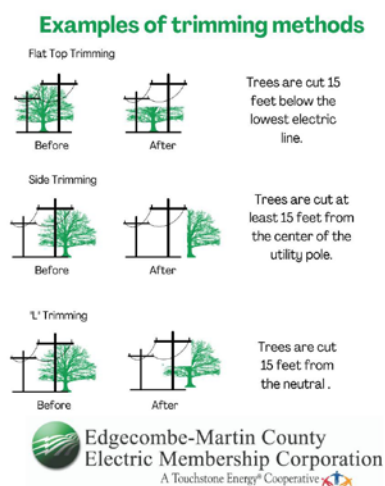
addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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April Rights-of-Way

In order to provide safe, affordable, and reliable electrical service, we maintain the rights-of-way under and around our power lines. Maintaining these rights-of-way is critical to prevent vegetation from interrupting service. Our vegetation management efforts include pruning, brush cutting, and removing trees and other growth that could pose a risk to the system. These proactive measures help us minimize outages and improve overall reliability for our members.

Throughout April, Burford's Tree will utilize the sky trim, buckets and bushhogging equipment, in the Princeville area, Highway 111, Roberson school road, and various hotspots on the system.



Along The LINE

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