

Combine Autopay and Budget Billing for Added Convenience

Combining our Budget Billing and AutoPay programs is a convenient way for members to simplify their monthly electric service payments.

Our Budget Billing program is designed to avoid large fluctuations on your monthly bill, often seen with winter and summer electricity use. Each month a new bill is calculated based on the average of the recent 12 months of use, so you can expect to see a small variance from month to month. Qualifying members may sign up at any time throughout the year. To qualify, you must have a zero balance, be at the service location for at least 12 months, and have an acceptable payment history.

For added convenience, we recommend participating in AutoPay. The cooperative will automatically charge your credit card or draft your bank account for the calculated budget amount for your monthly electric bill. Save time and money when you pair Budget Billing and AutoPay together.

There are no sign-up fees associated with AutoPay or Budget Billing.

For more information or to sign up, visit anec.com or call to speak with one of the cooperative's member service representatives at 757-787-9750, option 3.

CONTACT US

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Tasley, VA 23441-0290

Phone
757-787-9750

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855-386-9921

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anec.com

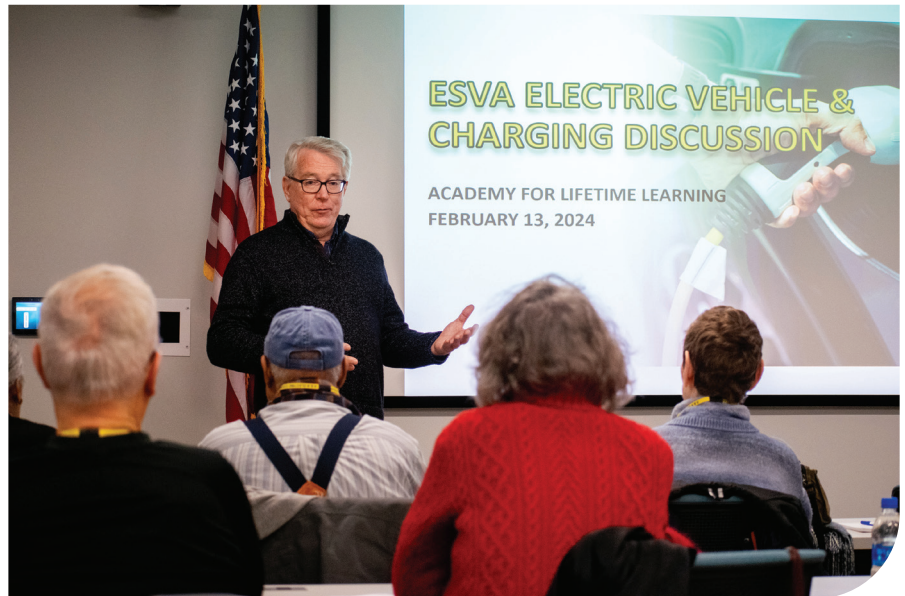


Office Hours
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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Butch Williamson

Local Pages Editor
Jay Diem

*A&N Electric Cooperative is an
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*



Co-op Hosts EV Class for Academy for Lifetime Learning

A&N Electric Cooperative hosted a course for the Eastern Shore Academy for Lifetime Learning recently. The two-hour class covered different types of electric vehicles (hybrid, plug-in hybrid and battery electric vehicles) and the different types of electric vehicle chargers for residential and commercial use.

About a dozen students attended the EV and chargers course.

Leo Radkowski, the cooperative's projects manager, explained the types of electric vehicles and the components that differentiate them.

Radkowski explained the different types of EV chargers and at what rates each charges an electric vehicle's battery.

Radkowski's presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session and vehicle-specific presentations on the three different types of EVs.

The Academy for Lifetime Learning is an all-volunteer organization of individuals who share their interests and life experiences to provide a rich and varied menu of courses, according to the group's website.

Members come from a variety of backgrounds, but all share a common interest in continued learning experiences. Many take an active role in preparing and delivering the courses presented each semester; anyone with special knowledge or interest is encouraged to share that passion with other members in a classroom setting.

More information about the Academy for Lifetime Learning can be found at allesva.org.





Whatever It Takes: Powering Life

Lineworkers are ranked as having one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country. The lineworkers at A&N Electric Cooperative work rain or shine, in often challenging conditions to ensure you have reliable electricity. We're celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 8, 2024.

THE DANGER

A lot of people know linework is dangerous because lineworkers work near high-voltage electricity. Move just the wrong way or lose focus for a split second, and it could be deadly. You have to be aware of your surroundings and the safety of the person next to you. Lineworkers often work on energized power lines, and you can't always tell they are energized by just looking at them. You're working with an element of danger that requires concentration, and there is no margin for error. The environment compounds the pressure, because when you need power most is usually when the weather is worst. They often work in storms with rain, wind, extreme heat and cold, in the dark, or on the side of the road next to fast-moving traffic. Yes, it's dangerous, but that's what they're trained to do.

Many may not realize it, but lineworkers undergo years of training before they can officially be called a lineworker. They typically start as a groundperson, helping crews with tools and keeping job sites safe, then they transition to apprentice status, which typically spans four years. After an apprenticeship, with more than 7,000 hours of training under their belts, they transition to journeyman lineworker status — that's when they're considered officially trained in their field.

But the education is ongoing. Lineworkers continuously receive training to stay mindful of safety requirements and up to date on the latest equipment and procedures.

THE PHYSICAL DEMAND

The daily expectations of a lineworker are physically demanding, but you won't hear any of them complain about that. They know what they signed up for — loading heavy materials, climbing poles and in and out of buckets. A lot of times, they go places the trucks can't, so a lineworker might be hiking through the woods loaded down with 40 pounds of personal protective equipment. But that's the job. Most of them are just glad to be outside.

THE SACRIFICES

There are some sacrifices to being a lineworker. They're often first on the scene of an emergency, seeing things that are devastating like car accidents, structure fires and damage from severe storms. You don't know what type of situation you're going to face or when you're going to face it. They get calls at all hours, even in the middle of the night. Many miss plenty of their children's games and family dinners, but family is very supportive, and it pays off in the end. Lineworkers make sure there is nothing standing in the way of helping friends and neighbors get back to normal life.

IT'S WORTH IT

One thing that makes this job worthwhile is the camaraderie. In this work, you have to depend on the person beside you in life-or-death circumstances. It's a culture of trust, teamwork and service. It's all about keeping the teammate beside you safe and the lights on for everybody else.

A&N Electric Cooperative and its employees are members of this community. We live in the same neighborhoods. We shop at the same stores. Our kids go to the same schools. If your lights are off, there is a good chance ours are off, too. So, you can trust that we are doing our best to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible — so you can get back to normal life.

To the Top!

Training Stages for Electric Lineworkers

Known for their strength and agility, lineworkers are dedicated to ensuring our communities have reliable power. Safety is always top priority on the job, which is why lineworkers spend thousands of hours training as they advance their skills.

Here's a look at the career progression of a lineworker.

Crew Leader

A crew leader is an advanced position that requires supervising lineworkers on job sites, coordinating with contractors, and directing daily activities for crews.



Journeyman Lineworker

Post-apprenticeship and with roughly 7,000+ hours of training under the belt, journeyman lineworkers are fully trained in their field. They repair, update and install overhead and underground power lines, as well as other electrical equipment.



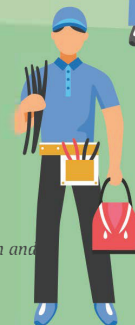
Apprentice Lineworker

Before reaching lineworker status, they are required to work as an apprentice. Apprentice lineworkers earn competitive wages while receiving hands-on training and experience in the field. They typically spend four years in their apprenticeship.



Groundperson/Linehelper

Many lineworkers begin their career as a groundperson, or linehelper. They assist line crews with tools, keeping job sites safe and operating smaller equipment.



Regardless of stage, all lineworkers continue education and training throughout their career. Training and testing requirements vary from utility to utility.



Lighting the Way Establishes New Trade School Scholarship

Lighting the Way has established a new scholarship opportunity for local students who are or would like to pursue a higher trade school education. The cooperative's employee nonprofit is promoting a single \$1,000 scholarship for an Accomack or Northampton County student.

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be a future or current student enrolled in a trade school and have resided in either Accomack or Northampton County for at least one year.

Examples of trades include, but are not limited to, lineworker, information technology, cybersecurity, construction, electrician, carpenter, plumber, mechanic.

The application deadline for the 2024-2025 Trade Scholarship is May 3, 2024.

The application form can be found online at anec.com/form/lighting-the-way-scholarship-app.

Energy-Efficiency Tip of the Month

A well-designed landscape can add beauty to your home and reduce home heating and cooling costs. Plant deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns to the south of your home to block sunlight in the summer and reduce the need for air conditioning. Deciduous trees lose their leaves in the winter, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Plant evergreen trees and shrubs with low crowns to block winter winds. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest are the most common type of windbreak and can help lower energy used for home heating.

Source: energy.gov



Director Election 2024

A&N Electric Cooperative directors are elected from the membership to represent you on the board. A public notice for nominations was published in the March 2024 edition of *Cooperative Living* magazine; the deadline for nominations is April 26, 2024.

An independent nominating committee, representing the areas to elect directors, has been appointed and will select the slate of candidates to be placed on the ballot at the cooperative's annual meeting. This year's Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet on May 9, 2024.

Should you have a recommendation, you can submit your request in writing to the Nominating Committee prior to April 26, 2024, by sending a letter to the address listed below:

Nominating Committee
A&N Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 290
Tasley, VA 23441

Nominating Committee members may not be an existing, or a close relative of an existing, cooperative director, officer, employee, agent, representatives or known director candidate.

Nominating Committee Members

District 1

- John N. Howard
- Ronald Wolff

District 2

- Bruce Freeman
- Durbin Roache
- Michelle Marsh

District 3

- Bill Sterling Jr.
- Richard Dryden

District 4

- Jaqueline Davis
- H. Bruce Richardson Jr.

Per the cooperative's bylaws, no nominations shall be made from the floor at the Annual Member Meeting. Please visit anec.com for the complete version of A&N Electric Cooperative's bylaws.

APPLICATION

Anyone interested in running for a seat on the cooperative board of directors must request a Director Election Packet. The packet has a Director Application that must be completed and returned to the cooperative prior to the April 26 deadline. The packet also contains information regarding director elections and establishes a timeline for the process. The Director Application is used by the cooperative's independent Credentials and Election Committee to determine if a candidate is eligible to run for a seat on the board. To request a Director Election Packet, please email elections@anec.com.



Spring Has Sprung

Keep an eye out for pad-mounted transformers

by Virgil Wessells | Operations Supervisor

Spring is officially here. With the weather starting to warm we start to see an uptick in outdoor activity. Folks will start getting their boats ready for the water, do-it-yourself landscaping is gearing up, and lawn mowers will soon be making passes through yards until the end of the cutting season in late fall.

We see it each year. The increased outdoor activity gives way to an increase in incidental contacts with pad-mounted transformers.

Backing in that boat trailer for the first time in several months? Misjudging how close the lawn mower passes by? These situations get reported to us each year. And they should.

A pad-mounted transformer is essential to supplying electricity to homes and neighborhoods through underground distribution lines. They are designed to safely house all the high-voltage equipment inside the green cabinet. But, if they are struck by a vehicle and are shifted on the pad, they could become a potential safety hazard.

If you notice that a pad-mounted transformer has been shifted on its pad, please notify us at the cooperative immediately. We will come out and determine if the cabinet is safe to move back onto its pad.

Please don't ever try to shift the green cabinet yourself. The impact that originally shifted the transformer has the



potential to break and loosen some electrical components inside, making the cabinet an electric shock hazard.

This brings me to another issue. These pad-mounted transformers are not playground equipment. You should never allow children to play directly on or around them. While they're built to safely deliver electric service to your home, a damaged transformer could be potentially unsafe.

And lastly, for all the do-it-yourself landscapers out there: Don't plant directly in front of or around the pad-mounted transformer. Digging in close proximity can be very hazardous and our lineworkers could need access to the cabinet in the event of an outage or other situation. Keep any plantings at least 4 feet away from the sides and back of the transformer. The front of the transformer should have at least 10 feet of clearance. You should always contact 811 to locate any underground utilities prior to any digging project.

In all these situations it's best to keep a good distance, and don't hesitate to reach out to us if you think there's an issue with any of our equipment.

Virgil Wessells is the cooperative's operations supervisor. He is a certified lineworker with more than 18 years of experience working on the cooperative's distribution system, including on a line construction crew and as an area serviceman.

GenerLink Transfer Switch Offers Safe Generator Installation

A&N Electric Cooperative's goal is to provide safe, reliable service to our members and to the community we serve.

While the cooperative is committed to maintaining a high level of service reliability, outages are inevitable.

With spring and early summer storms approaching, now is a good time to address backup power needs and see if a solution is right for you.

A generator can be a wonderful tool during an outage, but it can also be extremely dangerous. If used incorrectly, a generator can cause serious harm, property damage or even death. To aid in safely connecting a portable generator to their home's electrical system, the cooperative offers a GenerLink emergency transfer switch program for co-op members.

The GenerLink is installed behind the electric meter and does not require rewiring of a member's electrical system. It includes an interlocking power cord for connection of a portable generator.

The device detects when the generator is operating and automatically disconnects from A&N's distribution system, eliminating a dangerous backfeed.

For more information or to sign up for the program, call the cooperative at 757-787-9750, option 3, or log onto anec.com/generlink.

GenerLink
SAFELY & AFFORDABLY POWER YOUR HOME WITH GENERLINK

UL LISTED

Refrigerators/Freezers | Lighting | Well Pumps | Sump Pumps | Security Systems | Garage Door Opener

Annual Seedling Giveaway and Member Appreciation Day Event is April 27

A&N Electric Cooperative will host its annual Arbor Day and Member Appreciation event on Saturday, April 27. The cooperative will be giving away free seedlings and an assortment of shrubs to help celebrate Arbor Day, in addition to a number of demonstrations.

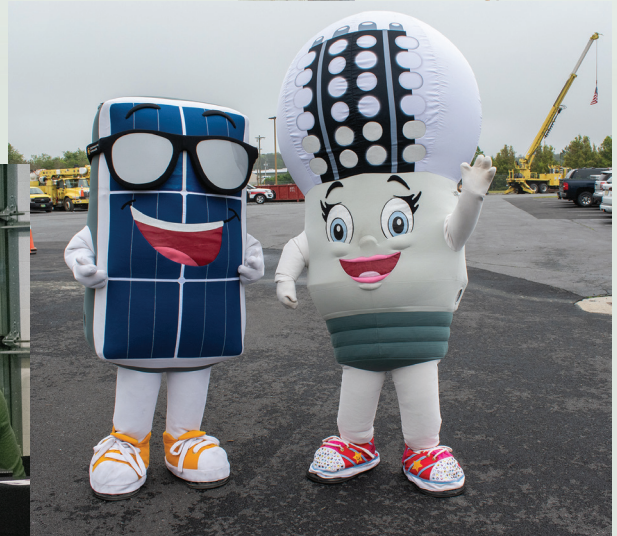
The event will be held at the cooperative's Tasley headquarters.

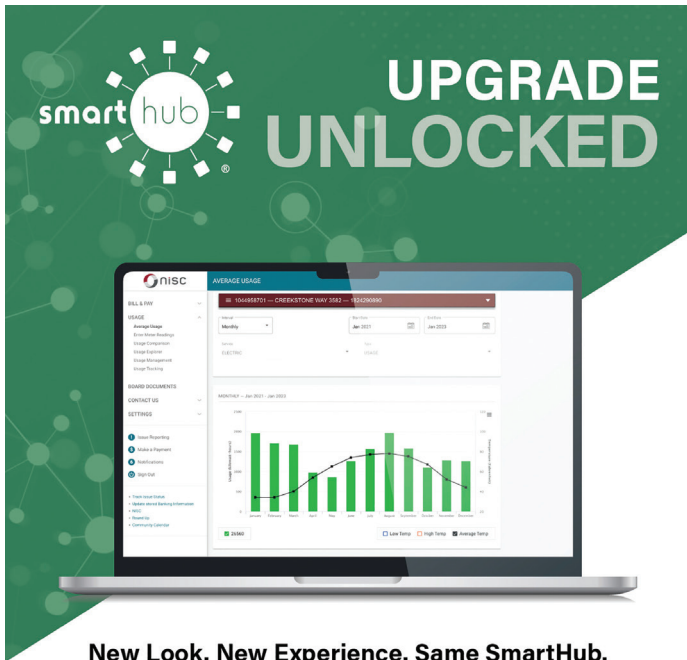
The seedlings will be given away from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., or while supplies last. The first 200 attendees will receive a small gift bag.

Demonstrations and activities will include:

- Hot Line Demo Trailer
- Utility Bucket Photo Booth
- LED Lucy and Solar Sam
- Tree Planting Demo
- Touch-A-Truck
- Food and Refreshments
- And More!

See anec.com and our social media pages for more details and for any announcements on the event.





SmartHub Desktop App Recently Redesigned

In late February we launched a new redesign for SmartHub that will help you manage your accounts quicker and easier.

The redesign only affected the desktop version of SmartHub. The mobile app was not affected.

If you have any questions about the desktop app's redesign, please reach out to us through our "Contact Us" on anec.com or by calling a member services representative at 787-9750, option 3.

New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.

Manage your account like never before with the new, improved SmartHub web application. A simplified yet enhanced design is coming your way soon. This new version of SmartHub puts your usage and payment details front and center for fast, easy access and the simplified menu structure makes navigating the site a breeze. Keep an eye out for more details soon!



OUTAGE NOTIFICATIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH SMARTHUB

A&N Electric Cooperative members have the option to sign up for outage notifications through SmartHub.

The notifications can be through email or text.

The current notifications available to members are that your power is out and that your power has been restored. Members have the option to sign up to receive one or both of the alerts. To begin receiving the notifications, a member will need an existing SmartHub account. Once in the SmartHub menus, you will need to register the phone number (for text alerts) or email address you would like to use to receive the alerts.

Look for "Outage Notifications - SmartHub" under the "Outage Tools" menu item at anec.com for step-by-step instructions for registering a phone number or email address. Contact our member services department with any issues. A member services representative is ready to assist you.

SmartHub also allows cooperative members the ability to report an outage through text. Simply text "OUT" to 855-940-4016.

Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub.



You can now report outages, make payments and receive text updates from one number: **855-940-4016**

SmartHub is the cooperative's free online account portal for smartphone and tablet app. SmartHub offers cooperative members powerful, secure and convenient account information from their computer or mobile device.

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.

Shaping Our Energy Future Through Innovation

The energy industry is undergoing significant change driven by technology and the transition to more sustainable forms of energy. Innovation is essential in addressing these challenges and ensuring a continuous, reliable and affordable power supply.

Electric co-ops are no strangers to adapting to the needs of the local communities we serve. A&N Electric Cooperative has always leaned into change as we explore new ways to meet your energy needs.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

By using advanced equipment like drones that inspect our local grid, sensors that provide real-time data on the condition of power lines, and satellite imagery used to monitor vegetation growth, we can pinpoint potential problems before they even occur and ultimately improve service for all.

Investing in smarter technologies also can enhance the monitoring and control of electricity flow so we can respond swiftly to changing needs. Smart electric meters remotely collect data on how electricity is being used. This helps in promptly prioritizing and dispatching crews during an outage, reducing restoration time during weather-related disruptions. Even before adverse weather is here, advanced analytics from our systems, combined with data on weather patterns and other information, allow us to be proactive in taking preventative measures to shore up our system.

PREPARING FOR INCREASED ENERGY USE

Today, we depend on electricity more than ever before. From vehicles to farming equipment to home heating options, more products and appliances that we depend on run on electricity.

Interest in electric vehicles is growing. The cooperative is available to help our members make informed decisions about EVs, including electric charging options and capacity requirements for the home. Check out anec.com/electric-vehicles to learn more, and contact us with any additional questions you might have.

Automakers are transitioning many or all new vehicles to electric-only models in the next 10 years. A&N Electric Cooperative, like all electric providers, must plan now to have the necessary infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs — without jeopardizing the ability to provide reliable power.

Additionally, we are exploring innovative technologies to help address the increasing demand for electricity.

INNOVATIVE EFFICIENCY SOLUTIONS

The cooperative is driven by a commitment to community and member satisfaction. As consumers become more proactive in managing their energy use, we are providing new ways to help our members lower their use and save money.

Free energy evaluations for a home or business can help you take advantage of actionable energy-saving advice, as well as efficiency services offered by the co-op.

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

You may not realize it, but A&N Electric Cooperative is part of a larger network of 900 electric co-ops nationwide. While we are locally owned by you, the members of the co-op, we also have the advantage of working with co-ops across the country to share ideas and leverage the innovations our colleagues might have tried out first. As cooperatives, we're collaborators instead of competitors — it's a unique aspect of our business model, and we're stronger because of it.

Our energy future will look different than it has in the past, but A&N Electric Cooperative is prepared to adapt for the members we serve. Our mission and commitment to you remain steady — to provide reliable power at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE

The energy industry is changing, but electric co-ops are known for adapting to their local members' needs. As we plan for changes and challenges ahead, innovative solutions are essential.

Here are a few ways we're innovating for the future.

