



Three Local Students Participate in Youth Tour

High schoolers from electric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware returned to Washington, D.C., for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2023 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Three dozen students from the three-state area visited area monuments, museums, met with their elected officials and made lifelong friends with other students from across the country during the event, which ran from June 19 to 23. Arcadia's Devaughn Henry, Nandua's Layla Jones and Eliza Ballon, a homeschool student in Northampton, represented A&N Electric Cooperative for this year's Youth Tour.

The three local students met with this year's delegation from Virginia, Maryland and Delaware who consisted mostly of rising seniors.

Earlier this year, each cooperative selected its representatives for the all-expense-paid trip on the basis of applications, essay contests, interviews and supporting materials.

On June 19, the group participated in icebreakers, toured the Jefferson Memorial and took a river cruise on the Potomac River with other state delegations. The next day included a tour of Arlington National Cemetery, a trip to the National Zoo and a Washington Nationals baseball game.

"The Youth Tour was truly amazing because you got to meet so many different people from all over the country," says Jones. "It was a great opportunity to explore and learn more about our nation's capital."

Mid-week, students toured the Capitol. The local delegation met with Congresswoman Jenn Kiggans and her chief of staff.

Thursday's activities included a tour of the National Mall, the Pentagon 911 Memorial and a theatrical performance of "The Lion King" at the Kennedy Center.

The group finished the week with a tour of nearby Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative.

Each year A&N Electric Cooperative students are selected through an essay contest. A spot on the tour is available to each of the area's high schools and homeschool juniors. For more information on how to be a part of next year's Youth Tour, visit anec.com/youth-tour.

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Power Cost Adjustment Decreased Aug. 1

A&N Electric Cooperative's cost for wholesale power decreased for members on Aug. 1, 2023. Residential co-op members should notice the power cost adjustment is now \$0.00866/kilowatt-hour. For every 1,000 kilowatt-hours of use, residential members will save \$2.63 compared to the most recent power cost adjustment on Jan. 1, 2023. The factor above differs from the amount that was reported in last month's *Cooperative Living* magazine.

While the power cost adjustment decreased, it will remain an overall charge on a co-op member's monthly billing statement.

The power cost adjustment changes periodically to reflect the cooperative's current wholesale power costs, which includes the costs of generating the electricity you use. This is a State Corporation Commission-approved adjustment and is a direct pass-through of actual costs, plus or minus any over- or under-recovery of electricity supply costs during the previous year.



Energy-Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: energy.gov

Ag Fair is Oct. 7



Visit the cooperative during the upcoming Eastern Shore Agricultural Fair on Saturday, Oct. 7.

This family-friendly event is free and open to the public and will take place behind the former Northampton Middle School in Machipongo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The county fair continues the legacy of the Eastern Shore's Agri-Fair, which annually celebrated the Eastern Shore's agricultural industry in the 1970s, '80s and early '90s.

A&N Electric Cooperative will host a scheduled climbing demonstration during the event. The cooperative will have employees on hand to answer questions, show off some of its climbing and safety gear, and will have giveaways. Solar Sam and LED Lucy will also be on hand to greet fairgoers.

The fair will offer farming education for all ages and local vendors will be selling their local goods. The event is organized by the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce.

Visit esvachamber.org/esvaagfair for more information.



Non-Summer Rates Effective Oct. 1

The cooperative's non-summer rates will go into effect on Oct. 1 and will run through the end of May 2024.

These rates are lower than the summer rates co-op members experience beginning in June and running through September. Summer electricity use drives the wholesale cost of electricity.

Recently for A&N Electric Cooperative, the highest peak demands for electricity during the summer have helped determine the cost of electricity year-round. Cooperative members pay more for the electricity they use in the four summer months (June through September), while a lower rate has been established in the eight non-summer months (October through May).

The cooperative's seasonal rates were approved by the Virginia State Corporation Commission in the autumn of 2018.



Co-op Offers Wide Variety of Demonstrations

Education and demonstrations are essential in providing service excellence to the communities and members we serve.

A&N Electric Cooperative offers a wide variety of presentations to schools, civic organizations and at community events. A few examples include:



CAREER DAY

The cooperative has a broad career base that includes linework, engineering, accounting, communications, construction, GIS, member services and more. Multiple career professionals may be available upon request.

HOT LINE DEMONSTRATION

A demonstration trailer with line segments shows potential hazards associated with overhead power lines, tree limb contacts, and fuse operation.

POWERTOWN ELECTRIC SAFETY DEMO

A scale-model neighborhood and agriculture scenes demonstrate potential hazards associated with electricity and electric facilities such as ground transformers, overhead lines and substations.

UTILITY BUCKET PHOTO BOOTH

This demonstration includes a utility bucket and photo backdrop with a discussion of electric safety line gear. It offers a hands-on opportunity to try on a select set of electric safety gear. Photos are encouraged.

To see a complete list of demonstrations or to make a request, log onto anec.com/demonstrations-and-presentations and fill out the web form there. The “Demonstrations and Presentations” page under the “Community” tab on our home page lists the available presentations and offers a brief description of each.

Texting and Webchat Available

The cooperative recently upgraded its phone system to benefit the members we serve.

The upgraded phone system will allow the cooperative to offer a number of features that will benefit our membership as a whole.

TEXTING (GENERAL)

Texting is an option to reach a member services representative regarding any number of topics, excluding outage reporting (see below). Simply text a message to 757-787-9750 (the cooperative’s main number) and the next available member services representative will reply.

TEXTING (OUTAGE)

Reporting an outage through text is now available to co-op members. Simply text OUT to 855-940-4016 to report your outage. The outage text option is in addition to reporting through our SmartHub app or by calling an outage in to our main number. These three options are the only methods that will ensure the outage is properly logged into our outage management system.

WEBCHAT

The new phone system also makes a webchat option available to co-op members. Log on to anec.com and select the “Chat with us. We are online!” box in the lower right of your screen.

This will create a dialog box. Just fill out the necessary information and hit “Chat.”

Just like the text option, the webchat gives members the option to text chat directly with a member services representative.

With our new communication system, multiple forms of communication are funneled into one call queue, which will help streamline all the mediums our co-op members like to use.

General texting and Webchat are available during the cooperative’s regular business hours (7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). Outage texting is available 24/7.

Director Duncan Receives NRECA Board Credentials



Gregory Duncan, right, receives his NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from A&N Electric Cooperative Board Chairman Addison Nottingham Jr.

Gregory L. Duncan recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills, and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model.

A&N Electric Cooperative has a commitment to work through NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative members.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director program requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies continued in five core courses:

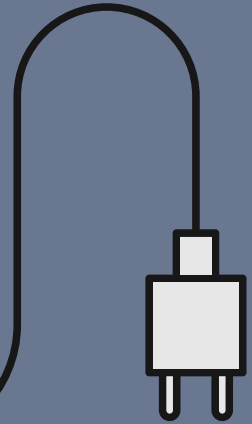
- Director Duties and Liabilities
- Understanding the Electric Business
- Board Operations and Process
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Decision Making

NRECA represents the nation's more than 900 private, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide electric service to more than 42 million people in 47 states.

Don't cut corners when buying and using phone chargers.



*Generic chargers can
cause serious injury!*



Along with a potential burn and fire hazard, using cheaply made charging components and devices can also cause shock and electrocution. They can also cause damage to your phone, tablet or other electronic devices.

When using charging gear, A&N Electric Cooperative recommends the following:

- Do not leave items that are charging unattended.
- Always keep charging items away from flammable objects, especially bedding, and do not take them to bed with you. Tell kids and teens to NEVER place any charging device under their pillow. The heat generated gets trapped, which could cause the pillow or bed to catch fire.
- Do not touch charging electronic devices with wet hands or while standing in water.
- Make sure charging components are certified by a reputable third-party testing laboratory.
- Only buy product-approved chargers and cables (those made or certified by the manufacturer). Using cheaper devices can cause damage to the USB charge chip, which can have a lasting impact on how quickly and effectively your device charges in the future.
- Be on the lookout for fakes or imposters claiming to be brand approved. If the price seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Source: SafeElectricity.org



Co-op Products and Services

GENERLINK

A&N Electric Cooperative's goal is to provide safe, reliable service to its members and to the community we serve. While the cooperative is committed to maintaining a high level of service reliability, outages are inevitable.

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 members in safely connecting a portable generator to their homes' electrical systems, 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. It can be used with compatible generators listed at generlink.com.

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

SURGEASSIST

SurgeAssist is A&N Electric Cooperative's electronics protection program line in its Member Products and Services and helps address failures caused by surges. SurgeAssist covers surge-related issues that affect most home electronics and appliances, including refrigerators, HVAC, well pumps, TVs, microwaves, computers, washers, dryers, stoves and wall ovens.

You are eligible for the program simply by being a member of the cooperative with residential service.

SURGEASSIST PROVIDES

- **Low cost** – SurgeAssist costs about 17 cents a day. (\$4.95 a month)
- **Peace of mind** – Anytime you experience a surge-related situation, we will cover the cost of repair or replacement of the claim, up to the \$2,000 coverage amount.
- **Satisfaction** – We have created SurgeAssist to provide an easy, satisfying resolution for your surge-related issues. If you are not happy with the service, you can discontinue it at any time.

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





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Questions to Consider Before Installing Rooftop Solar

If you decide to install solar panels, finding a licensed, qualified contractor for the job is extremely important.

“Free energy from the sun and lower electric bills ... Where do I sign up?”

The benefits of installing rooftop solar panels may seem like a no-brainer, but the reality is, not every home (and homeowner’s situation) is always right for solar.

There are several factors to consider before pulling the trigger on a rooftop solar system, like determining if your home will receive enough sun to achieve your goals, finding the right contractor, negotiating contracts and other important details.

Investing in solar for your home is a major decision. If you’re considering rooftop solar, A&N Electric Cooperative can help.

Here are eight questions to consider before installing rooftop solar panels.

1. What are my goals? If your primary goal is to save money on electric bills, you may be able to achieve this through our energy audit program, which can identify areas of the home for maximum energy savings. If your main goal is to use renewable energy and help the environment, consider signing up for our community solar program. You can help power renewable energy, without having to invest and maintain a home system.

2. Is my roof suitable for solar? Your roof should be in good condition before installing solar panels. If your roof is old and in poor shape, it may need to be replaced before panels can be mounted. Additionally, your roof should receive a lot of sun to make the most of a rooftop system. Consider how much sun (and shade) the roof receives and if any trees will need to be removed. Solar panels perform best when facing south, so keep this in mind as you think about where the panels will be mounted.

3. How long will I own the home? If you’re considering rooftop solar, you’re likely planning to stay in the home for several years. But if you plan to sell the home at some point down the road, consider that not all potential buyers will want to maintain a rooftop solar system. If you enter a contract to lease the system, carefully review the terms and what those mean if you decide to sell the property.

4. Lease or purchase? Purchasing a rooftop solar system outright is expensive, which is why many homeowners opt to lease their solar panels. However, federal tax credits can help cover some of the costs for a new system, up to 30%.

Regardless of how you decide to finance the solar system, make sure you get several quotes from qualified contractors.

Speaking of contractors, there are several factors you’ll want to discuss with them upfront.

5. Can the contractor provide up-to-date documentation? It may seem obvious, but be sure to request proof and documentation of the contractor’s licensing, permitting and other credentials. Comb through company reviews, check the contractor’s status with Better Business Bureau, etc. — do your homework on the front end before signing a contract.

6. Does the contract seem reasonable and fair? If you decide to hire a contractor to install rooftop solar, carefully read the fine print of the contract. Do the system performance calculations seem realistic? Does the project timeframe sound reasonable? Negotiate the contract terms to fit your goals and needs.


7. Who will maintain the solar panels? Determining who is responsible for maintaining the solar panels will depend on who owns the system. If you lease the system from a solar installer, it may be their responsibility. Periodically, solar panels need to be cleaned as dirt and debris can impact panel productivity. Parts may also need to be replaced, so it’s important to know who will take on these responsibilities.

8. How will I work with A&N Electric Cooperative? Finally, but equally important, you should contact the cooperative if you decide to install solar. The system must be connected to the electric grid, so you’ll need to sign an interconnection agreement. We can walk you through the steps, including how our solar rates work. Visit anec.com/net-metering for a general overview of how you can work with us on connecting your new rooftop solar system.

For many homeowners, solar panels are a great way to help the environment and save on electric bills — but there are many factors to consider before diving in and installing a system.

As with any major home project, do plenty of research upfront, and contact the cooperative if you have questions or decide to move forward with installation.

We’re your local energy partner and can serve as a helpful resource throughout the process.



Renewable Options Available to Co-op Members

A&N Electric Cooperative has several ways to help our members step into renewable energy. The cooperative offers a trio of options for using or purchasing renewable energy in addition to energy-saving tips and ideas.

We are ready to work with you in connecting home solar arrays or wind turbines to the distribution system through our net-metering program.

If installing your own solar panels or wind turbine is cost-prohibitive, there are other options available to our members.

Our community solar program, Cooperative Sunshare, gives our members the opportunity to subscribe to more solar-generated electricity to cover all or a portion of their needs.

The cooperative also offers renewable energy credits. These are tradable, nontangible energy commodities for sale through our generation and transmission cooperative, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative.

COOPERATIVE SUNSHARE

A&N Electric Cooperative offers its members the opportunity to subscribe to more solar energy to cover their energy needs through the Cooperative Sunshare program. Currently, a portion of all power supplied to cooperative members comes from solar. The Cooperative Sunshare program allows residential and small commercial members who want a larger percentage of solar power to receive a dedicated, predetermined amount of solar power each month. By doing so, participants can support the development of solar energy in Virginia. Learn more or sign up at anec.com/community-solar.



**COOPERATIVE
SUNSHARE** SM

NET METERING

Net metering allows cooperative members to interconnect approved renewable generation systems to the electrical distribution system and to generate some of their own electricity. The output of the renewable generation system offsets the electricity that would have been delivered by the cooperative. Common examples of net-metering installations include solar panels on a home or a wind turbine. These installations are connected on the member's side of the meter. The meter will measure electricity being used from the grid, and it will reverse when the customer generates excess electricity (thereby "exporting" electricity to the electric grid). The sum, or "net," of the forward and reverse rotation is the volume of electricity (kWh) to be billed or credited to the monthly bill. For more information see anec.com/net-metering.

RENEWABLE ENERGY CREDITS

Renewable Energy Credits are tradable, non-tangible energy commodities in the United States that represent proof that electricity was generated from an eligible renewable energy resource and was fed into the grid. To help promote the use of renewable energy sources, like wind and solar, various regional systems are being developed that divide renewable electricity into two parts: the electricity that actually makes its way into the power grid and the environmental benefits of the renewable power source.

Renewable Energy Credits are available for purchase through the cooperative. ODEC buys over 110 megawatts of wind power and renewable energy credits. ODEC sells all of the renewable energy credits purchased under its long-term wind power agreements to its member-owners and to others. The wind energy comes from several wind turbine facilities in Pennsylvania and Maryland. See anec.com/renewable-energy-credits for more information.