



# DREMC NEWS

JULY 2023

## Keeping DREMC crews safe by slowing down, moving over

The hazards of linework extend beyond working around live electric lines every day. Line workers across the country battle dangerous weather conditions, unforgiving temperatures and densely wooded areas, which compounds the hazards of the job.

Among one of the most dangerous aspects of their environment is the presence of motor vehicles near job sites.

When line crews pull over on the side of the road to assess damage or stage their job site, there is always the risk that other motorists will not give them the space needed to safely perform their work.

The state of Tennessee passed the Move Over Law in 2006 to enforce the need for motorists to give extra room to first responders. Thankfully, this was expanded to line workers in 2011.

It is my hope that Duck River Electric never again experiences a team member injured by a motor vehicle while serving their community. That is why this law and the support of our local communities are so

important.

While we see many people go out of their way to move over in observance of crews, there were 154 violations issued in communities served by DREMC in 2021 according to the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security. We appreciate every effort that can be made to keep our line crews safe.

Crews utilize cones, flashing vehicle lights and other hazard mitigation tools to notify drivers of their presence. However, bad weather, distracted driving and speeding can lead



Scott Spence  
Duck River EMC  
President & CEO

to disaster, despite these efforts.

When changing lanes is not possible, reducing vehicle speed around these stopped vehicles is the next best solution.

Regardless of the dangers involved,

DREMC crews are dedicated to ensuring that the membership receives safe and reliable power at the lowest possible cost.

This can come at a tremendous personal expense if we do not work together to ensure their safety.

Thank you for joining us in doing our part to slow down and move over for first responders, including our local line workers.



**MOVE OVER**  
for utility workers in Tennessee. It's the law.

# Energy efficiency programs assist DREMC-served businesses

**B**usiness members can receive assistance through the FREE Comprehensive Services Program (CSP), offered by Duck River Electric in partnership with TVA, which provides studies, services and energy audits to assist with efficiency, power quality, and electrical safety.

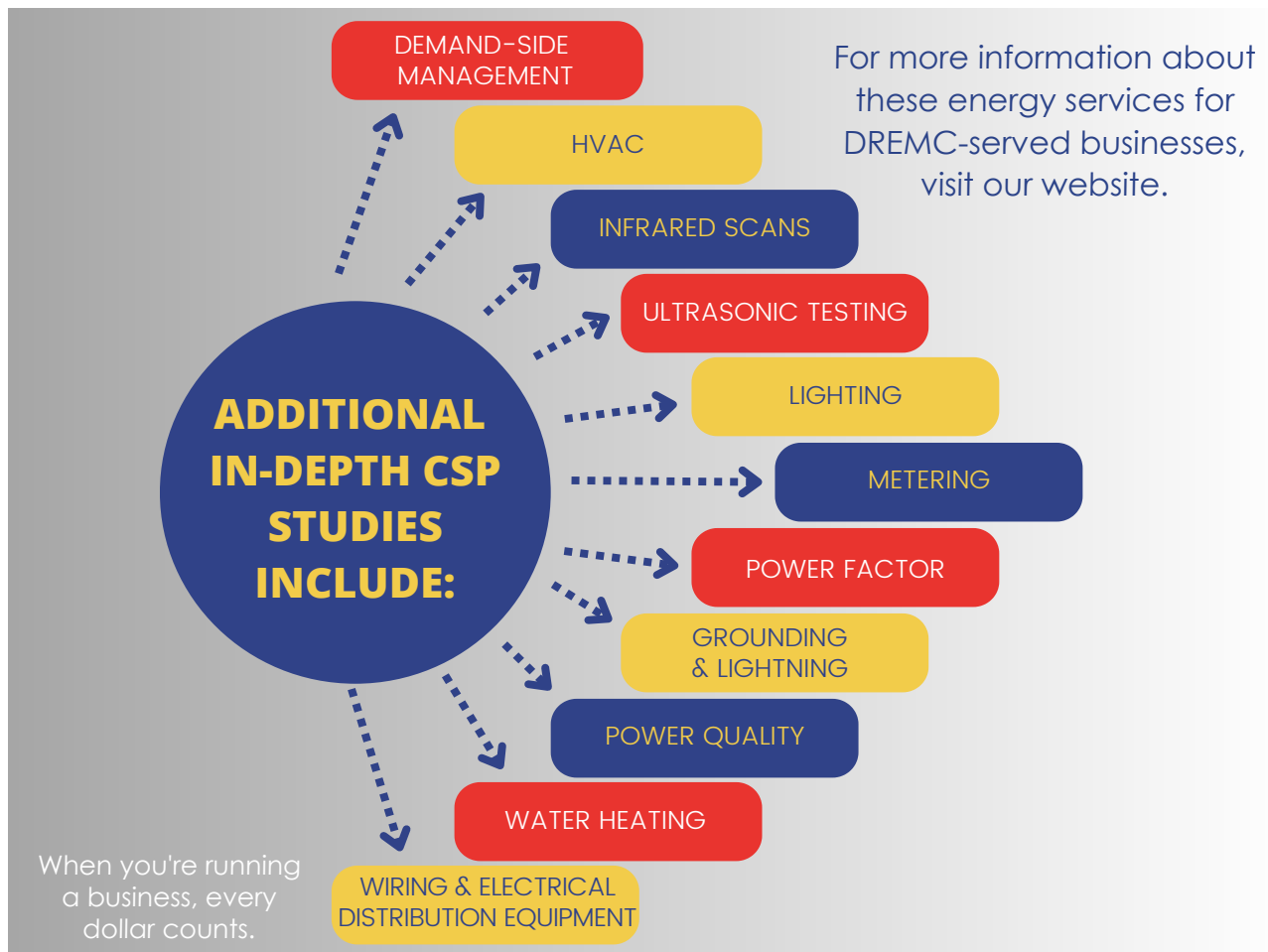
Through the CSP program, businesses served by DREMC develop a greater awareness of how they use energy. In addition, they learn that energy efficiency can be increased from basic improvements to installing new energy technology.

One of the best ways to begin the process is with a FREE energy audit offered through the CSP program. The energy

audit is a general survey of energy use in a facility, and, once completed, offers businesses recommendations on energy management opportunities, process and facility improvements.

Energy efficiency improvements are supported using the tools and resources available through the CSP program and are designed to help businesses with meeting their operational goals.

Contact DREMC's Business Programs Specialist at 931-680-5882 for more information. We look forward to assisting with your energy needs.

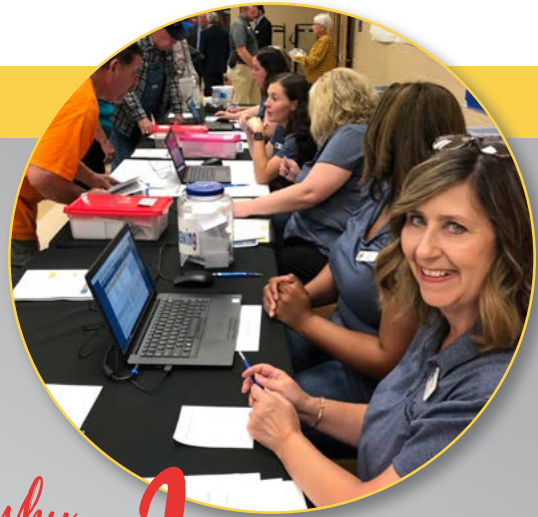




**DUCK RIVER ELECTRIC**  
Membership Corporation

## 2023 Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, Aug. 19  
Lewisburg Middle School  
500 Tiger Blvd., Lewisburg, TN



*Why should you attend?*

- DOOR PRIZES
- REFRESHMENTS
- BUSINESS MEETING
- ATTENDANCE GIFTS FOR THE FIRST 300 MEMBERS
- PLUS, THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE!

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the official meeting kick-off at 9:30 a.m.

More details about the 2023 DREMC Annual Membership Meeting are available in your July bill statement, in the August issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*, social media and other news media.

## Need assistance paying the electric bill?

As energy use increases during the warmest and coldest months of the year, so does the need for bill payment assistance offered through Project HELP.

Duck River Electric's Project HELP emergency energy assistance program helps qualifying applicants with part or all of their electric bills, as long as funding is available. To apply for Project HELP assistance, contact the DREMC community partner in your area. A list of partners is available at [drenc.com](http://drenc.com).

Project HELP is supported by the generous donations the program receives, and DREMC makes it easy and convenient to donate.

"When members drop their spare change into the Project HELP bucket at our office, they are contributing to the effort," said DREMC Office Manager Amy Holcomb. "Every amount matters and adds up quickly to help others with paying the electric bill."

We invite you to join us in donating to Project HELP. Your donations make a difference to those who receive assistance through the program.



## HOW CAN I DONATE?

- ONLINE AT [DREMC.COM](http://DREMC.COM).
- CHECK THE BOX ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL AND RETURN.
- AT ANY DREMC OFFICE.



# Super Pull brings excitement to Chapel Hill

Join Duck River Electric as we *plug into the excitement* at the 2023 Chapel Hill Lions Club Super Pull of the South!

Take it all in - the pulling events, food and vendor tents. Visit DREMC under the big tent near the grandstand where you'll find lots of giveaway items, games and more. Attendees are also invited to register for valuable door prizes.

*Plug into more excitement* at the event as you take a FREE tethered hot air balloon ride sponsored by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives. We hope to see you there!



**JULY 21 FRI** 7PM & **JULY 22 SAT** 7PM  
310 N. HORTON PKWY. | CHAPEL HILL, TN  
Gates open at 4:00 p.m.  
For details and to purchase tickets, visit [lionsuperpull.com](http://lionssuperpull.com).



Duck River Electric's PowerUP Prepay program offers members an option for traditional monthly due dates and payments.

PowerUP Prepay works similar to a prepaid debit card, allowing you to add funds to your account as you go rather than paying a lump sum once a month.

This pay-as-you-go option helps members keep track of their daily electric use so they can make wise decisions on

how to manage it, which puts the power to save in the members' hands.

Daily texts and email messages can be sent to update you on the balance of your prepay account so that you stay current.

For more information or to enroll in DREMC's PowerUP Prepay program, visit our website.

## GET DREMC NEWS SENT TO YOUR INBOX!

Opt in to receive the next issue by sending us your preferred email address to [DREMCNews@dremc.com](mailto:DREMCNews@dremc.com).

# 5 faqs

FREQUENTLY  
ASKED  
QUESTIONS  
ABOUT

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY ADVICE

Look for more frequently asked questions in future editions of **DREMC News.**

1

### How does raising the HVAC thermostat setting in the summer help lower the electric bill?

Raising the temperature setting for the HVAC unit or air conditioner narrows the temperature difference between outdoor and indoor temperatures, which means the unit doesn't have to work as hard to meet the cooling demand.

4

### Can cooking with the microwave help you save energy?

On average, cooking only makes up for 2% of the average household's electric bill, but using the microwave as opposed to the oven or stove can still cut out a large percentage of that cost. Microwaves are quicker, use less energy and are useful in the summer because they don't contribute extra heat to the kitchen, forcing your air conditioner to work harder to keep the house cooled.

2

### Do energy-efficient appliances really save you money?

In many cases, newer, more energy-efficient appliances can save energy, which can lead to lower energy bills. Before purchasing a new appliance, visit TVA's [EnergyRight Marketplace](#) to compare efficiency ratings of available options. Also, look for the Energy Star label when purchasing a new appliance. The label includes the estimated yearly operating cost of the appliance.

5

### Does using a computer screensaver save energy?

While a screensaver may seem similar to the sleep mode on the computer, it's actually a separate program that uses energy constantly while it runs. It is recommended to let the computer go into the sleep mode or turn the monitor off, if it's a desktop. Also, leaving a computer on overnight uses a substantial amount of energy - even in sleep mode.

3

### Does closing the vents to unused rooms save energy?

You might think closing vents in unused rooms makes sense and will save energy because your system has to heat or cool less space. However, closing vents increases the air pressure in your system, which makes the unit work harder and use more energy.

*Want to learn more about energy efficiency?*

Visit [energyright.com](http://energyright.com) or contact DREMC's Residential Energy Advisor Pat Garrett at 931-680-5886.

For information about energy programs for DREMC-served businesses, contact our Business Programs Specialist Shay Maupin at 931-680-5882.



## CONNECTING MIDDLE TENNESSEE FOR 75+ YEARS

We are dedicated to enriching our communities and the lives of our neighbors through reliable connections and passionate service.

**OUR COMMITMENT TO CUSTOMERS & COMMUNITIES**

Established in 1947 as a rural telephone provider, United Communications was built on a foundation of utilizing the latest technology to connect customers and communities.

**DEPENDABLE NETWORKS**  
99.99% network reliability

**FAST CONNECTIONS**  
Ranked the Fastest Internet Provider in Middle Tennessee by BroadbandNow

**CUSTOMER-FOCUSED CARE**  
Industry-leading overall NPS score of 71

**A COMMITMENT TO GROWTH**  
Investing over \$115 million in network expansion over the next 3 years

**BUILT ON PARTNERSHIPS**

United partners with established utilities to accelerate the expansion of fast, reliable internet in under-connected communities.

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE ELECTRIC**

In 2018, United became a subsidiary of Middle Tennessee Electric, the largest electric cooperative in the country.

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2018
2021

**DUCK RIVER ELECTRIC**

In 2021, United developed a partnership with Duck River Electric, an electric provider serving over 83,000 members in Middle Tennessee.

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Every Tennessean needs a strong, reliable internet connection. We can't afford to leave anyone behind. Thanks to companies like United Communications and Middle Tennessee Electric, we're working together to build a more connected Tennessee.

– Governor Bill Lee

### AN INTERNET PROVIDER THAT TENNESSEE TRUSTS

**\$64**  
MILLION

United has been awarded more than \$64 million in federal and state grants

**60**  
THOUSAND

United has made fiber available to 60,000+ locations in Middle TN

**#1**

United is the #1 preferred provider for local governments in Middle TN

LEARN MORE ABOUT UNITED COMMUNICATIONS



UNITED.NET | 800-779-2227 | UNITED@UNITED.NET

**DUCK RIVER ELECTRIC OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF INDEPENDENCE DAY.**

Our team will be available to assist members in the event of an outage.

**TUESDAY**

**JULY 4**