



The Electrifier

www.frenchbroademc.com

APRIL 2022

"Owned by those we serve"

Marshall, NC

Spring Forward Into Safety

Spring is here, the time has changed and spring cleaning is on our minds. A few simple reminders for inside your home:

- * Change the batteries in your smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector.
- * Open your electrical service panel and check to make sure there are no new scorch marks around breakers or fuses.
- * Have a professional look at your air conditioning system before the peak summer temperatures arrive to make sure it's running efficiently.

Now that we have more daylight time in the evening, we can get outside and catch up on a few things that have been left undone during the winter months. While you are out and about, please keep in mind a few safety tips that can help reduce electrical injuries or even deaths:

- * Keep yourself and ladders away from overhead power lines and their connections.
- * Unplug outdoor tools when not in use.
- * Avoid damp and wet conditions, including wet grass, when using electric tools.
- * Repair or replace any frayed cords, damaged or broken plugs on electric tools.



Your friends at French Broad Electric wish you a safe and happy spring season.

SCAM ALERT

We have had members calling to report scam calls. Beware of scammers who call to tell you that your account is delinquent and who insist on your immediate payment. Please know that we do not call you and demand payment. You receive billing notices with your due date information.

Some scammers are now calling to reward you for paying your bills on-time and offer you gifts, such as iPads, gift cards and even a reduction in your power bill. Please do not give them your information.

If you get a questionable call like this, please hang up and call FBEMC directly at 828-649-2051 to inquire about your account.

Manager's Report



THE TRUTH ABOUT ROOFTOP SOLAR

Solar energy is booming and the future is brighter than ever. But with the increasing popularity of solar, some businesses are taking advantage of consumers interested in generating their electricity with rooftop panels.

While many solar companies are genuine and want to help consumers with a successful solar installation, there are occasional bad apples. If you're interested in rooftop solar panels for your home, consider these facts before you make a decision:

Most rooftop solar systems require interconnection with the electric grid to meet your home's energy needs 24/7. If your home remains connected to the grid, you will continue to receive a French Broad EMC (FBEMC) bill for the applicable facilities charge and any energy delivered from the grid.

As a safety precaution, rooftop solar systems must automatically discontinue energy production when the electric grid goes down. This means that unless your system includes integrated battery storage (a considerable additional expense), solar power will not be available.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Many rooftop solar companies calculate overly inflated annual electric rate increases in their payback estimates. The actual annual rate of increase for FBEMC residential bills has averaged less than 1% for the past decade.



What is the total cost? According to www.energysage.com and www.solarreviews.com, one kilowatt (kW) of rooftop solar installed in North Carolina costs an average of \$3,000 before tax credits and produces 4.0 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per day.

There are several other factors to consider when calculating the total cost as well as your return on your investment. The number of panels and the difficulty of the installation will impact the cost of the system.

How much direct sunlight and the number of days your solar system gets maximum sun exposure will impact the amount of kilowatt hours produced. Typically, we see FBEMC customers reduce their annual purchases by 10-15% on a system without battery storage.

In our area, maximum solar generation occurs between 11 am and 2 pm. Many homes are not using as much electricity during these times. Peak electricity in the summer months typically occurs between 5 pm and 8 pm, so a large percentage of the energy produced by rooftop solar systems flows back to the grid. Without battery storage, you cannot save energy produced by your rooftop solar system for use at a later time.

Rather than relying solely on information from a salesperson, be sure to do your homework and gather all of the facts before committing to purchase a rooftop solar system.

FBEMC representatives are available to discuss your renewable generation options. Please call our Marshall Office at 828-649-2051 and speak with our energy advisor before signing a contract so that we can assist you in making an informed decision about your generation project.



The Outlet

All numbers are in 828 area code unless otherwise listed.

This is a FREE service to members for advertising non-commercial items. Ads are limited to two items per member per month and will appear only one time unless resubmitted. Ads are limited to two lines per ad. We reserve the right to edit, condense, or refuse ads due to content, unreasonable length, or available space.

French Broad EMC does not endorse services advertised and is not responsible for reliability of services listed.

When submitting ads for The Outlet, please be sure to include your name, address, phone number and account number. Ads without this reference information are subject to not being published.

Ads may be submitted online or mailed to:

French Broad EMC, Attn: Paula Seay, PO Box 9, Marshall, NC 28753.

FOR SALE

- 1979 32' 5th wheel camper, custom built, \$1,500. 912/592-6744.
- 2012 Cedar Ck 5th wheel camper, 1-owner. 775-6077 or 775-6078.
- Antique wood, all types. 688-2957.
- Chestnut fire mantles. 688-2957.
- Firewood, all hardwood, will deliver. 206-9097.
- Barbie & porcelain doll collections. 675-4271.
- Tea pot collection. 675-4271.
- Complete log kit, 36'x28'. 206-9313.
- Dogtra electric shock collar w/ 2 remotes, \$35. 645-8255.
- Dogtra electric shock collar w/ remote, \$65. 850/313-1400.
- Ladies black lace-up motorcycle boots, size 8, \$40. 712-5329.
- Ladies blk leather motorcycle vest w/ beads & fringes, Lg, \$40. 712-5329.
- 3BR/2BA 1100 sq ft house on 1 acre, MH, \$325,000. 768-5272 after 5pm.
- 1991 Chevy Camaro w/ T-tops, 50k mi, \$19,000 OBO. 768-5272 after 5pm.
- Antique cherry curio w/ rounded glass door & claw feet. 712-7661.
- Dwarf burning bushes, snowball bushes, azaleas. 545-8802.
- Nativity scenes, plywood for outdoor, \$100. 467-4668.

- John Deere 350C bulldozer, 6-way blade, access, \$10,000. 337-0329.
- 18" 154SE Husqvarna chainsaw, \$150. 704/641-2394.
- GE front-load washing machine, \$100. 776-1148.
- Porcelain tile: (60) 12x12, \$65; (150) 6x6, \$40. 208-2932.
- Copper Romex cable w/ grd, 20ft 6x3, \$45. 208-2932.
- 1920 Fordson tractor w/ steel wheels, gas, \$2,500. 778-8012.

WANTED

- Someone to do part-time yard work, \$15/hr. 954/496-9000.
- Someone to do handyman svcs, \$20/hr. 954/496-9000.
- Someone to do roadside litter pick-up, will pay monthly. 380-9702.
- Older Appalachian fireplace insert for parts. 208-7893.
- Oak logs from fell tree, 4-10" diam. 610/613-3263.
- Someone to do yard/land maintenance work, \$20/hr. 380-1772.
- Polaris Ind. or = 1500 lbs tandem dump util/landscape trailer. 678-3406.
- 1+ acre, Mad Co, w/wo electric, septic, water. 649-3976.
- Old barn to tear down for materials. 380-1232.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Will Do: tree trimming, junk removal and handyman services. 284-2137.
- Will Do: haul away junk riding mowers for free. 689-3896.
- Will Do: haul away junk cars & trucks for free. 689-3896.
- Will Do: alterations. 689-3273.
- Firewood, poplar is on ground, free, you cut/haul. 645-9236.
- FOMCA low cost spay/neuter. 649-9798.
- Will Do: pressure washing. 675-4003.

IS IT TIME TO SCHEDULE YOUR HEAT PUMP CLEANING?



If you have signed up for the maintenance program, and would like to schedule your annual cleaning appointment or a repair appointment, please call 828-649-2051.

2021 Capital Credit Assignment

If you were a member of French Broad EMC in 2021, you are entitled to a share of the co-op's profit. At the end of each year, any remaining funds the cooperative has after paying the bills are called margins, or capital credits. In 2021, FBEMC's margins amounted to 3.995 percent of its revenues. Your share of the profit is recorded in your capital credits account. Your share is based on the amount of electricity you used during the year. Margins are not refunded immediately but are held in reserve to cover the cost of maintaining the electric system and building new facilities. By using these funds, the cooperative can reduce the amount of money it borrows. The goal is to ultimately refund all credits to you. In the meantime, it serves to provide adequate cash flow for reinvestment in the business and show financial stability required to obtain loans.

Update Your Information

Please be sure to notify your local FBEMC office when any of your contact information changes, such as:

- *mailing address
- *email address
- *phone number
- *phone provider
- *banking/checking account information for bank drafts
- *credit card numbers
- *method of payment changes, ex. from Bank Draft to credit card

Customers are notified of their FlexPay balances, electronic bills, pending disconnects, scheduled outages, etc. via email, text message and/or voice-mail.

It is important that you keep us informed so that we can keep our records updated, should we need to contact you.

We would also like to remind you that the return envelopes, which are included with your monthly billing statement, have a barcode on the bottom and these envelopes will come directly to French Broad EMC. Please do not use these envelopes to mail anything to anyone other than to French Broad EMC.

**ROW Clearing Schedule
April/May**

Marshall District

- * Lower Flat Creek Road to Ivy Hill Road area
- * Meadow Fork area
- * Bend of Ivy
- * Palmer Ford/Pickens Road area

Burnsville District

- * Hwy 19 W
- * Langford Branch Road
- * Hardscrabble Road
- * Lower Jacks Creek
- * Transmission Line
(from Burnsville to Relief)

*The
Electrifier*

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<i>Paula Seay</i>	<i>Editor</i>

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FBEMC Offices

<i>Marshall</i>	<i>(828) 649-2051</i>
<i>Toll-Free to Marshall</i>	<i>1-800-222-6190</i>
<i>Burnsville</i>	<i>(828) 682-6121</i>
<i>Bakersville</i>	<i>(828) 688-4815</i>

**To Report A Power Outage
After Hours
Marshall District**

*(Madison, Buncombe &
Unicoi Counties)
(828) 649-2051 • 1-800-222-6190*

Burnsville-Bakersville District

<i>Yancey County</i>	<i>(828) 682-6121</i>
<i>Mitchell County</i>	<i>(828) 688-4815</i>

**Online Credit Card Payment
Available 24 Hours a Day**

1-844-294-5697



*Deadline for submitting ads
to
The Electrifier
is the
10th of each month*