



SCHOOLS GO GREEN

We are proud to help sponsor the costs of the installation and ongoing maintenance of the NC GreenPower's Solar+ Schools program. Two Pitt County schools are a little greener this spring. Thanks to NC GreenPower's Solar+ Schools program, D.H. Conley High School and Lakeforest Elementary School now have 20-kW solar photovoltaic (PV) systems installed on their campuses. They join J.H. Rose High School, which joined the program in 2020.

The Solar+ Schools program aims to enhance environmental awareness, promote clean energy, and empower students through hands-on learning experiences related to solar energy. NC GreenPower provides grants for solar educational projects for K-12 schools across North Carolina, complete with a weather station, data monitoring, and STEM curriculum from NEED.org with training for teachers.

SUMMER SAVINGS TIPS

The dog days of summer will soon be here again. Use these tips to help keep your energy costs down.

- Use a ceiling fan or portable fan to supplement your air conditioning. A fan can make you feel three to four degrees cooler so you can set your thermostat a few degrees higher and save on cooling costs. Use in occupied rooms since fans cool people, not rooms.
- Set your thermostat on the highest comfortable setting. We recommend 78 degrees or higher. Every degree above 78 saves about 4% in cooling costs.
- Clean or change your filters monthly to keep your system running at peak performance.
- Switch your central air conditioning to "auto" rather than continuously "on" – you'll get better cooling and humidity control.
- Unplug outside refrigerator/freezer if not in use or if items will fit in your indoor refrigerator/freezer.



Visit guc.com for more ways to save all year.

HURRICANE SEASON IS HERE

Making sure you have reliable utilities no matter the weather is something we work on every day. We prepare for hurricanes and other weather emergency events all year. Our team is constantly doing what we can to ensure our systems are in the best condition possible and that we have an adequate supply of materials to handle whatever comes our way. As you prepare for hurricane season, here are some GUC items to keep in mind:

GUC.COM contains a wealth of information, including an outage map and online outage reporting system. You can see where we have outages and report your outage with just a few clicks.

Our Emergency Hotline, 1-855-767-2482, is always available to give you a quick and easy way to let us know you need our help. If you call from or know the telephone number associated with your account, the call will be a little quicker.

Get a text! Our text notification system is designed to let you know about power outages that may affect you around the clock. If your cell phone number is listed on your GUC account, you are enrolled automatically. Want to make sure? Log in to Your Account online at guc.com and update the contact information in your User Profile, use our online chat, or call us at 252-752-7166.





PROTECTING YOUR WATER: *Annual Temporary Switch to Chlorine Keeps System in Top Shape*

Beginning June 17 and continuing until July 29, we will temporarily change the disinfectant used in the water treatment process. We will use chlorine rather than chloramines during this time.

Since December 2002, we have used chloramines, a mixture of chlorine and ammonia, as the disinfectant in its water treatment process. Chloramines are an effective disinfectant and also reduce the level of byproducts that are regulated by the US Environmental Protection Agency. State drinking water guidelines recommend that water systems using chloramines periodically switch back to free chlorine (chlorine alone) for a period of time. This brief, scheduled change in disinfectant is a standard water treatment practice to keep water mains clean and free of potentially harmful bacteria throughout the year.

During the temporary switch to free chlorine, you may notice a slight change in the taste or smell of your tap water. The mild chlorine taste and smell is normal and poses no health risk. Most customers will not need to take any precautions as the water remains safe to drink and is treated according to both state and federal standards. People and businesses that normally take special precautions to remove chloramines from tap water, such as dialysis centers, medical facilities, and aquatic pet owners should continue to take the same precautions during the temporary switch from chloramines to free chlorine. For more information, please visit guc.com or contact GUC at 252-551-1551.

DETECTING A NATURAL GAS LEAK

Natural gas is one of the safest, most reliable, and environmentally friendly fuels in use today, but leaks can occur. There are three key ways to recognize a natural gas leak.

LOOK. Blowing dirt, bubbling creeks or ponds, dry spots in moist areas or dead plants surrounded by green, live plants also may indicate a natural gas leak.

LISTEN. An unusual hissing sound near gas lines or appliances may indicate a natural gas leak.

SMELL. In its raw state, natural gas is colorless and odorless. Natural gas utility companies add a substance to create the familiar, rotten-egg-like odor you associate with natural gas.

You should take action even if you detect only the faint odor of natural gas in the air. For more information on natural gas safety, visit guc.com or call us at 252-551-1587.



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Working in the yard this spring? Be sure to call NC 811 first so that underground utility lines can be located ahead of time. It's the best way to avoid costly and potentially dangerous problems. The free call will let locators know to come by and mark utility lines for you. They ask that you allow three working days. Know what's below – dial 811. Find out more at nc811.org.

**Know what's below.
Call  before you dig.**

