



Serving members in Baldwin, Emanuel, Glascock, Hancock, Jefferson, Johnson, Laurens, Warren, Washington and Wilkinson counties

Shift timing, shift savings

As we settle into the heat of August, our homes naturally use more electricity. Air conditioners run longer, refrigerators work harder and daily routines—from cooking dinner to doing laundry—often overlap during the warmest parts of the day. That's also when the demand for electricity across our community is at its highest.

At Washington EMC, our top priority is delivering safe, reliable and affordable power whenever you need it. But during peak energy hours, there's added pressure on the grid as homes and businesses require larger amounts of electricity, all at the same time. On the hottest days, that strain can be significant.

The good news is that small changes at home can make a meaningful difference.

Think of our electric grid as a highway system. During rush hour, traffic is heavy, congestion builds and everything slows down. But when drivers

adjust their schedules, even slightly, it helps ease the bottleneck. The same principle applies to energy use.

By shifting some of your high-energy activities to off-peak hours, such as doing laundry later in the evening, running the dishwasher before you go to bed or cooking meals earlier in the day, you're helping spread out demand. That reduces pressure on the grid during those critical peak hours.

Here are a few simple steps you can take to lower energy use during peak hours:

Smart technology can be a valuable partner in saving energy. A programmable or smart thermostat can automatically adjust your home's temperature when demand is highest, helping you stay comfortable while using energy more efficiently. Even a small adjustment of a few degrees during peak hours can make a difference.

In the kitchen, simple swaps can help, too. Using a slow cooker, air fryer or outdoor grill instead of the oven



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

keeps your home more comfortable and reduces the need for additional cooling during the warmer parts of the day. And when it comes to laundry, air drying clothes or spacing out loads can cut down on both energy use and indoor heat.

Don't overlook the power of ceiling fans, either. They can help you feel several degrees cooler, allowing you to raise your thermostat setting without sacrificing comfort.

These actions may seem small on their own, but together, they add up. When many members make mindful choices about when and how they use electricity, it helps reduce peak demand, eases strain on the grid and supports more stable energy costs for our local communities.

That's the cooperative difference. As a member, you're not just a customer, you're part of a community working together to power our future. Every effort you make contributes to a stronger, more resilient system.

This summer, I encourage you to take a closer look at your daily routines. A few simple shifts can go a long way in keeping your home comfortable, your energy use efficient and our grid running smoothly—no matter how high the temperatures climb.

Same Energy. Different Impact.

The demand for electricity is typically highest in the late afternoon during peak energy hours. You can help lower demand by shifting when energy-intensive activities happen.



Shift appliance use to off-peak hours.

- Run the dishwasher before you go to bed.
- Use the oven earlier or later (during off-peak hours.)
- Space out use of major appliances.



Use a programmable or smart thermostat.

- Automatically adjust the temp setting during peak hours.
- Schedule home cooling cycles for efficiency.



Opt for low-energy alternatives during peak hours.

- Use small appliances like slow cookers or air fryers—or fire up the grill—instead of the oven.
- Air-dry clothes instead of using the dryer.
- Use ceiling fans for additional cooling.



An electric membership corporation

258 N. Harris St. • P.O. Box 598
Sandersville, GA 31082

Email: wemc@washingtonemc.com
Website: www.washingtonemc.com
Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike McDonald,
Chair, District 1

Mike Beckworth,
Vice Chair, District 6

Brenda English,
Secretary/Treasurer, District 3

Mildred W. Jackson, District 5

Jeff Lacksen, District 2

Becky Prince, District 4

Ken Vickers, District 7

SANDERSVILLE OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

PHONES

Local (478) 552-2577
Long distance (800) 552-2577

24-HOUR CALL CENTER

To report a power outage or
pay by phone, please call:
Local (478) 552-2577
Long distance (800) 552-2577

BRANCH LOCATIONS

12860 Broad St.
Sparta, GA 31087
Closed on Thursday

100 W. College St.
Wrightsville, GA 31096
Closed on Wednesday

Convenient bill pay options include:

DRIVE-THRU WINDOW

319 N. Smith St., Sandersville, GA 31082
Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

PAY ONLINE

Visit www.washingtonemc.com
and click the "Pay Now" button
to pay your bill online.

SMARTHUB APP

Download, sign up and use the free
SmartHub app and web portal online at
www.washingtonemc.com/smarthub.

Fire safety starts with early detection

A small fire can spread quickly, which is why early detection is one of the most important parts of home fire safety.

Take a few simple steps to help protect your family and home:

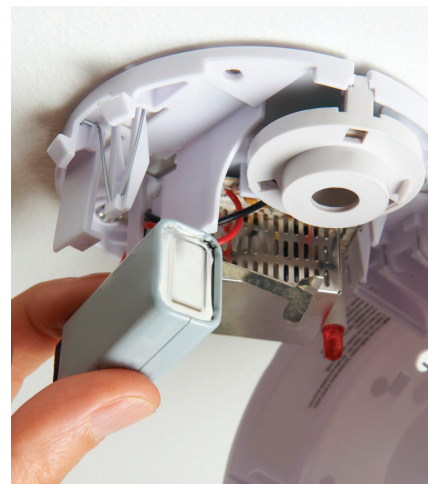
- **Test smoke detectors monthly.**

Make sure detectors are working on every level of your home and inside sleeping areas.

- **Replace smoke detector batteries regularly.** Many homeowners change batteries at least once a year or when the detector begins chirping. An easy reminder is to replace the batteries every six months when you set your clocks back or ahead for the time change.

- **Consider a monitored smoke detector.** For added protection, monitored smoke detectors can alert a professional monitoring center if smoke is detected, helping ensure emergency responders are notified even if no one is home.

- **Keep smoke detectors clean.** Dust buildup can affect performance,



so gently vacuum or wipe around the unit occasionally.

- **Create a family escape plan.**

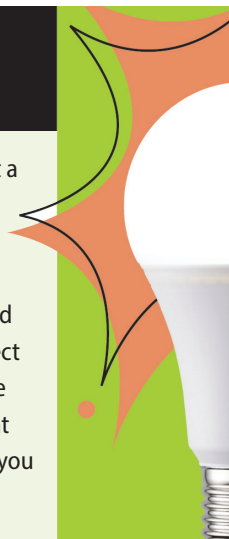
Identify two ways out of each room and choose a meeting spot outside the home.

- **Practice your plan.** Running through your escape plan once or twice a year helps ensure that everyone knows what to do in an emergency.

Source: EMC Security, emcsecurity.com

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.



Electrifying ways to help kids be smart energy users



"Did you turn off the lights in your room?"

"We're not paying to cool off the whole neighborhood."

"Save some hot water for the rest of us!"

Across America, parents utter these phrases to their children countless times each day. Despite their best efforts, it can be tough to help kids understand the importance of saving energy and to put that knowledge into action.

Few people have more experience talking about energy efficiency than the communication professionals who work at America's electric cooperatives. So, we asked them how they persuade the toughest audience they face every day—their kids. Here are a few of their tips:

Deputize an 'energy enforcer'

Several parents recommended deputizing children to investigate wasteful energy practices. When your children are young, let them take turns playing the role of energy deputy.

Each week, the appointed child can be given a badge and empowered to seek out energy waste and hold the offending party accountable.

Another idea? Offer your little energy deputies a bounty for finding leaks, drafts and other wasteful energy practices around the house.

Their progress can be tracked with stickers on a calendar, and when the kids reach their goal, they can be rewarded with a sheriff's badge or another small toy of their choice.

The invisible hand

If your child's hand never seems to find its way to the light switch, perhaps the invisible hand of the free market can help them out.

Considering "fining" your kids 25 cents for every lightbulb they leave on in their bedrooms. (For a ceiling fan with four bulbs, which was a costly mistake.)

This helps kids understand that electricity really does cost money.

Game theory

Other creative strategies to inspire kids to do their chores and keep peace in the home can be found in "The Game Theorist's Guide to Parenting." The recently published book, written by Paul Raeburn and Kevin Zollman, shows how game theory can be applied to many of daily transactions of parenting, such as sharing, dividing, collaborating and compromising.

No matter what the approach, talking to kids about energy use is sure to pay dividends. They might not always follow through, but they'll be learning important lessons about the value of energy and the importance of conservation that can last a lifetime.



Ingredients

-

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Thoroughly wash fresh pears. Cut pears in half and, using a melon baller or small spoon, remove the cores.

Place pears, cut-side-up, in 2 large baking dishes. Add 1/2 cup water to

pieces the size of peas.

Top pears with topping and bake an additional 20 minutes or until topping is crunchy.

May be served warm or chilled.

Yields 12 servings.