



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

# Small change can change lives

**T**he holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That's because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

But giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it's so important to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area. I'm also reminded of how wonderful our community is and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

When you are a member of Washington EMC, you help us spread the

good throughout the year. Through our Operation Round Up program, your donations help provide food banks, youth camps, community outreach programs and so much more.

When you round up your monthly bill from Washington EMC and donate to this fund, you're making a big difference in someone's life. You are helping meet an immediate need for people in your community.

Over the years, our community-focused programs, food donations and other giving projects have built community walking trails, supported local schools and young people, fed hungry families and so much more.

You've likely heard me say that the cooperative principle Concern for Community is part of Washington EMC's DNA. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity to this community in 1937, the quality of life improved. But other things also needed to be addressed and through the years, this co-op has been at the forefront of bringing improvements to the quality of life in this community. It's why we launched Operation Round Up.

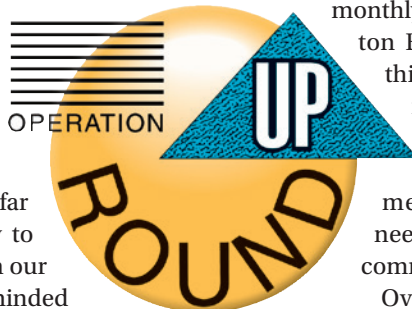


**Wendy Sellers**  
*President/CEO*

To date, and with your help, we've donated more than \$1.5 million back to local families and individuals through this program. Across the country, more than 350 electric co-ops have an Operation Round Up program. Together, we've raised millions for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric co-ops like ours, over time, can collectively make a big impact.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in our communities. It's why we support and promote this program. We hope you will think of Washington EMC as more than your energy provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

I hope all our members have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright!





An electric membership corporation

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Sandersville, GA 31082

Email: [wemc@washingtonemc.com](mailto:wemc@washingtonemc.com)

Website: [www.washingtonemc.com](http://www.washingtonemc.com)

Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### 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 interruption  
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 payment window

319 N. Smith St., Sandersville, GA 31082

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

##### Pay your bill online

[www.washingtonemc.com](http://www.washingtonemc.com)

##### Use the free Washington EMC mobile app

Look for WEMC in the

App Store or Android Market.

##### Pay by phone

(478) 552-2577 or (800) 552-2577

## Holiday office closings

Washington EMC offices will  
be closed Friday, December 23,  
through Monday, December 26,  
for the Christmas holidays,  
and Monday, January 2, 2023,  
for New Year's Day. For  
emergency service or to  
report a power outage,  
call (478) 552-2577  
or (800) 552-2577.

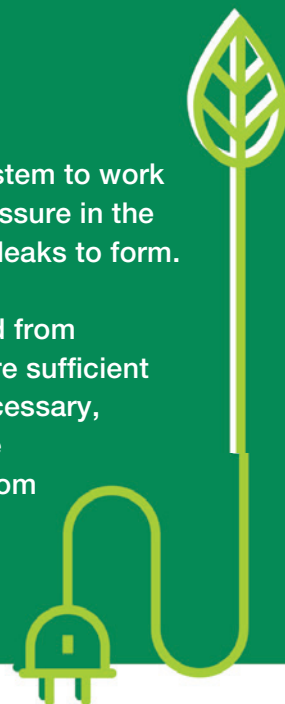


## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)





# Still burning wood? Do it safely.

**W**ood-burning fireplaces are notoriously energy-inefficient and can send your home's heated air right up the chimney. If you must continue to use yours, use it safely this holiday season by following these tips:

- Never burn your Christmas tree, its branches or any of its needles or foliage in the fireplace. This may create flashing and crackling, and it will put you at high risk for a house fire.
- Recycle or trash your holiday wrapping paper; do not put it in a fireplace. Wrapping paper—and newspaper—will ignite into a huge fire and throw off sparks and embers that can catch your chimney on fire. Same goes for garbage, charcoal and plastic.
- Do not coax your flames by squirting charcoal lighter, camp fuel, gasoline or any other liquid accelerant onto the logs.
- Before you light the season's first fire, have the chimney inspected and cleaned by a professional chimney sweep.
- Ask the chimney sweep to install a cap on top of the chimney to keep



- out debris, birds and animals.
- Equip every level of your house with smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Test batteries twice a year and replace as needed.
- Invest in a couple of fire extinguishers: one for the kitchen and one to keep near the fireplace. Teach everyone in the house how to use them.
- Move furniture, rugs, draperies, books, newspapers and anything else that can catch on fire at least 2 feet away from the fireplace.
- Never store fuel near the fireplace or anywhere inside the house.
- Keep children and pets away from the fireplace.
- Extinguish the fire before leaving the house, going to bed or leaving the room where your fireplace is located.
- Soak hot ashes in water and place them in a metal container outside your home.

## GATE cards are due December 31, 2022

**G**eorgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) cards are due to Washington EMC by December 31, 2022. If GATE cards are not received by this date, accounts will be removed from tax-exempt status.

### How does it work?

Qualified agricultural producers must submit their new tax exemption certificate to Washington EMC in order to receive a sales-tax exemption on agriculture equipment and production inputs.

### How do I apply?

Applications may be completed electronically online at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov) or submitted by mail. We anticipate applications being available at your county Farm Bureau office. More information can also be found at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov).

Questions? Call (855) FARM TAX or (855) 327-6829. If you would like to receive text messages with updates on the tax exemption program, simply text "GATE" to 72727.



# Don't Stay *Frozen* This Winter!

With fiber internet from Connect, powered by Washington EMC, your screen won't freeze up this holiday season.

## ***Connect fiber internet will allow you to:***

- Stream your favorite holiday movies seamlessly.
- Video chat with friends and family both near and far.
- Play online games with no buffering or lag.
- Get everything on your wishlist with online shopping.
- *and more!*

**Check availability at  
ConexonConnect.com,  
call 1-844-542-6663,  
or scan our QR code!**

