



# The LAMPLIGHTER

Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

February 2023

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

## Beat the peak

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Washington EMC must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply—regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer

demand. Washington EMC must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities, including Washington EMC, typically pay more for electricity—either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power—during those morning and evening "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak times" concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper—like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such



**Wendy Sellers**  
*President/CEO*

as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak periods. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this time-of-use approach to electricity use allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference. The less energy we have to buy during peak times, the lower our cost of energy will be.

Remember: Taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.

## Electric co-ops go the extra mile for you

Electric co-ops serve eight consumers per mile of power lines. Other electric utilities serve 32 consumers per mile. Even though we serve fewer consumers along the lines, that won't stop us from going the extra mile for you, our members we're proud to serve.



An electric membership corporation

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Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

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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

# Community News

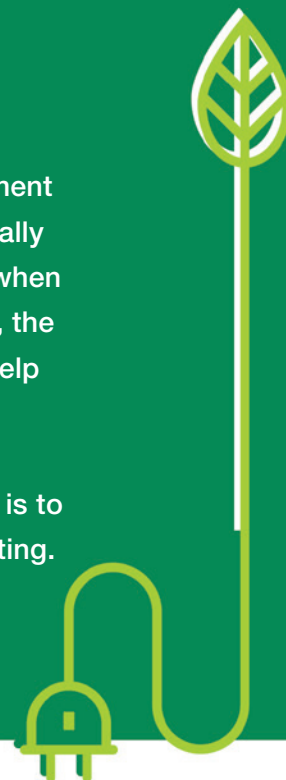
Washington EMC loves to give back and participate in our community. This year, we once again supported our local toy drives. We are proud of the communities we serve and proud to assist in these worthwhile programs!



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life.

Another way to save in the home office is to use energy-efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole room lighting.







Winter weather typically means increased energy use at home. Keep your bills in check with these tips to save energy—and money!

# 5 ways to save energy

**Mind the thermostat.** If you have a traditional heating and cooling system, set the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower. Consider a smart or programmable thermostat for additional savings.

**Get cozy.** Add layers of clothing for additional warmth, and snuggle underneath your favorite heavy-weight blanket.

**Don't block the heat.** If your air vents or heating elements (like radiators) are blocked by furniture

or rugs, your home isn't being adequately heated.

**Take advantage of sunlight.** Open window coverings during the day to let natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to block the chilly night air.

**Block air leaks.** Seal windows and exterior doors with caulk and weatherstripping to improve indoor comfort and decrease the amount of energy used to heat your home.

## Should I close off unused rooms during the winter?

It seems that if you close the door to an unused room, you can avoid paying to heat it, right? The opposite is true.

When you close off an interior room, or if you close the air vents in that room, your heating system has to work harder and can even break down as a result.

The reason: Your home's HVAC system is designed to keep the whole house comfortable by distributing heat evenly throughout. If you close off a room or duct, you reduce airflow to that room and force your system to work harder to heat it up. This can cause a pressure imbalance, which can damage your ducts or heating system.

Here are a few better ideas:

- Save money and energy by using caulk to seal air leaks around windows and holes in walls where cables enter the house.
- Add insulation to the attic.
- Install curtains that are thermally insulated.
- Replace your outdated thermostat with a programmable one that will lower the temperature at bedtime and when everyone leaves the house in the morning.



## Prioritize Your Health With High-Speed Internet!

*This year, open up a world of wellness with the help of fiber internet from Connect, powered by Washington EMC.*

***Connect's services will allow you to ...***

- Access teletherapy and telemedicine without interruption.
- Quickly surf the internet and social media for healthy lifestyle tips.
- Download health and wellness apps in no time.
- Stream virtual workouts with no lags or buffering.
- ***And more!***

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

