

THE LAMPLIGHTER

Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

February 2022

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

Five reasons we love serving our members

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with special observances like Presidents Day, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, in addition to a host of unofficial national days you've probably never heard of like National Tater Tot Day. But they all have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy and, of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them—with or without a store-bought greeting card.

So, in that vein, we've created our list of the top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Washington EMC.

1. We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist. Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, Washington EMC exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1937—to bring power

to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.

2. You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back. A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we're able to help the most vulnerable members of our community through food and toy drives and programs like Operation Round Up that help our local communities fund after-school programs, educational programs and more.

3. Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors. They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

4. You help us get it right. Washington EMC members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees. We also appreciate your feedback on co-op programs and services. Your opinions are critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for that.

5. You and other Washington EMC members make up the community we serve—and for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here, too, and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why Washington EMC donates to local charities, schools and scholarship funds. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive.





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

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Chair, Tennille

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Mike Beckworth, *Harrison*

Brenda English, *Milledgeville*

Billy Helton, *Warthen*

Jeff Lacksen, *Sparta*

Ken Vickers, *Wrightsville*

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

100 W. College St.
Wrightsville, GA 31096

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

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

and blanket drives. We are proud of the communities we serve and grateful to assist in these worthwhile programs and schools.



REMINDER

Our base charge will increase
\$5 beginning March 1.
Energy rates remain unchanged.

Five ways to save energy when working from home

Today, more Americans are working from home than ever before. More time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day.

If you're punching the clock from home, there are small steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills. Here are five easy ways to save energy when working from home.

1. Use a smart power strip. Plugging in your most-used devices, such as computers, monitors and routers, to a smart power strip ensures these devices aren't drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips also give you the option to select which devices should stay in "always on" mode.

2. Unplug your least-used equipment. If your home office includes equipment like printers and scanners, you're probably not using these electronics every day. In this case, go ahead and unplug your least-used electronics and devices, since many of these draw energy even when they're not being used.

3. Choose Energy Star-certified office equipment. If you're looking to purchase new equipment for your



If you're looking to purchase new equipment for your workspace, look for the Energy Star label to ensure you're getting the most energy-efficient features.



When you're working during the day, open the blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light into your workspace.

workspace, look for the Energy Star label to ensure you're getting the most energy-efficient features. Computers, monitors, imaging equipment and other office electronics that receive the Energy Star rating include power management features to management features to make saving energy easy, and most are designed to run cooler and last longer.

4. Flip the switch and use natural light instead. It's still chilly out there, so take advantage of natural light and additional warmth from the sun. When you're working during the day, open the blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light in—and don't forget to turn off the lights to reduce energy use.

5. Lower the thermostat. Home heating makes up a significant portion of your energy bills. Turn the thermostat down a couple degrees during the day to reduce energy use and save money. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 68 F or cooler during winter months. You're more likely to stay focused and alert when it's cooler

in your home, so all the more reason to mind the thermostat.

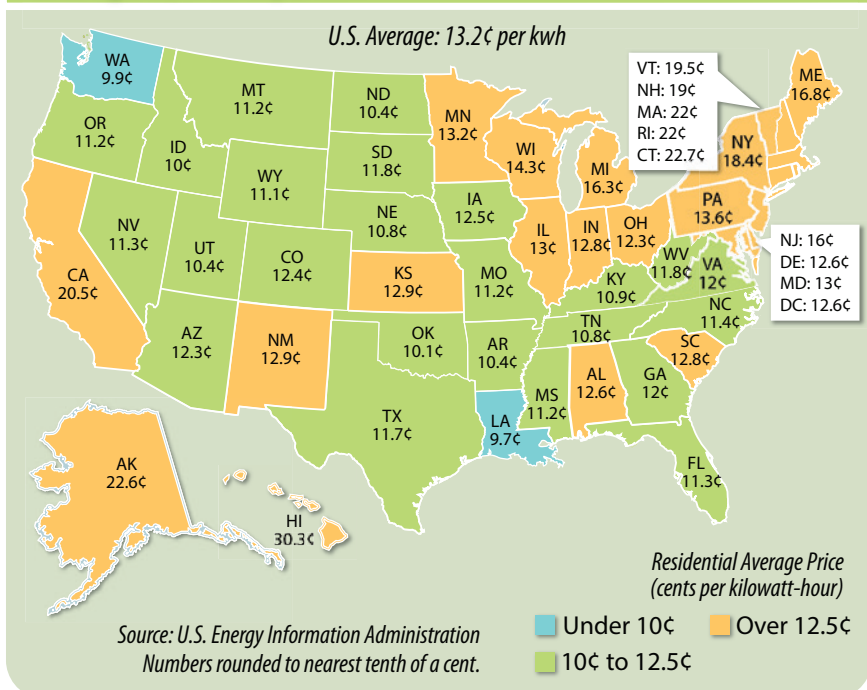
Working from home doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bills. Regardless of whether you're working remotely, these practical tips can help everyone reduce their energy use.

Contact Washington EMC if you have questions about your electric bill or want additional information about saving energy at home.



Average prices for residential electricity

2020 figures, in cents per kwh



Washington EMC rates for 1,500 kwh are 11.47 cents/kwh (.53 cents below the Georgia average, and 1.73 cents below the national average).

HIGH-SPEED FIBER INTERNET IS ON THE WAY!

Connect, powered by Washington EMC, will soon be in your neighborhood.

- No data limits
- No installation fee during build-out
- The same high speed for uploads and downloads
- Always affordable pricing



Learn more and preregister today!
ConexonConnect.com/WashingtonEMC



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

