



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

January brings opportunities to save energy and money

The month of January often brings some of the coldest weather of the year, and as our home heating systems work harder and longer to keep us warm, many of us notice higher energy bills. Fortunately, there are simple, effective ways to reduce energy use and save money, even during the chilliest months of the year.

When you receive your monthly bill from Washington EMC, you're provided with a summary of how much electricity you used during the billing cycle. This can help you identify patterns in your energy use and pinpoint opportunities to save. For example, you might notice higher energy use on particularly cold days or when you've had guests staying at your home.

By understanding how and when you use electricity, you can take steps to reduce your consumption and lower your costs.

Adjust your thermostat

The good news is that you have more control over your energy bill than you think. One of the most effective ways to save energy is through thermostat management. Heating and cooling account for a major portion of home energy use, so adjusting your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting during winter can lead to noticeable savings. For every degree you lower your thermostat, you could save as much as 1% on your heating costs.

Additionally, be sure to service your heating system annually and replace filters as needed. A clean

and well-maintained system will operate more efficiently, saving you energy and money.

Seal air leaks

Another easy and inexpensive way to save is by sealing air leaks around windows, doors and other openings. Gaps and cracks allow cold air to enter your home, forcing your heating system to work harder to maintain a comfortable temperature. Use weatherstripping, caulk or insulation to seal these leaks and improve your home's energy efficiency.



Energy-efficient habits

Small changes in your daily habits can add up to big savings over time. Turn off lights when you leave a room, unplug devices that aren't in use and consider upgrading to energy-efficient appliances and LED lightbulbs. These simple actions can help you lower your energy use without sacrificing comfort.

Explore efficiency programs and apps

Washington EMC offers a variety of programs and resources to help you save energy and money. From energy calculators to home energy checkups, we're here



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

to help you make the most of your electricity savings. This is also a great time to download our SmartHub app to your smart device to help track daily energy use anytime you like. Visit www.washingtonemc.com/member-resources/energy-calculators to learn more about programs designed to improve your home's efficiency and reduce your energy costs, as well as how to download the SmartHub app.

Working together to keep costs low

While external factors like weather and fuel prices can impact electricity costs, Washington EMC is committed to helping you save energy and money. As your local energy partner, we're focused on providing reliable power at an affordable cost and empowering you with the tools and knowledge you need to take control of your energy use.

Stay warm this winter and remember that small changes can lead to big savings.



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.



Experience the future of high-speed internet!



Fiber-fast
speeds



Unlimited data
with no caps
or throttling



In partnership
with your local
electric co-op

MAKE THE SWITCH!

Visit www.conexonconnect.com,
call (844) 542-6663 or scan our
QR Code to sign up today.



SCAN ME



Holiday office closure

The Washington EMC
offices will be closed
Monday, January 19, in
observance of Martin
Luther King Jr. Day.



Walter Harrison Scholarship

Washington EMC is accepting applications for the Walter Harrison Scholarship. High school seniors who live in the household of a Washington EMC member may apply for the Walter Harrison Scholarship until January 16.

The \$1,000 scholarship may be used at any Georgia accredited college, university or technical school. Nineteen winners will be selected statewide. Applications can be obtained from your school counselor or by contacting Washington EMC Walter Harrison Scholarship Coordinator Denise Wombles at (800) 552-2577 or online at www.washingtonemc.com.



Honoring military veterans

Washington EMC was proud to honor our veterans and their immediate family with a BBQ lunch on November 11.

We look forward to this day all year long as we are able to fellowship with the many brave men and women in our community.

*Thank
You.*



Community news

The Operation Round Up board met on October



27 and approved funding for the following organizations: Angel House of Georgia, Golden Harvest Food Bank, JCES-Physical Education Department, Kid's Cup, Washington County Chamber Youth Leadership, Angels in Flight Recovery Center, Miriam Ministry, Overview Inc., WACO Reads, Azalea Regional Library, His House Recovery Home, Neighbors Caring About Neighbors and the Washington County Rural Fire Department.

We are proud to give back to those making a difference in our communities. The next board meeting will be January 26 and the deadline for applications is December 31. For more information, visit www.washingtonemc.com.



GEORGIA'S LARGEST WYT DELEGATION EVER

By Lindsay Penticcuff

In June, Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMCs) sent their 60th—and largest ever—delegation of students to Washington, D.C., for the all-expenses-paid, weeklong Washington Youth Tour (WYT). Washington EMC was proud to sponsor Mary Thomas Smith and Carrie Wright, both from Washington County, as they develop their leadership and citizenship skills while representing our co-op in our nation's capital.

Representing 38 Georgia EMCs, 116 high schoolers attended, along with 14 chaperones sent by co-ops and three representatives from Tucker-based Georgia EMC. The tour was June 13-20.

Washington EMC's 2025 delegates were Carrie Wright, daughter of Brian and Jennifer Wright of Sandersville, and Mary Thomas Smith, daughter of Jeffery and Kelli Smith of Sandersville.

"The 2025 Youth Tour was a huge success!" says Andy Paul, WYT director and public relations representative with Georgia EMC. "Our students got to see historic events



happening in our nation's capital, meet with legislators and tour several museums."

Highlights of last year's event included stops at the Smithsonian Institution museums, the National Archives, George Washington's Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery and the World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King Jr., Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans memorials.

Carrie says, "My favorite part of the Washington Youth Tour was the Marine Corps Sunset Parade at the Iwo Jima Memorial. It was a powerful and unforgettable moment that showed the respect and sacrifice of our nation's service members. I also enjoyed meeting so many people from across the state, and growing connections and memories that will last a lifetime."

On Capitol Hill day, students met with U.S. representatives in a congressional town hall, then spent time with U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock on the Capitol steps.

In regard to the planning and organization of the trip, Mary Thomas says, "Every excursion was amazing, and we were able to see so much in such a short time without ever feeling rushed or wasting a minute."

Paul says one of the most memorable parts of the Youth Tour was participating in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. Four delegates—Reginald Ward from GreyStone Power Corp. in Hiram, Leila Eastmead from Planters EMC in Millen, Chloe Toole from Walton EMC in Monroe and J.C. Nimmer from Satilla REMC in Alma—represented Georgia's EMCs during the ceremony.

Each year, one Georgia student-delegate on the Washington Youth Tour is chosen to join the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth Leadership Council (YLC). Kevin Ray from Grady EMC in Cairo was selected by his peers as the 2025 YLC representative.



Apply for the 2026 Washington Youth Tour

Washington EMC is now accepting applications for the Washington Youth Tour. To be eligible, students must attend a school in the Washington EMC service area, be a high school junior, be at least 16 years old by June 13 and have parent or guardian permission to enter and participate. More information and applications can be obtained from your school counselor, by contacting Washington EMC Youth Tour Coordinator Denise Wombles at (800) 552-2577 or visiting www.washingtonemc.com. Applications are due by January 16.