

The LAMPLIGHTER

Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

May 2024

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

New texting options now available!

TEXTalerts

Have you ever wished you could just text us that your power is out? Or, would you like to be able to text us to get status updates of an outage at your location? Well, good news—now you can!

Washington EMC is excited to offer a new service to our members to make communicating with us even easier. Starting this May, Washington

EMC will roll out a new text-messaging service—TEXTalerts—that allows you to send and receive critical messages about power outages on your cellphone.

Using simple text commands shown in the box to the right, you will be able to sign up for the service, opt out of the service, report a power outage and ask for status updates.

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Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

JOIN

Will sign you up or text you what prompts to use if you are already signed up.

OUT

Report an outage for your location. The system will ask you to verify the address.

STATUS

This will let you know if we have received the outage, verified the outage and if a crew has been dispatched to your outage. STATUS does not give an estimated time of restoration, but it will let you know where the outage stands in the restoration process.

QUIT

Opt out of the program. These words will allow the number from which it is sent to be opted out. *No messages can be sent to this number until it opts back into the program.*





WashingtonEMC

A Member-owned Electric Cooperative

— 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

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Jeff Lacksen, *Sparta*

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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

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

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

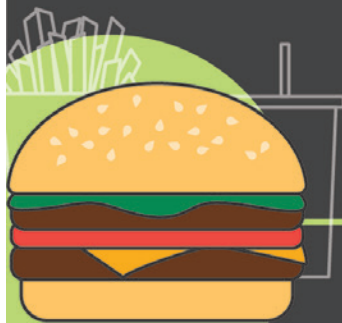
Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can also help you manage devices through a smartphone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money).

Source: www.energystar.gov



THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY

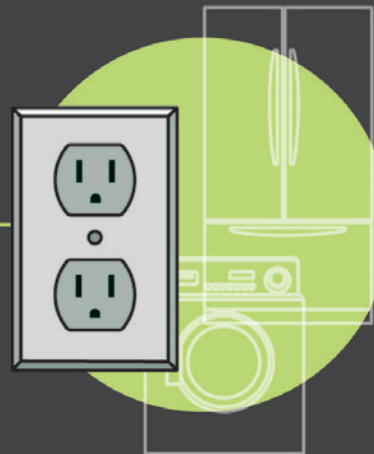


\$5.36

average cost
of a Big Mac®

\$4.57

average daily
cost of power



Electricity is expressed on a daily basis using EIA 2022 Average U.S. Monthly Residential Bill of \$137. Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material.

Sources: *Economist.com and EIA, Dec. 2022*

New texting options, *Continued from page 20A*

Every member of Washington EMC will be automatically enrolled in the TEXTalerts program, but opting out will be easy if you do not wish to participate. This month, you will receive a welcome text from our main office number, (478) 552-2577, letting you know about the program. We all receive plenty of spam texts, so please know if you receive one from us from this specific number it is legitimate. You can always save our phone number in your contacts as Washington

EMC and know immediately when the texts are from us. We will only use this service for important information related to outages and emergency situations.

Please help us make this service work best for you by helping ensure we have your current cellphone number on your account and also your accurate physical 911 address (not just your mailing address). The 911 address helps us match the outage to the correct location.

We are excited to offer you this enhanced outage-reporting option. We value our members and strive to continue offering new services to help enhance your member experience, especially as it pertains to responding to outages quickly and efficiently.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like to update your phone number and address in our system, please call (478) 552-2577 and our friendly customer service representatives will be happy to assist you.



Holiday office closing

All Washington EMC offices will be closed
Monday, May 27, in observance of Memorial Day.

5 WAYS TO SAVE THIS SUMMER

When summer temperatures rise, so do our energy bills. Here are a few ways you can reduce energy use and grow your summer savings.

1. Raise your thermostat.

The smaller the difference between the indoor and outdoor temp, the more you'll save.

2. Install window coverings

like blinds or light-blocking curtains to prevent indoor heat gain during the day.

3. **Seal leaks with caulk and weatherstripping** around windows and exterior doors. Air leaks force your air conditioner to work harder and run longer than necessary.

4. **Run ceiling fans** for additional cooling but turn them off when you leave the room.

5. **Lower your water heater thermostat** to 120 degrees to reduce standby heat loss.



Source: Dept. of Energy

END BANDWIDTH BATTLES!

Get connected to high-speed, reliable internet for the whole family this summer.

WHY CONNECT?

- Internet in partnership with your local cooperative.
- No data caps or throttling.
- Affordable pricing for every household.
- Phone services also available.
- *And more! Fiber internet opens up a world of opportunity.*

Let's connect

Check availability at
www.conexonconnect.com,
call us at (844) 542-6663
or scan our QR Code!



SCAN ME

