



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

Reliable power for today ... and tomorrow

Ringing in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As the general manager of Washington EMC, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at Washington EMC is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering—and empowering—our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

So how are we working to ensure reliable and affordable power, while also adapting to a changing energy landscape and our community's evolving needs?

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across our service area. You may not realize it, but Washington EMC doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from our energy providers, Oglethorpe Power Company, Cooperative Energy Inc. and others, and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable

power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, Washington EMC is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering infrastructure, also known as AMI, enables two-way communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps Washington EMC save money with real-time data and, ultimately, improves power reliability for the entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall.

With the installation of fiber lines across our system, Washington EMC is able to communicate with devices in the field and help improve outage restoration times. It also gives us the ability to receive valuable information to know where changes or upgrades need to be made in order to offer the most reliable service possible to our members.

One of the best methods for improving our services to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops in Georgia and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, Washington EMC will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve—for today and tomorrow.

**OUR TEAM AT WASHINGTON EMC
IS ALWAYS LOOKING AHEAD,
EXPLORING WAYS TO INNOVATE
AND UTILIZE NEW TECHNOLOGIES
TO IMPROVE OUR SERVICES.**

—Wendy Sellers, President/CEO





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

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

- **Toy Drive:** Every year, Washington EMC participates in toy drives in our service area. Toys can be dropped off at one of our locations before December 11. This is a great way to give back to people in our community and help put a smile on a child's face.



- **2024 Washington Youth Tour:** Washington EMC is accepting applications for the Washington Youth Tour. To be eligible, students must attend school within the Washington EMC service area, be a high school junior, be at least 16 years old by June 15, 2024, 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 by visiting www.washingtonemc.com. The deadline to apply is January 19, 2024.



- **2024 Walter Harrison Scholarship:** Washington EMC is accepting applications for the Walter Harrison Scholarship. High school seniors who reside in the household of a Washington EMC member can apply for the Walter Harrison Scholarship until January 19, 2024. The \$1,000 scholarship may be used at any Georgia accredited college, university or technical school. Fifteen winners will be selected statewide. Applications can be obtained from your school counselor, by contacting Washington EMC Walter Harrison Scholarship Coordinator Denise Wombles at (800) 552-2577 or by visiting www.washingtonemc.com.



Holiday office closings

Washington EMC offices will close Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26, for the Christmas holidays; and Monday, January 1, 2024, for New Year's Day. For emergency service or to report a power outage, call (478) 552-2577 or (800) 552-2577.



Spruce up your fireplace for the holidays

Nothing makes a home look as festive as stockings hanging from the mantel over the fireplace.

Make your fireplace the showpiece of holiday photographs by sprucing it up a bit. Here are some ideas:

- **Replace your wood fireplace with an electric model.** You might feel some heat if you sit close to your wood-burning fireplace, but it's not producing enough heat to help your furnace keep the house warm. In fact, it's sucking your home's heated air right up the chimney. Consider converting that energy-inefficient fireplace with an electric version. If you haven't seen one in a while, you'll be amazed by how realistic its "flames" look, thanks to technological advancements.
- **Add an electrical outlet to the mantel.** It will allow you to mingle tree lights with the garland you drape around the hearth and eliminate the need for extension cords.
- **Replace your mantel.** You can order pre-cut mantels in any price range and in materials ranging from hardwood to marble to plaster. This is a weekend job for a handy do-it-yourselfer.
- **Clean your fireplace and chimney.** Even if you're not burning wood in



your old fireplace anymore, give it a good cleaning. And update fireplace accessories like the shovel, poker, broom and screen so they're clean and new.

- **Clean the brick or stone that surrounds your fireplace.** If the brick is sealed, most of the soot should scrub off with detergent and a cloth. Tougher stains might require a mixture of ammonia and water with a stiff bristle brush. Test a small area first to make sure the brush doesn't damage the brick's surface and the

solution doesn't discolor it. If your brick is unsealed or very old, don't scrub it; instead, just sweep it.

- **Hang your stockings by the chimney with care—a lot of it.** Hanging stockings can damage your mantel and pose a fire hazard. Tips: Use the smallest hook or nail you can find so the hole you pierce into the mantel will be nearly invisible when you remove the nail after the holidays. Move holiday stockings away from the mantel before lighting a fire.

GATE cards are due December 31, 2023

Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) cards are due to Washington EMC by December 31, 2023. 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 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.

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.



Say goodbye to frozen connections!

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

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.
 - Online shop your wishlist with no lag.
 - *And more!*

Check availability at
www.conexonconnect.com,
call (844) 542-6663
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