

The LAMPLIGHTER

Official Member Newsletter of Washington EMC

November 2023

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

Serving up savings



The holiday season is just around the corner, and soon, festive music will flood the airwaves, sparkling lights and decorations will adorn homes and businesses, and good tidings will abound.

The holidays also bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking and family gatherings, and amid the hectic hustle and bustle, you may receive higher-than-usual energy bills.

Keeping this in mind, I thought it would be a good time to remind Washington EMC members of a few efficiency tips to help lower your monthly energy use.

Winter months typically bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. Making minor, low-cost improvements like weatherstripping exterior doors and caulking around old, drafty windows can make a positive impact on energy bills

You can be festive without breaking the bank. My family insists that I bring the Christmas decorations down from the attic faster than we can finish

the Thanksgiving turkey. With holiday lights adorning our home for well over a month, we decided to make the switch to LEDs to save energy.

LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. To put that into perspective, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that with standard holiday decorations, LED lights typically increase energy bills by about \$5-\$7. But with incandescent lights, energy bills will typically increase by \$33 or more. For homes that go above and beyond with incandescent holiday lighting (think Clark Griswold), energy bills could increase by as much as \$350. Beyond energy savings, LEDs provide additional benefits, such as being shock resistant, shatterproof and cool to the touch, making them safer for the home.

You can also lower energy use by conveniently managing holiday lighting. Smart light timers can help you save energy by connecting to a smartphone app or voice assistant to program lights to turn on and off at set times. If you don't use smart-home technology, you can still save energy by using traditional timers.

Additional, easy ways to save during the holiday season include turning off overhead lights and using your Christmas tree to illuminate your home. If you have a fireplace, remember to close the flue when you're not burning a fire to ensure heat doesn't escape through the chimney.

If you plan to have family and friends over this holiday season, you can cook up energy savings in the kitchen by using small countertop appliances like



Wendy Sellers
President/CEO

microwaves, air fryers and slow cookers when possible, as they use much less energy than the stovetop or oven.

When using the oven, bake multiple dishes at once for maximum efficiency. After all, it takes as much energy to cook one dish as it does to cook several. Turn the oven off a few minutes before the recipe's end time and allow the residual heat to finish baking the dish. Once the food is done, leave the stove door ajar to allow the residual heat to warm the room. When using the stovetop, match the pan size to the burner to maximize the stovetop's efficiency.

I hope a few of these tips will be helpful as we approach the holiday season. Remember: We're here to answer any questions you have about managing energy use or your monthly bills. With a little planning upfront, you can find efficient ways to save on everything from holiday decor to your favorite soup recipes. We have also included more energy-saving tips on page 20C of this newsletter.

From your friends at Washington EMC, we hope you have a wonderful holiday season.





An electric membership corporation

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8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

PHONES

Local (478) 552-2577

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24-HOUR CALL CENTER

To report a power interruption
please call:

Local (478) 552-2577

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BRANCH LOCATIONS

12860 Broad St.

Sparta, GA 31087

Closed on Thursday

100 W. College St.

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Convenient bill pay options include:

Drive-thru payment window

319 N. Smith St., Sandersville, GA 31082

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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

Happy Veterans Day

Washington EMC is proud to honor all who have served, especially our employees. We are also proud to honor all local veterans by treating them to a free barbecue lunch Friday, November 10, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at EMC headquarters on North Harris Street in Sandersville.

The Peach State BBQ food truck will be in our parking lot, serving veterans and their immediate families a complimentary meal as a small token of our appreciation for their service.



Austin Dixon (left) and Tony Murry both served in the U.S. Army.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Washington EMC's office will be closed
Thursday, November 23, and Friday,
November 24, in observance of the
Thanksgiving holiday. For emergency
services, please call (800)552-2577.



Love your old electric blanket? It's time to say goodbye.

If nothing makes you feel warmer and cozier than the electric blanket you've had since you were a teenager, it's time to reconsider just how safe that old safety net is.

A majority of the 500 fires caused annually by electric blankets and heating pads start in those that are more than 10 years old. If yours is showing signs of age, consider replacing it with a new version with built-in safety features.

You'll know it's time to put your "blanky" to rest when:



- You notice charring on the fabric. This can appear as dark or frayed spots.
- The electric cord you use with the pad or blanket is cracked, frayed or worn.

A few safety tips for using electric blankets and heating pads include:

- Never use the two together; don't layer them.
- Don't put anything on top of an electric blanket or heating pad that is plugged in. It could overheat. That means you shouldn't cover an electric blanket with a regular blanket or allow your dog or cat to sleep on top of it.
- Don't fold the electric blanket when you're not using it.
- Don't tuck it in under your mattress.
- Unplug it when you're not using it. And always unplug it before you fall asleep.

Helpful energy saving tips for the holidays



Preparing a Thanksgiving Day feast means you'll be using more energy than usual. Here's how to keep it under control:

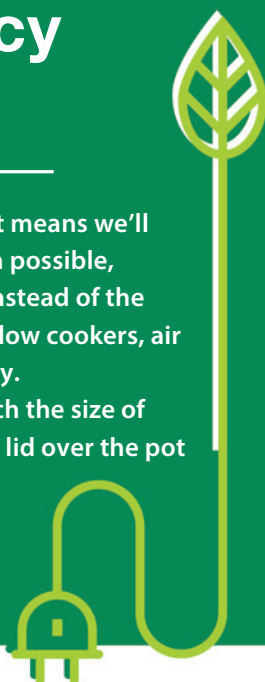
- Lower the heat a couple of degrees before company arrives. You'll be using the stove and oven all day, so the house will be warmer than usual anyway. Plus, people generate heat, so a cooler house will feel more comfortable.
- Keep an eye on the refrigerator and freezer so you'll know the doors are closed. Doors that aren't tightly sealed will send cold air into the kitchen.
- Wait until leftovers cool off a bit before placing them in the refrigerator. The appliance has to work harder to cool hot food than to keep cool food cold.
- Place lids on pots and pans as you use them for cooking. Lids keep heat in so food cooks quicker.
- Heat up whatever you can in the microwave instead of on the stovetop or oven. Microwaves use about half the energy as your oven.
- Fill your oven with as many different dishes as you can fit and cook them all at once. As long as the recipes don't call for temperatures that vary by more than 25 degrees, everything should cook or bake evenly.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The holiday season is upon us, and that means we'll be using more energy in the kitchen! When possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the stovetop or oven. Smaller appliances like slow cookers, air fryers and Instant Pots consume less energy.

When using the oven or stovetop, match the size of the pot to the heating element and place a lid over the pot while cooking. The food will cook faster, and you'll use less energy.

Source: www.energy.gov



Connect with loved ones near and far!

No matter where you are this Thanksgiving, spend quality time with loved ones with the power of fiber internet.

This Thanksgiving, you'll be able to:

- Stream the big parade seamlessly.
- Video chat with friends and family near and far.
- Utilize online recipes with no buffering or lags.
- Shop your favorite Black Friday deals from the comfort of your home.
- *And more!*

Endless possibilities, endless connections.

Check your availability at
www.conexonconnect.com,
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