



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

# Power in your hands

**R**ecently, one of our newer employees asked me what makes electric co-ops different than other types of utilities. This month, I thought I'd tell you a few of the things I told her, because as a co-op, we operate a little differently than other utilities.

Washington EMC's decisions are made locally, and by directors who also live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here to pay for the electricity used or make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders five states away. We're a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you—our local members.

You may notice that throughout the year, we have opportunities for you to attend co-op events, such as our Annual Meeting so we can hear from you. Washington EMC's Annual Meeting is always the first Saturday in October. This year, that day falls on Saturday, October 7. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. and the business meeting begins at 10 a.m. It's a great time to fellowship with Washington EMC employees and members, and learn about what's going on at your co-op.

Because you're a part of an electric cooperative, you can count on our team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity and first-class service, no matter what the economy—and supply chain issues—throw at us.



Washington EMC is striving to keep our costs as low as possible so we can keep more money in your pocket. We want to help you maximize the value you get from our services and offerings.

If you want to receive important information from Washington EMC, such as power restoration updates and reminders, sign up for our text message notifications. You can sign up for these notifications through our mobile



**Wendy Sellers**  
*President/CEO*

app (WEMC mobile) or by calling one of our customer service representatives. You can also stay in the know with our monthly newsletter in Georgia Magazine, and by following us on Twitter and Facebook.

Please know that you—Washington EMC members—are at the heart of everything we do. Co-ops adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service.

We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve.

While we've grown over the years, we're still driven by the same guiding principles to serve our community. We hope to see or hear from you soon. This co-op was created for you, our members, and the power is in your hands!



An electric membership corporation

258 N. Harris St. • P.O. Box 598  
Sandersville, GA 31082

Email: [wemc@washingtonemc.com](mailto:wemc@washingtonemc.com)

Website: [www.washingtonemc.com](http://www.washingtonemc.com)

Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mildred W. Jackson,  
*Chair, Tennille*

Mike Beckworth,  
*Vice Chair, Harrison*

Mike McDonald,

*Secretary/Treasurer, Warrenton*

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  
*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](http://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

# Unclaimed Capital Credits

## Last date to claim a capital credit check is September 30, 2023

**W**ere you a Washington EMC member in 2002-2004? If so, you may have funds to claim. Washington EMC is attempting to locate former members whose capital credit check was issued August 31, 2023, but which have been returned by the U.S. Post Office as “undeliverable,” or otherwise remains unclaimed.

A current list of the names of these members and instructions for claiming these funds is posted on our website at [www.washingtonemc.com](http://www.washingtonemc.com). This list is also available at all Washington EMC locations for reviewing during regular business hours.

The last date to claim these funds is September 30, 2023. If these funds are not claimed by this date, they will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by law. To claim a refund or submit any question about this notice or the list, contact the Washington EMC office by calling (478) 552-2577.



## Holiday office closing



In observance of Labor Day, the Washington EMC business office will be closed Monday, September 4. For emergency services, please call (800) 552-2577.

# Questions to consider before installing rooftop solar

**“F**ree energy from the sun and lower electric bills! Where do I sign up?”

The benefits of installing rooftop solar panels may seem like a no-brainer, but the reality is that not every home (and homeowner’s situation) is always right for solar.

There are several factors to consider before pulling the trigger on a rooftop solar system, such as determining whether your home will receive enough sun to achieve your goals, finding the right contractor, negotiating contracts and other important details.

Investing in solar for your home is a major decision. If you’re considering rooftop solar, Washington EMC can help.

Here are questions to consider before installing rooftop solar panels:

- **Is my roof suitable for solar?** Your roof should be in good condition before installing solar panels. If your roof is old and in poor shape, it may need to be replaced before panels can be mounted. It’s best to have a roof newer than five years. Additionally, your roof should receive a lot of sun to make the most of a rooftop system. Consider how much sun (and shade) the roof receives and if any trees will need to be removed. Solar panels perform best when facing south, so keep this in mind as you think about where the panels will be mounted.

- **How long will I own the home?** If you’re considering rooftop solar, you’re likely planning to stay in the home for several years. But if you plan to sell the home at some point down the road, consider that not all potential buyers will want to maintain a rooftop solar system. If you enter a contract to lease the system, carefully review the terms and what those mean if you decide to sell the property.

- **Lease or purchase?** Purchasing a rooftop solar system outright is expensive, which is why many homeowners opt to lease their solar panels. However, federal tax credits can help cover some of the costs for a new system—up to 30%. Regardless of how you decide to finance the solar system, make sure you get several quotes from qualified contractors. There are several factors you’ll want to discuss with them upfront.

- **Can the contractor provide up-to-date documentation?** It may seem obvious, but be sure to request proof and documentation of the contractor’s licensing, permitting and other credentials. Comb through company reviews, check the contractor’s status with the Better Business Bureau, etc. Do your homework on the front-end before signing a contract.

- **Does the contract seem reasonable and fair?** If you decide to hire a contractor to install rooftop solar, carefully read the fine print of the contract. Do the system performance calculations seem realistic?



Does the project time frame sound reasonable? Negotiate the contract terms to fit your goals and needs.

- **Who will maintain the solar panels?** Determining who is responsible for maintaining the solar panels will depend on who owns the system. If you lease the system from a solar installer, it may be their responsibility. Periodically, solar panels need to be cleaned, as dirt and debris can impact panel productivity. Parts may also need to be replaced, so it’s important to know who will take on these responsibilities.

- **How will I work with Washington EMC?** Finally, but equally important, you should contact Washington EMC if you decide to install solar. The system must be connected to the electric grid, so you’ll need to sign an interconnection agreement. We can walk you through the steps, including how our solar rates and fees work. Make sure to check for these details in your contract.

For many homeowners, solar panels are a great way to help the environment and save on electric bills, but there are many factors to consider before diving in and installing a system.

As with any major home project, do plenty of research upfront, and contact Washington EMC if you have questions or decide to move forward with installation.

# Join us for the 2023 Annual Meeting



Plan now to attend  
**86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**Saturday  
October 7, 2023**

Ridge Road Schools  
285 Ridge Road  
Sandersville, GA 31082

Registration and voting begins at 8:30 a.m.

Business meeting starts at 10 a.m.

Agenda:

Call to order

Invocation

Reading of notice

Minutes of previous meeting

Reports to the membership

Election of directors

Old business

New business

Attendance prize drawing

Adjourn



**T**he 2023 Annual Meeting of Members of Washington Electric Membership Corp. will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 7, 2023, in the Ridge Road Schools cafeteria located at 285 Ridge Road in Sandersville.

The location is easily accessed

from Highway 88 (Fall Line Freeway), Highway 24 (Davisboro Road) and Highway 242 (Riddleville Road). This location also offers convenient access and ample parking. Be sure to join us for our Annual Meeting.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**October 7, 2023**

**Annual Meeting of Members**

Attendance gift—neck fans



**GRAND PRIZE**

**\$500**

**Credit on your power bill!**

Must be present to win.

**Register to receive instant prizes and more!**