



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

# Got lights? Thank a lineworker!

**E**ach day, I proudly drive around in my vehicle, which displays a tag on the front bumper with the statement, “Got Lights? Thank a Lineman.” Maybe to some it seems like a simple statement, but to me and everyone at Washington EMC, it means so much more. It’s a constant reminder of how much we appreciate the dedicated lineworkers at Washington EMC and all across this country.

On Monday, April 10, Washington EMC will join other electric cooperatives across our state and nation for Lineworker Appreciation Day. How wonderful it is that we have a designated day to make sure we recognize the hard work and dedication of these individuals.

Being a lineworker is a tough job. It takes as long to become a first-class lineworker as it does to earn a bach-

elor’s degree in college. The skill sets learned and the experiences developed over time shape these individuals into true professionals in electric line work. In addition, their constant commitment to working safely helps this group protect each other so they can return home to their families each day.

But all the training and education on being a lineworker is just half of what it takes. As I said, being a lineworker is a tough job. There are no days off when the weather is bad. There are no days to play in the snow when kids are out of school. There are countless nights when the phone rings and wakes a lineworker to come to work. There are families left at home when a lineworker is out helping others.

These individuals work tirelessly to respond to what Mother Nature destroys. They are the first responders in hard-hit



**Wendy Sellers**  
*President/CEO*

areas to restore power, and normalcy, back to our lives. It is a job for the toughest of the tough.

At Washington EMC, I believe we have the very best lineworkers anywhere. I am so proud to have the privilege of working with them and calling them family. It’s an honor that they chose to work for Washington EMC and its members. We never want to take for granted their dedication.

In this article is an image of the lineworkers at Washington EMC. If you encounter any of them or any other lineworkers you may come across, please thank them for what they do. They would never ask for it and will give every bit of effort regardless. But just remember if you’ve got lights, thank a lineworker!





# Community news

— An electric membership corporation

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Sandersville, GA 31082

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

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

Wendy Sellers, President/CEO

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Look for WEMC in the  
App Store or Android Market.

### Pay by phone

(478) 552-2577 or (800) 552-2577

The Operation Round Up Board met January 30 and approved funding for the following organizations:

- **First Love Kids**
- **Georgia Transplant Foundation**
- **Johnson County 4-H**
- **Serenity Foundation Gives**
- **Sparta-Hancock County Library**
- **Warren County Schools**
- **Washington County Chamber of Commerce**

We are so proud to be able to give back to the ones making a difference in our communities. The next board meeting is April 24 and the deadline for applications is March 31. For more information, visit [www.washingtonemc.com](http://www.washingtonemc.com).



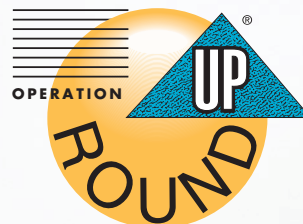
## Rounding up makes a difference

Thanks to Washington EMC and their Operation Round Up program, they were able to assist in purchasing the supplies needed to build our patient a wheelchair ramp. I was ecstatic to be receiving this donation and expressed the appreciation we had for what Operation Round Up is all about and how it's able to help the community.

I want to share my appreciation with Washington EMC customers who participate in this program, which makes these funds available for organizations to be able to use toward someone in need. Without our donors and the donations that come in, none of this is possible, so thank you for all that you do.

Also, thank you Washington EMC for choosing Serenity Foundation Gives as a candidate for funds to grant such a needed and special grant for our patient.

—*Nikki Wiggins, Serenity  
Foundation Coordinator*



# Energy efficiency upgrades to help you save this summer

Spring and summer are opportune times for home upgrades and do-it-yourself projects. If you're planning to make improvements to your home, consider upgrades that promote better efficiency. Here are a few projects that can help you save energy and money—and increase the comfort of your home.

Installing a smart thermostat is one of the simplest ways to manage home energy use and keep summer bills in check. Smart thermostats are easy to install and allow you to control your heating and cooling system from your smartphone. You can purchase an Energy Star-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, or about \$50 per year. This upgrade will quickly pay for itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home.

Speaking of smart, additional devices like smart LED bulbs also offer convenient control and help boost energy savings at home. With smart lighting, you can set a schedule for when and how your lights should be turned on or off. And the next time you head out to run errands and realize you left the lights on, all you have to do is turn them off through your smartphone. Smart lights come in a variety of shapes, colors and brightness levels—and you can purchase bulbs for indoor or outdoor use. Schedule outdoor smart lights to illuminate your home at night and when you're out of town for better security.

While it's not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills. Applying new (or replacing old) weatherstripping around doors and windows can instantly make your home more comfortable and reduce



KAROLINA GRABOWSKA, PIXABAY

*There are several smartphone apps that can help you achieve real energy savings.*

*A smart thermostat paired with a smartphone app can help you manage energy used to heat or cool your home, which can help you save energy and money.*

energy waste. Applying caulk to fill gaps can also improve the seal of your home. Caulk can be applied to a variety of areas, including windows, doors, bathtubs and sinks.

If your home feels too warm during the summer (and too chilly during the winter), and even after you've sealed with weatherstripping and caulk, your home may need additional insulation. Insulation is considered a more expensive efficiency upgrade. However, if your home is under-insulated, additional

insulation can make a big impact on reducing energy use and costs. The cost of new insulation depends on a variety of factors like materials, size of the home and whether you use a contractor. Typically, the project costs can be recouped in a few years, and your home will immediately feel more comfortable.

Of course, there are additional efficiency upgrades that can make a big impact on energy use, such as replacing old appliances with Energy Star models or replacing old, leaky windows with new, energy-efficient windows. But these upgrades can be a bit pricey.

If you're wanting to make your home more energy-efficient but you're not sure where to start, check out our Home Energy Suite option on our website at [www.washingtonemc.com](http://www.washingtonemc.com). The Home Energy Suite can help identify areas to boost efficiency, and then you can determine the projects you want to tackle first based on your budget and needs.



## A connected community becomes a growing community.

Fiber internet from Connect, powered by Washington EMC, brings new possibilities to residents and businesses alike.

### Connect's services will allow your community to:

- *Increase productivity in both homes and businesses.*
- *Retain and grow personal and professional connections.*
  - *Improve health care with access to telemedicine.*
  - *Advance education with access to online courses.*
- *And more!*



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