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## 2023 Annual Meeting Returns to In-Person Format

We are thrilled to share the exciting news that the Altamaha EMC Annual Meeting is making its grand return to an in-person format! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 1, 2023, as we gather at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia for this highly anticipated event.

After three years of unforeseen challenges and adjustments, we understand the immense value of reconnecting with our cooperative community in a face-to-face setting. The decision to transition back to an in-person meeting reflects our strong belief in the power of personal connections and the vibrant spirit that fuels our cooperative.

Southeastern Technical College has been chosen as the venue for this year's Annual Meeting, providing an excellent setting that offers ample space and top-notch facilities to accommodate all our valued members comfortably.

We are excited to present an engaging program that promises to captivate and inform. The agenda for this year's Annual Meeting will encompass a variety of presentations, reports, and updates on Altamaha EMC's progress. We will delve into key cooperative matters, address member concerns,

and provide valuable insights into our plans for the future. This meeting is an invaluable opportunity for you to actively participate, ask questions, and share your ideas, ultimately shaping the direction and success of Altamaha EMC.

We encourage you to save the date, November 1, 2023, on your calendars and make plans to join us. This in-person meeting will allow us to reignite the sense of community, foster meaningful connections, and collaborate towards a bright and prosperous future for Altamaha EMC.

We extend our deepest gratitude for your continued support, dedication, and active participation in our cooperative. Your input and involvement play a pivotal role in shaping the success and direction of Altamaha EMC. We look forward to warmly welcoming you in person at this year's Annual Meeting, where we can celebrate our achievements, address challenges, and together, forge a path towards an even stronger cooperative.

Thank you for being an essential part of Altamaha EMC. We eagerly anticipate your presence at this much-anticipated event!

# Factors that Impact Electricity Prices

Just as inflation has impacted everything from the price of gasoline to the price of eggs, costs for the fuels required to produce electricity have also risen. This is a timely topic, so I wanted to help explain some of the factors that impact electricity prices (and energy bills) in this month's newsletter.

While there is no short answer, there are a few key elements that impact electricity prices and rates. Some of these factors Altamaha EMC can manage, some of them you can impact, and other factors are beyond our control. So, let me break it down.

There are three primary parts to your monthly electric bill: a base charge, a kWh charge, and a Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). To understand your total energy costs and what impacts your bill, let's unpack one piece at a time.

The first is a fixed monthly base charge, which covers the costs associated with providing electricity to your home. This includes equipment, materials, labor, and operating costs necessary to serve each meter in Altamaha EMC's service territory, regardless of the amount of energy used. To ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local system, including power lines, substations, and other necessary equipment. Like many other businesses, we've experienced supply chain issues and steep cost increases for some of our basic equipment. Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, some of these expenses must be passed on to our members. I should note that the service charge is the same for everyone and the costs are shared equally across the membership.

Another component of your monthly bill is the kWh charge, which covers how much energy you consume. You've likely noticed the amount of energy you use can vary from month to month and is typically impacted by extreme temperatures. When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling and heating equipment run longer, which increases your home energy use. Regardless, energy consumption is an area that you have some control over, and you can lower your monthly bill by actively reducing energy use. Your thermostat is a great place to start, so be sure to keep it close to 78 degrees during summer months.

The last component of your bill is the PCA, which is the same amount for all co-op members. The PCA recently increased because of higher fuel prices, which means the power that Altamaha EMC purchases from our wholesale provider is more expensive. The PCA covers fuel cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates.

I hope this information sheds light on some of the factors that impact electricity prices. While we can't control the weather or the rising costs of fuels, please know Altamaha EMC is doing everything possible to keep internal costs down.

We're here to help you, too. Contact us if you have questions about your energy bill or for advice on how to save energy at home.

—George McLendon, CEO/General Manager





# Energy Efficiency

## Tip of the Month

**Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel four degrees cooler?** To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round.

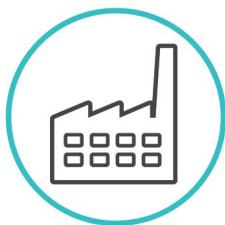
In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: [energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)



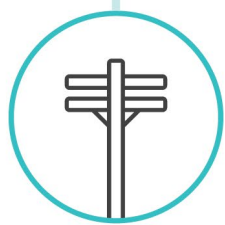
# 4 KEY FACTORS That Impact Energy Bills

You pay for the electricity you consume each month, but there are additional factors that impact your energy bills.



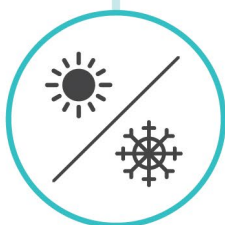
## 1 Fuel Costs

Before electricity can be delivered to your home, it must first be generated at a power plant or from a renewable source. The cost of fuels used to generate electricity fluctuates, which is why you see a power or fuel charge on your monthly bill. This monthly charge covers cost fluctuations without having to continually restructure electricity rates.



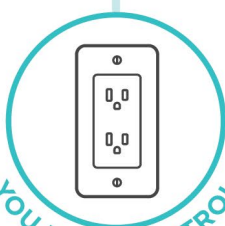
## 2 Service Costs

Your bill includes a monthly service charge, which recovers part of the co-op's ongoing investments in poles, wire, meters, system maintenance and additional costs necessary to provide electric service.



## 3 Weather

When temperatures soar or dip, your cooling or heating equipment must run longer and at maximum capacity, which can greatly increase your energy use. Extreme temperatures can also affect electricity market prices. When the need for electricity increases due to extreme heat or cold, the price of power typically rises.



## 4 Energy Consumption

This is the amount of electricity you use each month to power your home's cooling/heating system, appliances, lighting, electronics and more. The amount of electricity you consume is measured in kilowatt-hours, or kWh. You have control over how much energy you use, which can ultimately help manage your monthly costs.

YOU HAVE CONTROL

# Annual Meeting Information and Director Election Process

*Altamaha EMC will hold its 2023 annual meeting at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia, Georgia, on Wednesday, November 1, 2023. Official notice of the time, date and place will be provided to each member in advance of the meeting. Director elections will be held at the annual meeting for District 1, comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Toombs and Tattnall Counties; District 3 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Montgomery County and District 4 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Emanuel County. The following is a summary of the provisions of the cooperative's bylaws pertaining to the process for election of directors:*

### Section 3.03 Qualifications of Directors.

Qualifications to become or remain a nominee or a director of the cooperative: Must be eighteen (18) years old or older on the date of election. Must be a member and bona fide resident of the district represented and receive service from the cooperative at his or her primary residence. May not, within five (5) years prior to the election, have been an employee of the cooperative. May not be a close relative of any person who is an employee or director of the cooperative. May not be employed by or hold a financial interest in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative. May not be the incumbent of or candidate for a salaried elective public office. May not have been convicted of a felony.

### Section 3.04 Nominations by Nominating Committee.

The Board of Directors appoints a nominating committee comprised of independent members of the cooperative. The nominating committee meets not less than sixty five (65) days prior to the annual meeting and nominates one or more candidates for the directorships that are to be filled at the annual meeting. Written notice of the names of the members of the committee and the meeting date for the committee will be provided to the members prior to their meeting and shall be posted at the cooperative's headquarters.

### Section 3.05 Nominations by petition.

Other nominations for director elections may be made by written petition signed by not less than one hundred (100) members which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the cooperative or his nominee not less than forty five (45) days prior to such meeting.

### Section 3.06 Posting of the notice of nominees.

The Secretary shall be responsible for posting at the headquarters of the Cooperative the nominees for the election made by the nominating committee and by petition and if feasible, shall include same in the notice to the members for the meeting at which the election is to be held.

### Section 3.07 Restrictions on Other Nominations.

Except in the event that all candidates nominated by the nominating committee and petition are deceased, or withdrawn in writing from candidacy prior to the election, no other nominations shall be in order.

### Section 3.08 Election procedures.

Directors shall be elected by a plurality vote of those members from the applicable voting district, or those authorized to vote for them pursuant to Section 2.05 of these bylaws as set out below, at the meeting in which the election is to be held. Should two or more candidates tie for the highest vote, then run-off ballots shall be taken among them.

### Section 2.05 Representation of Members.

Unless it is made to appear otherwise by writing executed by the member and filed with the Secretary or his designate prior to a meeting of the members, a person eighteen (18) years of age or older residing in the primary residential abode of the member, who presents himself or herself to the Secretary, or his designated registrar(s), prior to a meeting of the members, as a representative of such member, shall be deemed to act and vote for the member he purports to represent and in as full and ample manner as if the member had been present and personally acting at the meeting. The presence of the member purported to be represented by such person shall, however, revoke the authority hereby created and only the member shall be entitled to act and vote at such meeting. Except as is expressly provided for herein, no other person shall have the authority to represent, act or vote for any member at a meeting of the members.

### Section 2.07 Credentials and Election Committee.

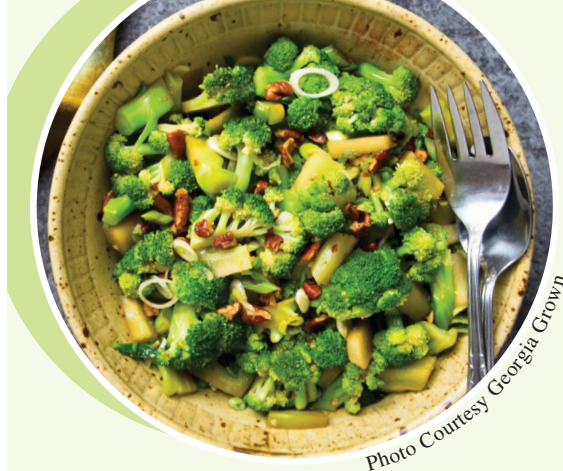
Section 2.07 of the bylaws provides for a committee of not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) independent members to oversee the nominating, registration and election processes and to resolves disputes relating to same.

**2023 Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet at the headquarters office in Lyons on August 18, 2023. This committee consists of the following members: Bruce Herndon, Melvin McBride, Barry McDonald, Dustin Carter, Scott Livingston, and Harold Ricks.



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# Member RECIPES

## Quick Georgia Broccoli and Pecan Salad with Soy-Ginger Dressing

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 large bunch (about 1 pound) broccoli
- 3 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons pecan or peanut oil
- 1 tablespoon sesame oil
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon grated ginger
- Sriracha sauce, to taste
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1/2 cup sliced scallions
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped Georgia pecans



### DIRECTIONS:

Bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Cut broccoli into florets. Using a vegetable peeler, peel the tough outside off broccoli stems then cut the stems into 1/4-inch slices. Add broccoli stems to boiling water. Blanch stems for 1-1/2 minutes, then add florets and cook an additional minute. Drain broccoli, then plunge it into a bowl of ice water to stop cooking and retain bright green color. Drain and reserve broccoli when cooled. In a bowl, mix together rice vinegar, soy sauce, pecan oil (or peanut oil), sesame oil, garlic, ginger and Sriracha sauce. Add broccoli to dressing mixture, tossing to coat. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Refrigerate about 30 minutes, or until chilled. When ready to serve, garnish with scallions and pecans. Serves 4-6.

*For recipes from farms and producers across  
our state, visit [www.georgiagrown.com](http://www.georgiagrown.com).*