



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

Serving: Toombs, Montgomery, Emanuel, Treutlen, Laurens, Johnson and Tattnall



FIBER BROADBAND UPDATE

We are making progress toward bringing world-class fiber broadband to local communities and Altamaha EMC members!

We are now connecting high-speed fiber service to members in neighborhoods along Hwy 15 in the Vidalia area. The first areas we are connecting are in the Rushton Subdivision, Center Hill Mobile Home Park, Quail Ridge Subdivision, Tom McDonald Road area, and moving towards the South Thompson Community. As we get close to serving a neighborhood or area, we will send a postcard mailer to the addresses in that area. The postcard will have more information about our services and a call to action to sign up for the fiber service.

Our fiber team is working diligently to build the infrastructure as quickly as possible so fiber broadband will be available to those who desperately need the service. We thank our members for their patience and understanding during this process. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this will have on our communities.



Many members are noticing the fiber rolls on our power poles in their area. These rolls mean that the fiber backbone is built in that area, but we may not be connecting services yet. Members will receive a postcard in the mail from us when we are ready to connect fiber service to their home or business.





According to the U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Star-rated appliances can save you 10-50% of the energy required for standard models that don't receive the Energy Star sticker. Photo: Maytag

Making Dollars and Sense of Energy Efficiency

The term energy efficiency can cause confusion. Some see it as a way to a cleaner environment. Others see extra expense and inconvenience.

Sorting out those views gets even more complicated as technology gives us a dizzying array of choices for using electricity, from smart thermostats to varieties of lightbulbs.

The basic idea of energy efficiency is simple—use less energy to do the same amount of work, which can save you money on your electric bills.

Here's where it starts getting confusing. Sometimes you have to pay more for something that's considered energy-efficient. It costs more up front but actually saves money in the long run. That may sound illogical at first. Like the old phrase, "You have to spend money to make money." But it makes sense after you think about it for a minute—most money-making projects require an initial upfront investment, whether it's a factory or lemonade stand.

Pay a little now, save a lot later.

From computers to major appliances, manufacturers are increasing the energy efficiency of their products. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Star-rated appliances can save you 10-50% of the energy required for standard models that don't receive the Energy Star sticker. Considering most major appliances last 10 years, those savings can stack up over time.

There's even more savings in store by replacing older appliances that weren't built with today's efficiency standards in mind. Improvements in refrigerators are cutting their energy use in half about every 15 years. So, if your fridge is more than 20 years old, replacing it with a new high efficiency model could save you \$300 in operating costs over the next five years.

Smart power strips also show how spending now on efficiency can make money in the future. Keeping your phone charger and other electronic devices plugged in can consume electricity even after they're fully charged or not in use. A smart power strip cuts off the electricity once charging is complete. It costs

about \$40, and depending on your electric rates and how much charging you do, it could save as much as \$40 a year on your electric bills, recovering your initial investment almost right away.

Another example of returns on energy-efficiency investments comes from the world of real estate. Realtors will be the first to tell you that energy efficiency sells houses. If you're in the market to sale, spending a little extra on insulation and energy-efficient appliances increases resale value.

Save \$200 a year on lightbulbs.

Lightbulbs offer the most dramatic story of efficiency technology improvements. By spending \$5-\$10 on an LED lightbulb (compared to about \$1 for an old incandescent lightbulb), you get a product that uses 75% less electricity and, incidentally, can last 20 years compared to about a year for an incandescent lightbulb. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates the average home could save more than \$200 a year by replacing incandescent lightbulbs with LEDs.

Maybe the best news of all is that as efficient products improve and gain popularity, they're not always more expensive. Many cheaper appliance models have similar annual operating costs compared with the pricier versions.

Two key tips for turning energy efficiency into dollars are to know what you want from your energy use and to do your homework. Products come with a wide range of features that cost extra and may actually be less efficient. Do you want a refrigerator that offers the best efficiency? Or do you want to pay more for a less efficient model that has an ice dispenser in the door?

And ask for help. Your local electric co-op has energy experts who can tell you how to make the best use of electricity. To compare efficiency among appliances, look for the yellow Energy Guide label, which shows information like estimated annual operating costs. Explore the energy.gov website for online calculators and additional resources that can help you turn efficiency data into real savings on your energy bills.

Operation Round-Up - Making A Difference



In 2017, Altamaha EMC’s Board of Directors adopted a community service program called Operation Round Up. The program “rounds up” a participating member’s electric bill to the nearest dollar and that amount (which is completely tax deductible) is donated to local charities in our service area. All funds stay in the local communities served by Altamaha EMC.

A separate foundation was established to oversee the program, called The Altamaha EMC Foundation, Inc. Operation Round Up is having a favorable impact on our community and is available to educational and charitable agencies in our service area. The Altamaha EMC Foundation is comprised of a five-member board of directors. Serving on the current board of directors is: Erin Youmans of Emanuel County, Bill Benton of Toombs County, Alvin Baker of Montgomery County, Dawn Braddy of Treutlen County and Krista Anderson of Laurens County.

Through the generous donations of participating Altamaha EMC members, the Foundation board awarded \$72,100 in grants to our local communities in 2021.

Agencies receiving a grant in 2021 were:



In addition to the lives touched by the grants listed above, the Foundation board also awarded \$4,000 in scholarships to students in our service area to help further their education.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Deadline Approaching for Foundation Scholarship Applications

Four scholarships, worth \$1,000 each, will be awarded to local students this spring. The Altamaha EMC Foundation Scholarship program was founded in an effort to help local students further their education. The scholarships are funded entirely by members' donations through Operation Round Up. Applicants must be a high school senior and live in the household of an Altamaha EMC member.

Applications are available on our website, www.altamahaemc.com. You can also request an application from any of our four office locations.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic ability and financial need. Winners will be announced in March 2022. The deadline to apply is February 28, 2022.



The offices of
Altamaha EMC will be
CLOSED
Monday, Feb. 21st
in observance of
**Presidents'
Day**

*In the event of a power outage or related problems, standby personnel will be on duty.
You can report power outages by calling (912) 526-8181 or (800) 822-4563.*

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. Now is a great time to schedule this service, so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest. A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: www.energy.gov



ALTAMAHA
Electric Membership Corporation
Community Owned · Community Built · Community Builder





Member RECIPES

Air-Fried Pork Chops

Ingredients

2 center-cut, bone-in pork chops,
1-1/2 - 2 inches thick
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 tablespoon paprika
1-1/2 teaspoons salt
1-1/2 teaspoons fresh ground black pepper
1 teaspoon ground mustard
1/2 teaspoon onion powder
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1-2 tablespoons olive oil

Preheat air fryer to 400 degrees. Rinse pork chops with cool water and pat dry completely with a paper towel. In a small bowl, mix together all the dry ingredients. Coat the pork chops with olive oil and rub in the mix. Rub it in well and liberally. Use almost all of the rub mix for the two pork chops. Cook pork chops in air fryer at 400 degrees for 6 minutes, flipping pork chops over after three minutes.

-From the kitchen of Mary Lou Meeks

Each month, our newsletter features recipes submitted by our members. If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Altamaha EMC service area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to: Tammye Vaughn, Altamaha EMC, P.O. Box 346, Lyons, GA 30436. Each month, a recipe will be selected for publication. The member who submitted the featured recipe will be given a \$10 credit on their next Altamaha EMC bill. Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Plugged In* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.