



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC | Fiber

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



Beat The Peak



If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, Altamaha EMC must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply—regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. Altamaha EMC must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that electric utilities including Altamaha EMC typically pay more for electricity—either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power—during those morning and evening "energy rush hours." In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it's especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the "peak times" concept is a bit puzzling, here's an easy way to think about it, and it's similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When

a lot of people want the same thing, it's more expensive. When they don't, it's cheaper—like a bargain matinee or an "early bird" special at a restaurant.

During peak periods when the cost to produce and purchase power is higher, we encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use of large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers, and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. If you have a programmable thermostat, adjust the settings to sync up with off-peak rate periods. When we all work together to **reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand**, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.

Another benefit of this **time-of-use approach to electricity use** allows greater control over your bill. Reducing the peak impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member. This is particularly noticeable as energy costs have risen across the U.S. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference.

Remember, taking simple steps to save energy throughout the day and shifting energy intensive chores to off-peak hours is a smart choice for you and our community.

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, Barry Waller of Toombs County, Alvin Baker of Montgomery County, Dawn Braddy of Treutlen County and Blake Daniels of Laurens County.

Through the generous donation of participating Altamaha EMC members, the Foundation board awarded \$59,800 in grants to our local communities in 2022.

Agencies receiving a grant in 2022 were:

Montgomery County Extension/4-H	\$2,500
Sweet Onion Animal Protection Society	\$2,500
Toombs County Extension/4-H	\$2,500
Voice of Grace Dream Center	\$5,000
East Georgia Fellowship of Christian Athletes	\$2,500
Southeast Georgia Communities Project Inc.	\$2,500
Georgia Foundation for Agriculture	\$2,500
His Works Ministry Outreach & Food Bank	\$5,000
Paul Anderson Youth Home	\$3,500
Vidalia Toombs County Library/Ohoopee Regional	\$5,000
The J.O.Y. Clinic	\$5,000
Southern Community Hospice	\$5,000
Wreaths Across America @ Lakeview Memorial Gardens	\$1,500
Forge Recovery Center	\$4,800
Stepping Stone Child Advocacy & Sexual Assault Center	\$5,000
The Refuge Domestic Violence Shelter, Inc.	\$5,000

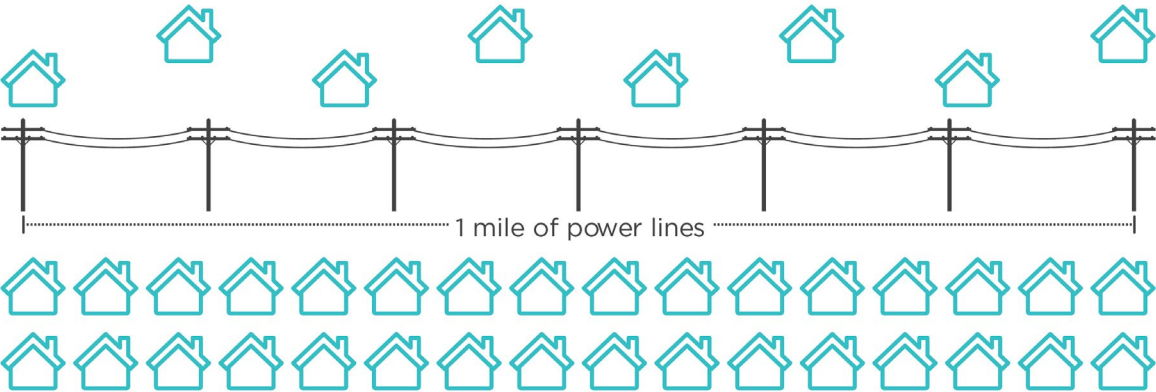


GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Did you know electric co-ops power fewer consumers per mile of line compared to other utilities?

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Serve 8 consumer-members per mile of line



OTHER ELECTRIC UTILITIES

Serve 32 consumers per mile of line

What to Do When a Member Passes Away

When the unfortunate passing of a member happens, family members have many issues to address. One of the least of those often can be what to do with their loved one’s Altamaha EMC account.

Frequently, widowed spouses or their children leave the account in their deceased loved one’s name. This is understandable, but it may overlook one of the unique benefits of being a member of Altamaha EMC. The estate of the member may be entitled to the capital credits owed to the account.

Keep in mind that only the account holder can accrue capital credits. While listing a spouse on your account may allow them to access information for that account, it does not mean the capital credits are accruing in both names.

Capital credits are paid to the estate of a member upon the member’s death. Capital credits accrue only through the date of death of a member.

In order to receive payment, a representative of the estate must come to our office and provide a copy of the death certificate. A check for the accrued capital credits is issued within 4-6 weeks. It is important to claim capital credits once a member dies and changes the name on the account to a living survivor so capital credits will begin accruing in the new person’s name.

We understand how trying dealing with the loss of a loved one can be. Our staff will work with you to make the capital credit process as easy as possible. For additional information, please call our office (912) 526-8181.

How Capital Credits Work

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.

1 Altamaha EMC tracks how much electricity you buy and how much money you pay for it throughout the year.

4 When a member passes away, a representative of the estate can apply for a refund of the capital credits that have accrued.

2 At the end of each year, Altamaha completes the financial reports and determines whether there are excess revenues, called margins.

3 Altamaha allocates the margins to members as capital credits based upon their use of electricity during the year.

Altamaha EMC has retired \$8,985,770.00 in capital credits to members.



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 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 and 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.*



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PRESIDENTS DAY
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



CLOSING NOTICE

The offices of Altamaha EMC will be CLOSED Monday, February 20th in observance of Presidents' Day. The drive-thru window at the Lyons office will remain open for the convenience of our members. 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 1(800) 822-4563.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Do you have a home office? Set equipment like printers and scanners to automatically switch to sleep or energy-saver mode when not in use. In addition to saving energy, the equipment will stay cooler, which will help extend its life. Another way to save in the home office is to use energy efficient lamps for task lighting. Small lamps use less energy than whole-room lighting.

Source: energy.gov



ALTAMAHA
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Member RECIPES

Blueberry Yum Yum

Ingredients

- 1 cup flour (plain)
- 1 cup pecans (chopped)
- 1 stick of butter
- 1 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 8 oz. cool whip
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 16 oz. can blueberry pie filling

Directions

Mix flour, pecans, and melted butter together in a bowl. Press into 9x13x2 dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes until brown, then set aside to cool. In a separate bowl mix cream cheese and sugar together. After mixing gently fold in cool whip, then pour over the cooled crust. Then pour blueberry pie filling over the top. Refrigerate and enjoy!

-From the kitchen of Joyce O'Neal

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.