



# Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

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## Washington Youth Tour Through a Different Lens

The Washington Youth Tour looked quite a bit different in 2021, as the annual in-person event was shifted to a virtual platform and hosted online June 22-24 because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Instead of the “Washington Youth Tour”, many of the EMCs in Georgia joined forces to host a virtual leadership event called the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Whether from the comfort of their own homes or in an EMC’s conference room, students heard from experts and alumni on topics such as internship ideas, insights on how to meet people and gracefully leave conversations,

identifying their top strengths using the CliftonStrengths talent assessment, how to get involved in their communities and tips on choosing their college experience.

The theme for 2021 was leadership. A portion of the experience gave the students a chance to meet with state and national leaders. Georgia Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock, and U.S. Reps. Sanford Bishop, Buddy Carter and Drew Ferguson joined the students via online meetings. Students were also assigned to mentor groups and met in those groups each day.

Georgia EMC planned and coordinated the entire virtual

event. “Of course we’d always prefer to be in Washington, D.C., hosting an in-person event, but when logistical challenges made that impossible, our team here at Georgia EMC was able to create a virtual three-day event that engaged the delegates and helped them learn about themselves, while also cultivating their leadership skills with students from across the state,” says Kaleb Frady, public relations representative with Georgia EMC.

Altamaha EMC was well represented on the 2021 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour by Cameron Coleman, Savannah Reynolds and Rylie Rowland.



*“I learned how to be a better leader in my community and how to be a better conversationalist. I also learned the importance of building connections with people for internship opportunities.”*

**–Savannah Reynolds**



*“I enjoyed learning how co-ops were formed and how they operate. The experience helped open my eyes to what the future may hold for me.”*

**–Cameron Coleman**



*“Despite the fact that we didn’t get to visit Washington, D.C., the experience was very beneficial for me. I am thankful that Altamaha EMC found a way to do a tour despite the limitations due to COVID-19.”*

**–Rylie Rowland**



Plans for the 2022 Washington Youth Tour are underway and it is our hope that we will be returning to the normal trip to Washington, D.C. The dates for the 2022 tour are set for June 16-23. Our Washington Youth Tour Coordinator, Tammye Vaughn, will be in contact with the local high schools to schedule a time to promote the tour to high school juniors and seniors. We select three students each year to represent Altamaha EMC on the tour. Any interested high school junior or senior who is interested in the opportunity can obtain more information by contacting Tammye Vaughn at [tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com](mailto:tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com) or (912) 526-2120.

# Are Portable Space Heaters Efficient for My Home?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.



If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Loose fill insulation typically costs \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

**A word about safety:** the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.

If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, contact our Energy Services Advisor, Van Henriott at 912-526-2118. We're here to help you manage your energy use.







# Stay Warm On the Coldest Days

January and February typically are the coldest months of the year. That doesn't mean you have to be cold for two months, especially inside your own home.

Dressing in layers, wearing socks with your slippers and staying active are no-cost, no-tech ways to stay cozy indoors. Also try the following:

- **Block drafts.** If your windows are old or made from a single pane of glass, it's time to upgrade. Energy-efficient glass—and windows with double panes—will go a long way toward keeping cold air from blowing into your house. They also could reduce the amount of money you spend on winter energy bills.
- **Seal leaks.** Also great draft-blockers, weather stripping and caulk can plug holes around windows and doors, and wherever the inside of an outdoor wall is penetrated by a cable or phone line.
- **Make the bed.** An electric blanket—one with an automatic shut-off and the seal of approval from a safety organization like UL—can keep you cozy at bedtime, even when you turn the whole-house thermostat down to save energy overnight.
- **Make 2022 the year you finally switch to a programmable thermostat** that will turn the heat up when the home is occupied and everyone is awake, and down at bedtime and when the family leaves for the day.

Pets need your help to stay warm during the cold weather months. Sure, your cat or dog was born with a thick, furry coat to help it stay warm all winter, but if you're cold, your pet probably is too. A few easy habits will make your precious pet more comfortable—and safe—during the coldest days, indoors and out.

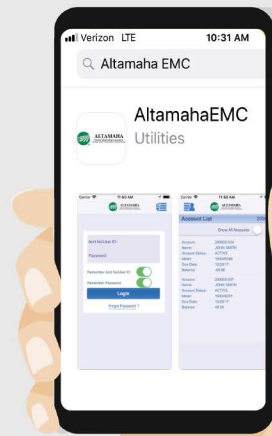
For starters, keep your house comfortably humidified. Your heating system can dry out indoor air, so consider placing a portable humidifier in the rooms where your pet spends the most time. And whenever you bring your dog back inside after a walk, dry it off, from head to paws—and in between the toes. Keep pets inside your comfortably heated home as much as possible during the winter and only let them out for brief periods of time for a bathroom break.

Cats love to cozy up to an operating space heater, but the appliance can burn their skin. They can also knock it over, and if it doesn't shut itself off and you're in another room, this could create a fire hazard. If you use space heaters, consider investing in one with panels and vents that are too small for them to poke their paws through. Look for a model with mesh or a grill on front so pet hair can't get into the heater and damage the device or start a fire. Ceramic models stay cool to the touch; those are safest for pets, according to MetLife, which sells pet insurance. Avoid leaving a pet in a room with a space heater unless you're there, too. Even the best built-in safety features are no substitute for human supervision.

# Altamaha EMC now has a **free mobile app!**

ON-THE-GO ACCESS

- View usage
- Make a payment
- Report Outages
- View account information



## Scholarship Deadlines Approaching

The deadline to apply for the **\$1,000 Walter Harrison Scholarship** is **January 28, 2022**. The deadline to apply for the **\$1,000 Altamaha EMC Foundation Scholarship** is **February 28, 2022**. Applications for both scholarships are available for download on our website. You can also request an application by contacting Tammye Vaughn via email at [tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com](mailto:tammye.vaughn@altamahaemc.com) or by calling 912-526-2120.



## Energy Efficiency

### Tip of the Month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip all windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible.

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



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



# Member RECIPES

## Broccoli Casserole

### Ingredients

- 2 (10 oz) packages frozen chopped broccoli, cooked and drained
- 1 cup mayonnaise (can substitute sour cream if preferred)
- 1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 (10 ¾ oz) can cream of mushroom soup
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- 2 cups crackers, crushed
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9x13 baking dish with cooking spray. In a large bowl, combine broccoli, mayonnaise, cheese, soup and eggs. Mix well. Place the mixture in the pan. Top with crushed crackers and pour the melted butter evenly over crackers. Bake for 35 minutes or until set and browned.

*-From the kitchen of  
Emily Daniels*

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.