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# IN to Altamaha EMC



*The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation*

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## Lyons Office to Add Drive-Thru Window

As an added convenience for our customers, we are pleased to announce the construction of a drive-thru window at our Lyons office. Construction of the drive-thru window will begin in mid-June and is projected to take about 12 weeks to complete. During the construction phase, the main entrance to our Lyons office will be closed.

We will move all customer service operations (payments, questions, new service, etc.) to the small building located directly behind our main office. To access the temporary location, from Hwy 280 you will turn beside our main office onto Cypress Street. Customer parking will be available along the fence to the right. Additional customer parking will also be available inside the first gate to your right. We will have signage directing you to the entrance of the temporary location.

Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation as we grow to meet the needs of our customers. If you have any questions, please give us a call at 912-526-8181.





## 0% Financing for Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Are you using too much energy in your home? Would you like to replace that aging air conditioner or upgrade your insulation and reduce your utility bills?

If you've answered yes to these questions, then Altamaha EMC's HomePlus loan program is a clear choice for you.

The HomePlus Energy Efficient Home Improvement Financing Program is designed to help encourage members to purchase and install energy efficient home improvements. The loan program enables Altamaha EMC members to finance up to \$5,500 in energy efficient improvements at 0%. If needed, an additional \$9,500 is available at 7.5% APR. The loans are made by Georgia Electric Membership Corporation Federal Credit Union which has been serving electric cooperative employees in Georgia for over 40 years.

### Some of the eligible items consumers can finance:

- Energy Star rated heating and cooling systems
- Energy Star rated electric water heaters
- Energy Star rated windows and doors
- Insulation and ventilation for home attics, walls, crawl spaces and basements
- Weatherization items - weather stripping, caulking, duct sealing and insulation
- Energy Star rated roof systems

Energy Star requires that the complete heating/cooling system meet requirements. Not all replacement heat pump systems meet the Energy Star requirements. Please ask your contractor to adhere to the Energy Star requirements for HVAC systems.

What are the rates and available loan amounts?

Loan Amount	Minimum Rate	Term
\$1,000 – \$5,500	0% APR 1,2	36 months
\$5,501 - \$7,500	7.50% APR1	Up to 48 months
\$7,501 - \$10,000	7.50% APR1	Up to 60 months
\$10,001 - \$15,000	7.50% APR1	Up to 72 months

- The interest rate is fixed for the life of the loan. For loan amounts over \$5,501, Members who choose to pay their electric bill via bank draft will receive a loan rate discount of 0.50%.
- Closing cost is a flat \$65, payable by check at loan closing.
- Members should speak to their GEMC FCU loan representative for available term options and refer to the loan disclosure for complete loan details and terms.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about the program, contact Van Henriott at 912-526-2118 or toll-free at 1-800-822-4563, ext. 118 or Tammye Vaughn at 912-526-2120 or toll-free at 1-800-822-4563, ext 120.



# Finding the Value of Electricity

Nowadays, cell phones and personal digital devices are a part of our culture. Everyone, it seems, is connected on the go—whether they're just making phone calls, text messaging, or checking e-mail. Such communication freedom is a luxury we pay for, generally without grumbling.

So why is it that when it comes to electricity—a necessity in our modern world—many of us grumble and complain when the electric bill comes every month? We expect electricity to be there at the flip of the switch, and when it's not, we get angry or frustrated.

Hey, I'm no different—I expect the lights to come on every time, too. And as the CEO of Altamaha EMC, I have a special responsibility to make sure your electric service is safe, reliable, and affordable. But I also believe that when compared to other commodities, electricity remains a great value.

For example, over the past 10 years, gasoline has shot up 10.9 percent on average every single year, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. A loaf of white bread has increased 4.2 percent annually, and a dozen eggs 6.5 percent per year.

In comparison, electricity has increased just 3.7 percent a year nationally for the past decade. When you consider how reliable electricity is, the value goes up even more. On the average, Altamaha EMC members experience a little over 3 hours of power outages each year—something we're proud of, considering electricity is a 24-hour-a-day commodity. Of course, we're working hard to reduce even those brief interruptions, increase our service reliability, and control costs through innovative technology.

Those cell phones I mentioned earlier? Nearly a third of all U.S. households have four electronic devices, such as cell phones, plugged in and charging, according to the Residential Energy Consumption Survey by the U.S. Energy Information Administration. In the past 30 years, the amount of residential electricity used by appliances and electronics has increased from 17 percent to 31 percent. More homes than ever use major appliances and central air conditioning. Digital video recorders (DVRs), computers,

and multiple televisions have become ubiquitous.

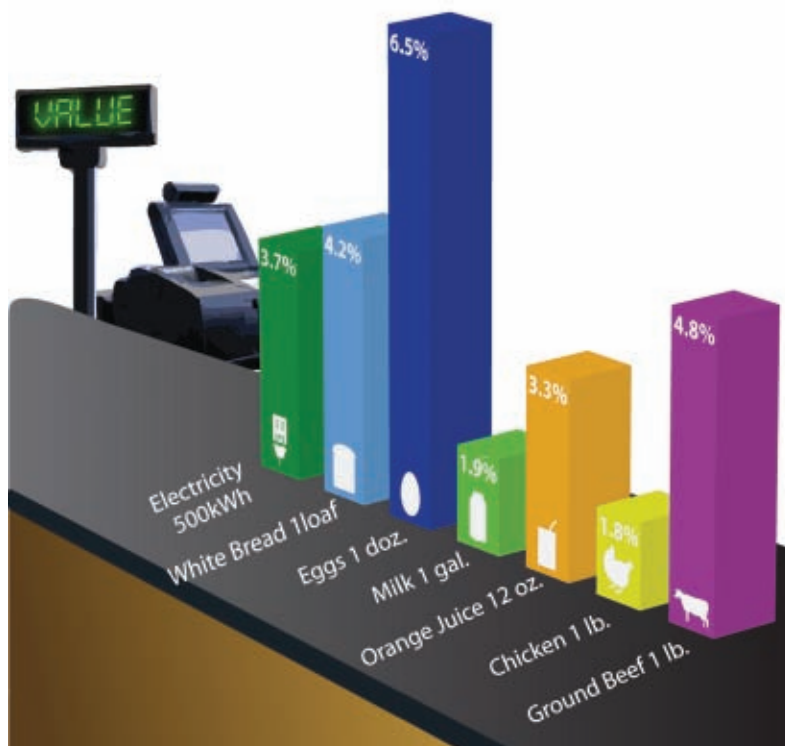
Clearly, our appetite for electricity shows no signs of slowing down. So the next time you flip a switch, use your toaster, or run your washing machine, remember the value electricity holds. And know that we at Altamaha EMC are looking out for you by working together to keep electric bills affordable, controlling costs through innovation, and putting you, our members, first.

**Romanous Dotson,**  
Altamaha EMC CEO

## “Check out” the value of electricity!

Next time you're at the grocery store, think about the way prices for bread, eggs, and other consumer goods have risen over the years. Electricity remains a value!

*Average annual price increase between 2000-2010:*



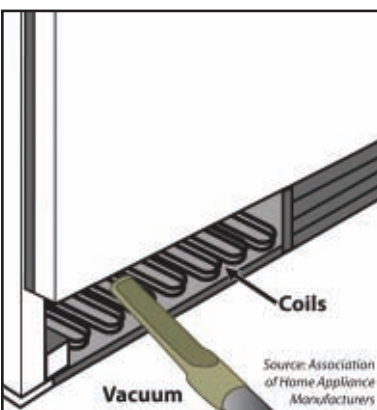
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Mainstream Graphics



## Save Energy and Stay Comfortable This Summer

*Just as you can cut back on driving to save energy, you also can limit the amount of electricity you use at home by cutting waste. Here are nine ways you can reduce your energy consumption this summer without feeling uncomfortable:*

1. Replace your old, manual thermostat with an electronic model. New thermostats have automatic settings that can slightly change indoor temperatures at strategic times of the day. For example, you can program your thermostat to move the temperature a little higher right after the family leaves the house in the morning, and to lower it again just before everyone gets home
2. Schedule a tune-up of your air conditioning system. A licensed technician will check the levels of refrigerant in the system and determine whether any of its parts are wearing out or running inefficiently. The better you maintain your system, the less it will cost you to operate it.
3. Close the blinds during the hours when direct sunlight hits your house. The less sun that shines into your home, the cooler it will stay. That means your air conditioning won't need to kick on as often.
4. Run your dishwasher, washing machine and clothes dryer after dark. Most people do all of that during the day, so demand for electricity soars when they're also running their air conditioners all day. The result: Electricity costs more during those peak hours.
5. Turn off the lights, computer, TV and battery chargers. Don't waste electricity by allowing your appliances to use it when you're not using your appliances.
6. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, which use less energy, last longer and emit less heat.
7. Air-dry your laundry. Hang clothes outside on a clothesline when the weather is nice. They'll dry quicker and smell better than they do when you dry them in a clothes dryer.
8. Microwave your dinner. A microwave oven uses less energy than the stove top or oven.
9. Shop smart. If you're replacing any of your home's appliances this summer, choose Energy Star-rated models. They're guaranteed to be more energy-efficient than appliances that don't qualify for the label.



## Clean Cold Coils

Vacuum your refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that reduces efficiency and creates fire hazards. To clean condenser coils:

**Step 1:** Unplug the refrigerator.

**Step 2:** Pull off or unscrew the vent plate that protects the coils.

**Step 3:** Clean the coils with a vacuum hose, using a brush to wipe off dust you can see.



# Member **RECIPES**



## **Strawberry Frozen Yogurt Squares**

- 1 cup crunchy wheat and barley cereal
- 3 cups fat-free strawberry yogurt
- 1 (10-ounce) bag frozen unsweetened strawberries (about 2-1/2 cups)
- 1 cup fat-free sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup light or fat-free whipped topping, optional

Line an 8x8-inch baking pan with foil. Sprinkle cereal evenly on bottom of pan; set aside. Place yogurt, strawberries and condensed milk in a blender; cover and blend until smooth. Pour the mixture over top of cereal, gently smoothing yogurt mixture to edges of pan. Cover with foil or plastic wrap and freeze for 8 hours or until firm. Use edges of foil to loosen and remove from pan; let recipe thaw for 5-10 minutes. Cut into squares; top with whipped topping, if desired, and serve.

**Storage tip:** Squares may be individually wrapped and frozen for single servings. **Note:** Create your own variations by using other flavor combinations of yogurt and fruit. Makes 9 servings.

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.