



Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

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The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

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

Introducing... **Pay•Your•Way**

a prepay billing solution

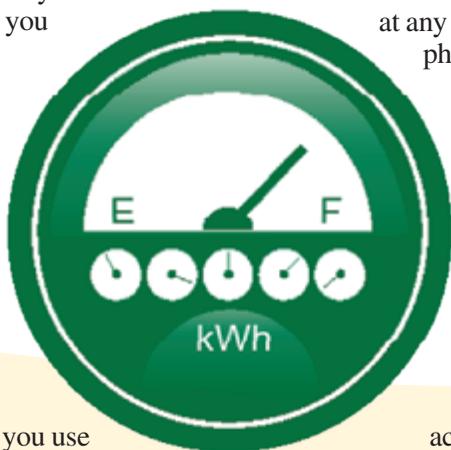
Pay•Your•Way puts you in charge...

Altamaha EMC is excited to introduce a new way to pay your bill! With prepay billing, you pay for electricity how and when you choose, the same way you buy groceries or gasoline. Purchasing electricity before you use it allows you to control your budget and pay how much you want, when you want. And best of all, there are no security deposits or late fees!

Instead of a monthly statement, your usage and balance are calculated daily. Track your usage online when you login to pay your bill at www.altamahaemc.com.

How Does It Work?

You purchase electricity before you use it. Make payments when you want to, online, over the phone, or in person at any Altamaha EMC office. When your account runs low, you will get an alert by phone, text or email, letting you know it is time to recharge your account.



What If My Account Runs Out?

If funds in your account run out, electrical service will be automatically disconnected. You will be notified by phone, text, or email that your service has been cut off. You can recharge your account at any time, day or night, online or by phone and service will be automatically restored within a short period of time. There are no disconnection or reconnection fees.

What Does It Cost?

With **Pay•Your•Way**, each kWh costs 11.53¢. The monthly minimum charge is \$17.50, the same as traditional residential accounts.

Call us at 912-526-8181 or visit our website at www.altamahaemc.com to learn more!

No deposits, no late fees, and I choose when I pay my electric bill...

How Do I Get Started?

New customers will pay a \$10 membership fee, a \$15 account establishment fee, and purchase a minimum of \$50 in energy (\$75 minimum). No deposits are required.

Existing customers with a traditional account may convert to **Pay•Your•Way** prepay billing at any time. Deposits on your existing account will be credited toward account balances. Any remaining balance will be applied to your prepay account. Existing members with account balances can use the debt-recovery program. Each time you make a payment,

25% will go toward the outstanding balance (not to be applied to the initial \$50 energy purchase).

Should you decide prepay billing doesn't work for you, it's simple and easy to return to a traditional account at any time, although you will need to pay any required deposits and a \$25 conversion fee.

Who Can Participate?

All single-phase, non-demand residential accounts qualify. Not sure if you qualify? Simply contact an Altamaha EMC representative for assistance at 912-526-8181 or 1-800-822-4563. GA09420G

Spring brings new water heater standards

Arriving with spring is another major change in energy efficiency standards that will eventually affect all Americans. Beginning April 16, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will require higher Energy Factor (EF) ratings on most residential electric, natural gas, oil and tankless water heaters.

EF ratings for water heaters are based upon how efficiently heat transfers into the water. Another consideration is standby heat loss, or the amount of heat lost from the storage tank while it's sitting idle. Generally, you can find the EF of your water heater on the yellow EnergyGuide tag located on the side of the unit. A rule of thumb when considering energy-efficient water heaters is that a higher EF rating equates to a more efficient unit.

New water heater standards will save Americans nearly \$63 billion in water heating expenses over the next 30 years.

When we look at the dollars spent by residential consumers for energy in a pie-chart format, nearly two-thirds of the pie is composed of space conditioning and water heating. Furthermore, the DOE has determined its new water heater standards will save approximately 3.3 quads of energy and save Americans nearly \$63 billion in water heating expenses over the next 30 years. To put one energy quad into perspective, it's equivalent to more than 8 billion gallons of gasoline or 293 billion kilowatt-hours.

Conventional water heaters require a lot of energy. Furthermore, a law of nature comes into play during and

after the water is heated. Heat from the fuel source moves to the colder water, and the water heats to the desired temperature. But when the unit shuts off, the heated water will begin to cool. The rate of cooling is affected by the location of the water heater and the material used to insulate the storage tank. Additional energy dollars are required during colder months, when water heaters are installed in garages, outside porches or any unconditioned environment.

The infrared thermal images accompanying this story are from water heaters located in two different homes and reveal the heat loss being targeted by the DOE.

- Both units are 40-gallon models. Both reside in an unheated location with an ambient air temperature of approximately 50 degrees.
- The unit in the top photo is a 1983 natural gas model, with an EF rating of .57, or 57 percent efficiency, and its storage tank is insulated with fiberglass.
- The unit in the bottom photo is a 2006 electric model, with an EF rating of .92, or 92 percent efficiency, and its storage tank is insulated with foam.
- Both units were set with a water temperature output of 120 degrees.

As you examine the images and their corresponding temperature ranges, remember that heat moves to cool. While both experience heat loss, the older natural gas unit is losing more heat than the electric model.

As EF rating requirements increase, so will the physical and technological characteristics of



Natural gas-fueled water heater in standby mode. Heat loss reaching 125 degrees is evident.



Electric water heater in standby mode. Heat loss of 66 degrees is revealed by infrared camera.

most storage-type water heaters. Many will be wider and taller to accommodate improved insulation required for heat retention and to incorporate efficiency technologies. Gas units larger than 55 gallons will require an electrical connection, different venting and condensation disposal. Electrical units larger than 55 gallons will also require condensation disposal due to efficient heat pump technology. As existing retail inventory is depleted builders, plumbers and homeowners will have to adapt to change that could result in a small remodel job when it comes time to replace your existing unit.

To learn more details about the new water heater regulations visit: www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standardsproduct.aspx/productid/27.

National Lineman Appreciation Day

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

On April 13, 2015, Altamaha EMC will honor the hard working men who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board adopted the following resolution to honor linemen:

“Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen;

Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April of each year as

National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives.”

Altamaha EMC proudly recognizes all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

“Electric linemen do not often receive the recognition they deserve,” said Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC General Manager. “They work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions far from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities. Our linemen, as well as linemen from across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition.”

We invite our members to take a moment to thank a lineman for the work they do. Please show your support for the people who light our lives.

A photograph of two linemen standing in front of a white service van. The van has the Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation logo and the number 174. One lineman is wearing a yellow hard hat and a blue shirt, and the other is wearing a white hard hat and a green shirt. They are both wearing safety harnesses and gloves.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU.
365 days a year.

National Lineman Appreciation Day
April 13, 2015
Let's honor the heroes who keep the lights on.

If it's not in use, turn off the juice!

How saving energy saves you more than money



Reducing household energy use doesn't mean doing without. It doesn't require walking around your house wearing extra sweaters and earmuffs in the dead of winter, or stripping down to the bare essentials in the summer. It means being smarter about how you manage the energy you do use. Consider Altamaha EMC your trusted resource for exploring energy-saving strategies. Not-for-profit, member-owned electric co-ops want to help their member owners.

Energy efficiency means performing the same job and getting a similar outcome using less energy. This efficiency is often achieved through a mechanical change, such as replacing an older, less efficient appliance or mechanical unit with a new model, but sometimes a minor change of habit is all that's needed. Examples could include dimming lights, turning down the thermostat or washing clothes in cold water instead of hot.

The benefits of energy efficiency and conservation

So why are energy conservation and energy efficiency more important than ever to our members? What are the benefits of efficiency and conservation? The short answer is that energy reduction in your home 1) saves you money; 2) improves our economy by enabling consumers and businesses to spend and invest in other areas; and 3) reduces the amount of pollution emitted from power generation.

The more complex answer is that modern life means we are placing increasing demands on all forms of energy. For example, consumers are more reliant on devices, computers, phones (with charging stations), sophisticated media/home entertainment and video gaming systems, and "smart" technology that all rely on electricity. The wide array of new electronic devices is improving our quality of life, and electric co-ops are promoting efficiency to bring new conveniences at a lower cost.

Energy efficiency: the "First Fuel"

In this period of rapidly changing technology, Americans are increasingly aware of the need to reduce energy consumption. Many now call energy savings the "first fuel", because the easiest way to reduce fuel cost and carbon emissions is to save energy. Energy is a valuable commodity, and while the discussions over climate change and carbon footprints continue, we must all do our part to conserve this precious resource. Protecting and preserving the quality of water and air is also our shared responsibility. Using less energy may

even boost the economy by relieving the ever-tightening family budget, allowing dollars to be spent on more tangible goods.

Americans have demonstrated a willingness to take steps toward reducing their energy consumption, both to save money and out of concern for the environment. According to the January 2014 Nielson U.S. Consumer Energy Sentiments Report, 91 percent of consumers are willing to change their energy-use behavior to save money on energy costs. The same report indicates that 77 percent would change their behavior out of concern for the environment. Electric co-ops can help you use less electricity.

Consumers recognize that conserving energy and becoming more energy efficient are the smart and right things to do. But they are also looking for guidance on how to do just that. Electric co-ops are a great local resource for helping consumers develop individual plans tailored to their needs and the local environment. Our employees understand better than most that every household has its own complex energy system.

Altamaha EMC offers energy audits, energy-saving tips and recommendations on the latest technology, and advice on choosing and maintaining heating and cooling systems. The first step in this process is easy – simply reach out to us for help with taking control of your own energy use, and you'll be well on your way to achieving the ideal balance of efficiency and conservation. In turn, you will be helping yourself, your community and the environment – and that benefits all of us.

For information on how you can be more energy efficient, contact our Member Services Representative, Van Henriott, at 912-526-2118.

FIVE TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY AT HOME

- 1** Set a programmable thermostat to turn down the heat when the house is empty or everyone is asleep.
- 2** Insulate your electric water heater.
- 3** Plug leaks around windows, doors, and power outlets with caulk and weather stripping.
- 4** Purchase ENERGY STAR® products.
- 5** Monitor your energy use to spot trends and sudden changes.



Member RECIPES

Easy Breakfast Casserole



Ingredients

6 slices of bread
Margarine
1 lb. mild sausage
1 ½ cups grated cheddar cheese
6 eggs
2 cups milk
1 tsp salt

Directions

Grease a 9" x 12" casserole dish. Remove crust from bread and lightly spread with margarine. Line casserole dish with bread. Cook and drain sausage. Spoon sausage over bread. Sprinkle cheese over sausage. Mix eggs, milk and salt and pour over cheese. Chill overnight. Remove from refrigerator 15 minutes before cooking. Bake for 45 minutes at 350 degrees.

Serves 6 -8.

—From the kitchen of Nancy Payne

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.