

OPERATION ROUND UP POURS \$100,000 INTO COMMUNITY

The latest grants from Walton EMC's Operation Round Up are being put to good use all over the cooperative's service area.

To be exact, \$104,187.17 went to 13 worthy organizations and 13 needy families in the latest round of disbursements. The money is collected a few cents at a time when customer-owners allow their monthly bill to be rounded up to the next dollar.

The resulting change goes into a fund administered by a volunteer board. None of this money can be used to pay electric bills.

Round Up SPOTLIGHT

The Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry serves people in need in the Lawrenceville and Dacula areas. "Donations are down while at the same time, we're seeing a rise in homelessness," says director Linda Freund.

"This donation will help people in need with things like prescription medicine, water bills and places to stay for homeless families."

Check out their website at lawrencevilleco-op.org.



Shown in the ministry's food pantry are, from left, Walton Electric Trust Board Member Nancy Abbott, Freund, Trust Board Member Anna Shackelford and ministry volunteer Dirck Dillehay.

Take a Look!

at the latest good work being funded by generous customer-owners:

Clarke County Mentor Program – \$5,000 community mentor recruitment project

Tiny Stitches (Gwinnett) – \$5,000 supplies to make infant burial ensembles for disadvantaged newborns

Creative Enterprises (Barrow, DeKalb, Gwinnett) – \$5,000 disabled clients to attend therapeutic horse riding program

Atlanta Community Food Bank (entire WEMC service area) – \$10,000 low-income family food distribution

Loganville Police DARE – \$3,000 drug and gang resistance education

Place of Seven Springs (Gwinnett) – \$5,000 family assistance of food, prescription drugs and education

Food Bank of Northeast Georgia (Barrow, Clarke, Oconee) – \$10,000 mobile food pantry

Project Safe (entire WEMC Service area) – \$2,000 emergency shelter improvements

Step by Step Recovery (Barrow, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale, Walton) – \$5,000 addiction recovery program

Walton County 4-H – \$9,935 club member participation expenses to events

Oconee County Wee Read – \$1,200 encourage parental reading to young children

Gwinnett County Senior Golden Games (DeKalb, Gwinnett, Walton) – \$500 senior adult Olympics

Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry (Gwinnett) – \$15,000 emergency assistance to clients

13 families – \$27,552.17 various emergency needs

To participate, simply initial the space on the payment stub of your electric bill. Learn more at bit.ly/wemc_roundup

Realite

MAR 2014

The news you need to know in 5 minutes!

MAR 2014 Volume 65, No. 3

QUICK GUIDE

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Watkinsville – 2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.
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THE *Rundown* } **inside:** making crawlspaces behave **inside flap:** new recipe
on the back: round up news

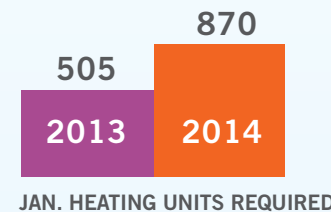
Arctic Weather Impacts Electric Bills

Count yourself among the 200 million across the U.S. affected by January's polar vortex visits. The extreme weather had a significant impact on electric bills across the nation.

Besides simply requiring more heating to keep warm, many families spent more time at home due to school and work closures. Both of these factors led to more energy use. This high energy use shows up on your electric bill weeks or months later.

HOW MUCH HEATING DID I NEED?

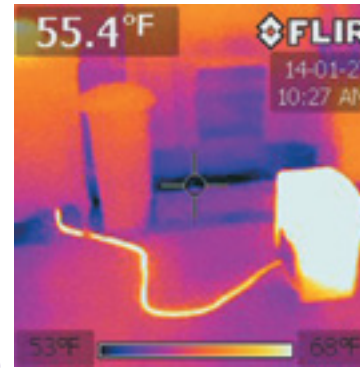
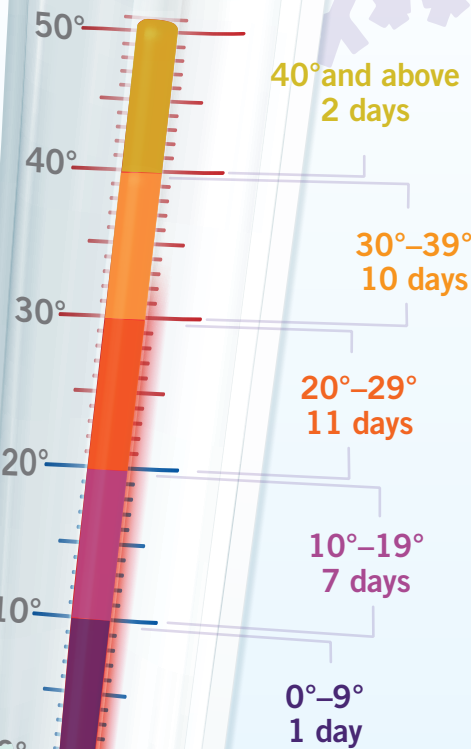
According to the National Weather Service, it took 72 percent more heating to keep warm this January than it did last January. This means your heating system used 72 percent more energy than last year.



72%

January 2014 showed a 72 percent increase in heating usage over January 2013.

HOW LOW DID THE TEMPERATURE GO?

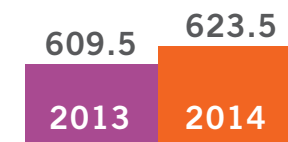


This infrared photo of a space heater shows its power cord glowing bright yellow, indicating a high temperature. The cord is hot because of high power consumption.

WHAT RECORDS WERE SET IN JANUARY 2014?



HOW MUCH ENERGY DID WE ALL USE?



WEMC PEAK LOAD (MEGAWATTS)
Walton EMC system's peak load on Jan. 7 was higher than the peak load of the previous summer.

WATCH THIS: See Walton EMC crews in action replacing a broken pole during January's winter storm: bit.ly/wemc_pole

©2014. Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 120,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties.

Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.

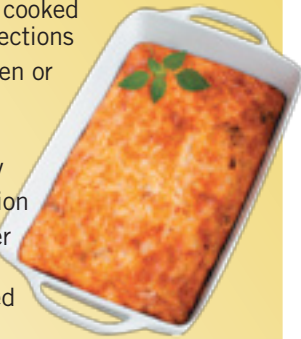
MAKING crawlspace BEHAVE

RECIPE

Swap

Chicken or Tuna Noodle Casserole

- 6 ounces noodles, cooked following box directions
- 6 ounce can chicken or tuna, drained
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup green pepper
- 1 small jar pimentos, drained
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 can cream of celery soup *Either poultry or fish work for this one dish meal!*
- 1 cup milk
- 4 ounces Velveeta, diced
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds (optional)



Combine noodles and your choice of meat. Add mayonnaise, celery, onion, green pepper, pimentos and salt. Blend soup and milk in saucepan and heat through. Turn into 2-quart casserole. Top with sliced almonds if desired. Bake uncovered at 425 degrees F for 20 minutes. Serves 6.

Thanks! to Paula McGill of Snellville for sharing her recipe. *The recipes featured are not independently tested, so we depend on the accuracy of the cooks sending them. Always use safe food handling, preparation and cooking procedures from recognized experts.*

Share! If you have a great recipe you've prepared and want to share with other Walton EMC customer-owners, we'd love to have it. If we use your recipe, you'll win a prize!

Mail to Walton EMC, Attn: Recipes, P.O. Box 260, Monroe, GA, 30655 or email to recipes@waltonemc.com.

Over 650 recipes!
To get your copy of *Through the Years*, the Walton EMC cookbook, visit our offices, mail a check for \$12.95 (\$10 plus \$2.95 shipping) to Cookbook, Walton EMC, P.O. Box 260, Monroe, GA 30655 or call 770.266.2332 to use your credit card.

Conventional wisdom on building home crawlspaces has changed. But old habits can be hard to break... or fix.

For decades, crawlspaces have been constructed the same way – open to outside air. But it's come to light that using such techniques promotes all sorts of problems for both the structure and the people who inhabit it.

It's not the actual outside air that's the problem; it's the moisture in it. And with our typical humid Southern climate, that moisture is abundant.

Capping the gusher

Stopping moisture and its associated problems is where crawlspace encapsulation comes in.

"I've been in this business over 30 years and encapsulation is the first solution to wet crawlspaces I'm comfortable with," says Andrew Davis, owner of Andrews Termite and Pest Control.

Do all existing crawlspaces with moisture problems need to be encapsulated? "No," says Blake Davis, crawlspace expert for Andrews. "Some cases can be controlled with other methods." But for problem homes – about 30 percent of those Blake sees – encapsulation is turning out to be a godsend.

Encapsulation is a process where the entire crawlspace is sealed with reinforced plastic to keep out water.

First, plastic is fastened to foundation walls and supporting pillars and overlaps to the ground below. A transparent plastic makes termite activity readily noticeable.

Next, the ground inside the crawlspace is covered and every seam is overlapped and securely taped. Then, seams between the walls, pillars and ground are joined. Finally, traditional foundation vents are sealed shut, resulting in a complete moisture barrier between the crawlspace and outside.



A small consumer model dehumidifier won't dry an entire crawlspace. Blake Davis and his father, Andrew, service a commercial dehumidifier – especially designed for large spaces – installed in an encapsulated crawlspace.



Even foundation pillars inside crawlspaces must be wrapped and sealed to prevent moisture infiltration.



Blake Davis seals a major source of unwanted crawlspace moisture, the traditional foundation vent. Recent research shows crawlspaces should be sealed from outside air.

How dry I am

Now that there's no path for water to enter the crawlspace, it's time to dry things out.

"We're trying to achieve 50 percent relative humidity in the crawlspace," says Blake. "That requires commercial dehumidification equipment. A little home dehumidifier won't do it."

The company uses a commercial line of dehumidifiers made especially for crawlspace applications. Critical to the installation, the equipment is energy-efficient and carries the ENERGY STAR rating. This assures the homeowner the unit won't be costly to operate.

It usually takes about three months for the crawlspace to dry. Once humidity equilibrium is achieved, the dehumidifier runs a minimal amount.

Does encapsulation work?

Homeowner Caitlin Briscoe of Monroe is pleased with the crawlspace encapsulation Davis performed at her home.

"We had mold growing on the inside walls of our home and now it's gone," says Briscoe. "I haven't been sick with ear or sinus problems anymore, either."

So is homeowner Doug Myers of Loganville, who had more serious problems.

"We installed hardwood floors and they began to cup," says Myers. "The insulation under the house was sweating. Mold was growing and water was standing in the crawlspace."

The encapsulation worked so well that the floors returned to normal, mold stopped growing and the living space was no longer humid and stuffy feeling.

"I'm very satisfied," says Myers. "I'm glad I did it and would suggest encapsulation to anyone who's having these problems."

D'OH! The old school thought was outside air circulating through the crawlspace would keep it dry. But crawlspaces are cooler than outdoor air in the summer.

When the warm, moist air coming through foundation vents enters the cool crawlspace, that moisture condenses on joists, subfloors, cooling system ducts and everything else.

If the moisture level gets too high, mold, mildew, rot, bacteria, insect infestations, musty odors and buckled hardwood floors can result. Problems accelerate if the foundation walls leak or the ground inside the crawlspace is wet. To avoid these problems, crawlspaces need to be less than 60 percent relative humidity.

GREEN POWER PRODUCT CONTENT LABEL

The product is sold in blocks of 150 kilowatt hours (kWh).
The product will be made up of the following renewable resources.

Green-e Energy Certified New ³ Renewables in Walton EMC Green Power Program	Generation Location		
	2013 ¹	2014	
-Biomass	100%	100%	Georgia
TOTAL	100%	100%	

1. The 2013 figures reflect the resources that were supplied for the year ending December 31, 2013. 2. The 2014 figures are prospective and reflect the power that we have contracted to provide. Actual figures may vary according to resource availability. We will annually report to you the actual resource mix of the electricity you purchased during the preceding year. 3. For energy supplied in 2013, New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation on or after January 1, 1999. For energy to be supplied in 2014, new renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation on or after January 1, 2000.

For comparison, the current average mix of resources supplying Walton EMC includes: coal (48%), nuclear (42%), oil (0%), natural gas (5%) and hydroelectric (5%). The average home in the United States uses 900 kWh per month. [Source: U.S. EPA] For specific information about this electricity product, please contact Walton Electric Membership Corporation, (770) 267-2505, csr@waltonemc.com

Green-e Energy certifies that the Walton Electric Membership Corporation green power program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements, call 1-888-63-GREEN or log on to www.green-e.org.

