

OPERATION ROUND UP

Your pocket change continues to make giant impacts across Walton EMC's 10-county service area.

Latest grants total **\$115,565**

Northeast Georgia RESA (Barrow, Clarke, Greene, Morgan, Oconee, Walton) \$2,800 for iPads for roving teachers of deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

The Salvation Army (entire service area) \$15,000 for their emergency feeding program.

Eagle Ranch Children's Home (entire service area) \$3,912 to replace a broken AV system.

ViewPoint Health (Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale) \$5,000 to provide primary and behavioral healthcare for low-income families.

Gwinnett Community Clinic (Gwinnett) \$2,500 to purchase medical and office equipment at their new location.

Exceptional Kids Athletics (Gwinnett, Rockdale, Walton) \$1,000 to expand their program for special needs families.

Georgia Lions Lighthouse (entire service area) \$5,000 toward vision and hearing care for needy individuals.

Athens Community Council on Aging (Barrow, Clarke, Oconee, Walton) \$5,000 for the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program to purchase emergency food and personal care items.

Athens Area Emergency Food Bank (Clarke) \$10,000 toward the purchase of a new food delivery van.

Monroe Lions Club (Walton) \$5,000 to purchase children's vision screening equipment.

Alcovy Court Appointed Special Advocates (Newton, Walton) \$1,500 for volunteer and staff training.

Mother's Choice Learning Center (Gwinnett, Newton, Rockdale, Walton) \$2,700 for their afterschool creative writing and homework assistance program.

Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse (Gwinnett, DeKalb, Newton, Rockdale, Walton) \$2,500 for their scholarship fund.

Pregnancy Resource Center of Walton (Barrow, Clarke, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Rockdale, Walton) \$4,000 for materials and supplies to promote the sanctity of human life.

Rachel's Gift, Inc. (DeKalb, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Rockdale, Walton) \$2,500 for bereavement and grief assistance to families who have lost newborns.

Partnership for Families, Children and Youth (Walton) \$2,000 for their youth advocacy board.

Extra Special People (Clarke, Greene, Morgan, Oconee) \$6,000 for an afterschool program serving children and young adults with developmental disabilities.

Grandparents Gift Shop (Walton) \$1,500 for low-income grandparents to purchase Christmas gifts for grandchildren.

Friends of Gwinnett County Senior Services (Gwinnett) \$14,000 for meals for senior citizens.

Seven local families \$23,653.80 to meet urgent and emergency needs.

Walton EMC customer-owners who participate in Operation Round Up allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar. A volunteer board – the Walton Electric Trust – distributes the resulting change to worthy causes.

All funds go to help others; Walton EMC covers all administrative costs of the program. No Operation Round Up money can be used for electric bills, preventing the program from being self-serving.

ROUND UP SPOTLIGHT: Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse



Every year, more than 60,000 Georgians suffer a brain injury. That's more than those diagnosed with breast cancer and HIV combined.

Brain injuries have a myriad of causes, from auto accidents to head blows, from strokes to oxygen deprivation. Such an injury could happen to any of one of us in an instant.

"People suffering these injuries 30 years ago probably died," says Marian Dickson, resource development officer for the Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse. "Today, many survive."

Along with an increase in survival rates comes a greater need for rehabilitation. That's where the Clubhouse comes in.

The Clubhouse is Georgia's only non-profit day program for adults with brain injuries. People served become organization members and volunteer in one of three units: kitchen, maintenance or business.

Each day, members complete tasks that keep the Clubhouse running and participate in additional support or educational activities. Members also volunteer in the community.

"We help them regain basic skills or return to work," says Dickson. The average member participates with the Clubhouse for two to four years.

"We're really proud of our work," says Dickson. "Our population is growing while our resources are limited. We meet a need that's mostly unmet."

To learn more, donate or volunteer, visit sidebysideclubhouse.org.

Walton EMC
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THE *Rundown* }

inside: solar electricity 101
inside flap: exploring our landmarks
on the back: operation round up



Walton Natural Gas is

The Georgia Bulldogs weren't the only winners when they beat the Tennessee Vols on Sept. 27.

That same day, Walton EMC Natural Gas presented \$17,000 to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, \$10,000 to Camp Twin Lakes and \$9,000 to The Salvation Army. The donations came from Walton's Kickin' It for Charity and Big Gift campaigns.

Every time the Bulldogs score a field goal again this season, Walton EMC Natural Gas donates \$500 toward these three charities. You decide how much each charity gets by your vote at 770GasHeat.com/Bulldogs.

In addition, the Big Gift campaign gives every new customer a \$25 bill credit. If the customer donates their credit to one of the three charities, Walton Gas matches their donation. The customer's \$25 donation turns into \$50!

"Children's Healthcare is so fortunate to have such passionate community advocates and valued friends in Walton EMC Natural Gas," said Sarah Harris, Children's Healthcare development officer. "Thank you for your generous support of more than 360,000 patients we serve each year."

Walton EMC Natural Gas Communications Representative Savannah Chandler (fifth from left) presents \$10,000 to Dan Matthews and Josh Sweat of Camp Twin Lakes, \$17,000 to Sarah Harris and Lynn Leslie of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and \$9,000 to Major Todd Hawks and Lieutenant Carlos Cantu of The Salvation Army. Donations came from Walton's 2013 Kickin' It for Charity and Big Gift campaigns.

JOIN IN!

Sign up as a new Walton Gas customer, receive a great rate, experience award-winning customer service and help a great charity. It's easy at waltongas.com.



Walton EMC is ranked "Highest in Customer Satisfaction among Midsize Utilities in the South" –J.D. Power

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Business Offices > M–F, 8A–5P

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Walton EMC received the highest numerical score among midsize utilities in the South in the proprietary J.D. Power 2014 Electric Utility Residential Customer Satisfaction StudySM. Study based on 104,460 online interviews ranking 30 providers in the South (AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NM, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA). Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of consumers surveyed in July 2013-May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.

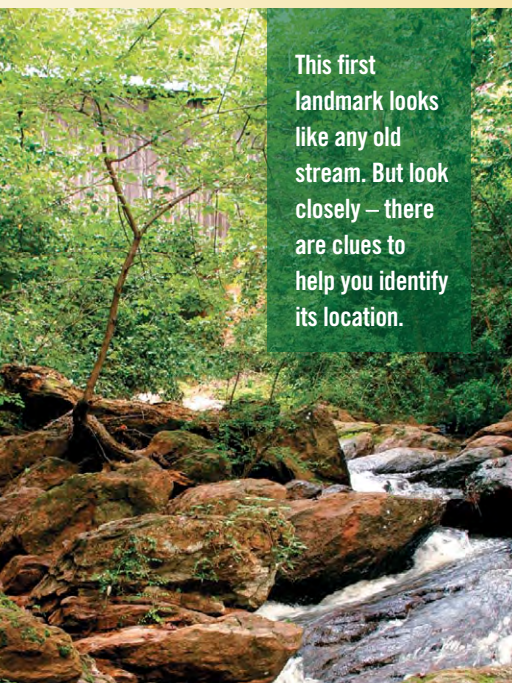


exploring our LANDMARKS

Take a look around the 10 counties in your co-op's service area and you'll find some interesting, beautiful, historic and just plain cool spots.

Beginning with this issue, we'll give you a chance to see how well you know Walton EMC's service territory. Some of the locations we choose may be hard to identify; some may be easy. But all are worth knowing about.

Guess the location of a scene found somewhere within the 10 counties of Walton EMC's service territory and you could win a prize. We'll draw from all correct guesses each month for a \$25 gift card.



This first landmark looks like any old stream. But look closely – there are clues to help you identify its location.

Email your guess to landmarkscontest@waltonemc.com with the subject line "NOVEMBER LANDMARKS CONTEST" no later than Dec. 5. Entries that do not follow these guidelines will be disqualified.

©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.

Solar electricity 101

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOLAR ELECTRICITY AND SOLAR WATER HEATING SYSTEMS?

A solar electricity system produces an electric current when photons from the sun's rays strike a photovoltaic panel made up of silicon (or other material) crystals.

A solar water heating system produces hot water when the sun's radiant energy heats a liquid in a solar collector containing a piping system.

INSTALLING A SOLAR ARRAY – FACTORS TO CONSIDER

To get the best results from a solar power installation, your home's roof should:

- Be mostly unobstructed by trees and have little shading.
- Face in a southerly direction.
- Have shingles or roofing in good condition that is not in need of imminent replacement.
- Have at least 300 to 400 square feet of area available for the solar panels.

You should plan on being in your home at least 10 years to see a return on an investment in a solar electricity system.

Watch our newsletter and website as we research and develop more information and advice on installing solar electricity systems.

Before installing a solar power system, contact us for assistance on properly interconnecting it to our power grid. An improper interconnection can be dangerous to you, your neighbors and Walton EMC's employees.

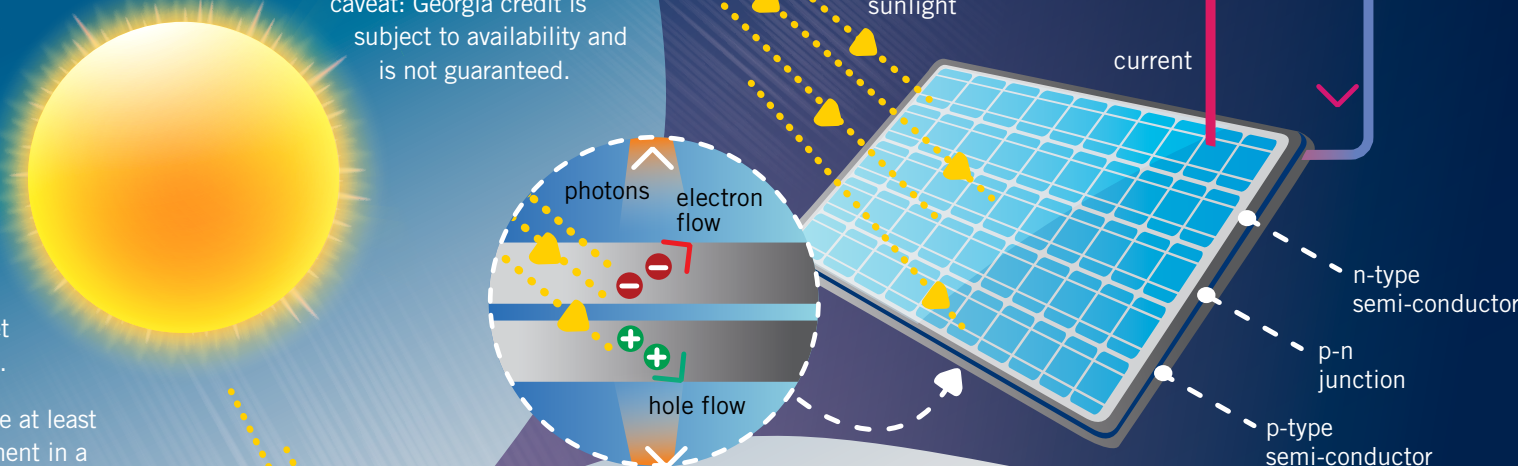
HOMEOWNER INCENTIVES

FEDERAL – uncapped 30 percent federal income tax credit on solar equipment installed before January 1, 2017.

STATE – 35 percent income tax credit of up to \$10,500 for solar electric installations. Important caveat: Georgia credit is subject to availability and is not guaranteed.

HOW DO SOLAR PANELS WORK?

1. Photons from the sun's rays strike the solar panel.
2. Electrons in crystals are knocked free.
3. Direct current is produced.



Solar array – uses energy from the sun to produce an electric current

Electric grid – supplies electricity when the solar array can't produce (cloudy or night)

Meter – measures electricity use

Inverter – converts the direct current produced by the array to alternating current used by the appliances and devices in your home

Breaker panel – routes the electricity from the inverter to the circuits in your home

Community solar, or shared solar, allows many consumers to share the benefits of a single solar project. It may be the right choice for people who are renters, have a shaded roof, a roof that's not property oriented or just don't want to make the upfront investment in their own solar electricity system.

View your energy use online

Another benefit of automated metering: seeing your energy use hour by hour.

Log on to our customer portal and you'll have access to all sorts of data, including hourly, daily and monthly electricity use, weather statistics and the amount of heating or cooling required. Other handy features include the ability to print or export data for further analysis.

www.mywaltonemc.com



TO VIEW YOUR ENERGY USE:

1. Go to mywaltonemc.com.
2. Log in with your user ID and password.
3. Hover over the "My Usage" tab at the top and choose "Usage History."
4. If you have more than one account, select the account to view.
5. Click "Continue" and you're there!