

Assist Your AC During Torrid Temps

Summer heat is in full swing during August. That means your air conditioner works harder, runs longer and uses more electricity.

We all know that when electricity use goes up, so does your bill. But don't feel helpless. There are several steps you can take to help your air conditioner do it's job.

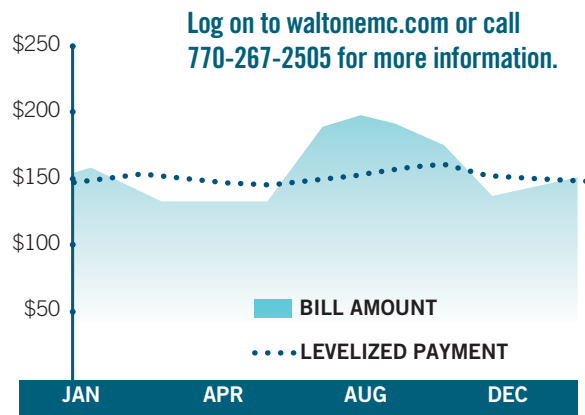
- **CHANGE AC FILTERS REGULARLY.** If the filter gets clogged, the unit has a harder time doing its job.
- **MAKE SURE VENTS ARE UNOBSTRUCTED.** Move rugs and furniture away from air registers for improved air flow.
- **KEEP THE AREA AROUND THE OUTDOOR UNIT CLEAN.** Plants, tools and debris can restrict air flow in and out of the unit.
- **USE HEAT-PRODUCING APPLIANCES AT NIGHT.** Besides the heat from outside, your air conditioner also has to remove heat from the stove, oven or dryer.
- **KEEP DOORS AND WINDOWS CLOSED.**

Clip Summer Bill Peaks with Levelized Billing

If higher summer electric bills throw the family budget out of whack, you should consider our levelized billing service.

Levelized billing trims the peaks of higher months by filling in the valleys of lower months. The result is more even electric bills all year long.

You still pay for all the energy you use, but the payment totals are spread out over the entire year.



- **USE BLINDS OR DRAPES TO KEEP THE DIRECT SUN OUT.**
- **ADD INSULATION.** If your home's insulation is deficient, you're losing some of the cooling you're paying for. The same is true for insulation around the AC's duct system.

Wicked Weather

—continued from front

"With the soil being super-saturated, water is getting into underground cable in places that would normally not be affected," said Still. Compounding the problem in those repairs is the difficulty of getting heavy equipment into wet areas.



A direct lightning strike completely fried this oil circuit recloser, rendering it unrepairable. This device's function is similar to that of a circuit breaker in your home.

Crews work around the clock to restore your electric service. If necessary, crews from any of our offices go to any part of our service area to get the lights back on.

Wicked Weather Increases Aggravating Outages

Walton EMC line technicians, dispatchers, customer care representatives and other employees who have a link in the chain of getting your electric service restored have been extra busy.

"It's unbelievable," said Shannon Still, WEMC control center operations director. "The trees, the lightning and wind are all causing outages."

Countless trees toppled onto lines over the last few months. "Ninety-nine percent of those have come from outside our right-of-way," says Still. Your co-op is only allowed to trim an area 15 feet on either side of the center of our power lines.

The abundance of lightning is also causing havoc. Many times, equipment struck by lightning is not reparable.

Not only have the storms caused trouble with overhead lines; the deluge of water has also caused several outages of underground wiring.

—continued on back

APRIL 1–JUNE 30

LIGHTNING STRIKES

Lighting destroys electrical system components.

Year	Lightning Strikes
2016	4761
2017	10,929 (+230%)

RAINFALL

Excess rainfall causes tree uprooting due to soft soils.

Year	Rainfall (inches)
2016	9.15
2017	21.43 (+134%)

BROKEN POLES

50

DAMAGED/DESTROYED TRANSFORMERS

300

OUTAGES

65,375

Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

Realite

THE *Rundown* } **inside:** annual meeting highlights
on the back: assist your ac, leveled billing

The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

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QUICK GUIDE



IF YOUR POWER IS OUT
770.267.2505
waltonemc.com > Report an Outage

FIND US

Phone 770.267.2505

In person Monroe – 842 US Hwy. 78



Snellville – 3645 Lenora Church Rd.
Watkinsville – 2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.
Web waltonemc.com



Facebook facebook.com/waltonemc
YouTube youtube.com/emctv

WHEN WE'RE AVAILABLE

Power Outages and Emergencies > 24/7

Contact Center > M–F, 7A–7P

Business Offices > M–F, 8A–5P



EMC LEADERS

CEO Ronnie Lee
Sr. VP Corporate Services
Russell DeLong

Sr. VP Engineering & Operations Ron Marshall

Sr. VP Power Supply Robert Rentfrow

Sr. VP Finance Marsha Shumate

Board Chair Sam Simonton

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exploring our LANDMARKS

How well do you know Walton EMC's service territory? Take a look around your co-op's 10-county area and you'll find some interesting, beautiful, historic and just plain cool spots. Some of the locations we choose may be hard to identify, but we think they're worth knowing about.

win a prize Guess the location of this scene found within Walton EMC's service territory. We'll draw from the winners of all correct guesses for a \$25 gift card.



email your guess with the subject line "**AUGUST LANDMARKS CONTEST**" no later than Sept. 5 to landmarkscontest@waltonemc.com for your entry to qualify.

MAY LANDMARK: This clock is located atop the historic Walton County courthouse in Monroe.

APRIL WINNER: Brenda Malcom of Monroe.

ANNUAL MEETING CUSTOMER-OWNERS HEAR MESSAGE OF RENEWED GROWTH

Thousands of Walton EMC customer-owners and their families attending the cooperative's recent annual meeting learned that requests for new electric service are on an upward trend.

"Georgia is growing again," said CEO Ronnie Lee. "We see new homes and businesses coming out of the ground all around us. In just 20 years, our state is expected to grow by 4.6 million more people. That's double the amount of people who moved here since 2000."

Lee told the crowd that planning for the electricity needs of growth on this scale must be done decades in advance. "It became essential to build more power plants. Construction on two new units at Plant Vogtle began in 2009 and is still underway today," said Lee.



Loss Control Director Brad Adcock uses the co-op's new electrical safety demonstration trailer to show customer-owners how to stay safe around high voltage power lines.



Walton EMC's Jeff Paul, left, and Tassie Kirven, center, educated customer-owners on Walton EMC's innovative cooperative solar program. To alleviate the participant waiting list, a third facility is coming soon.



Although attendance continues to grow, registration line waits are shorter because customers-owners bring the mailing label from their annual meeting notice and the registration process has been reconfigured.

Although the company building the plants, Westinghouse, has recently been in the news for bankruptcy, Lee said the decision to expand Vogtle was still a good one.

"The main thing you need to know is that whatever happens, your co-op's board and management are looking out for you and will do whatever is in your best interest," said Lee.

Customer-owners also learned Walton EMC continues to have some of the state's lowest rates, and – and even when costs rise and increases become necessary – they should remain reasonable.

"The recent [Georgia Public Service Commission] report for the winter season showed that we were one of the least-priced electric utilities in the state," said Board Chair Dan Chelko. "I'm very proud to report that we are financially sound and our employees are dedicated to supporting our mission of reliable energy at the lowest possible cost."



CEO Ronnie Lee, left, presents the keys to the traditional grand prize recycled truck to customer-owner Crystal Paden and husband of Loganville.

Chelko also talked about the challenge of cybersecurity. "The subject...comes up at meetings with other cooperative leaders at local, state and national meetings," said Chelko. "Guidelines and regulations are in place to keep our systems safe and reliable."

Three directors were re-elected to three-year terms. Those include Tommy Adcock of the Good Hope district, Dan Chelko of the Centerville-South Snellville district and Michael Lowder of the Farmington district.

Customer-owners also enjoyed entertainment from The Martins, kids' activities, a health fair and door prizes. Crystal Paden of Loganville won the grand prize – a retired Ford pickup.

The annual meeting gives Walton EMC customer-owners the opportunity to hear updates and elect representatives from among themselves to run their cooperative.



Walton Trust Board Member Brenda Brown, right, explains Operation Round Up, the co-op's charitable program that has contributed millions to local communities by collecting a few cents at a time from participating customer-owners' bills.



A capacity crowd filled the Walton County Ag Education Center to take part in the 81st Walton EMC Annual Meeting. Customer-owners elected three directors from among their ranks and heard that their cooperative is financially sound.