

Give your outdoor lighting an LED makeover

Outdoor lighting enhances your home's architectural features and landscaping, increases security and safety, and creates a warm and welcoming atmosphere once the sun goes down.

If you're still using halogen bulbs, it's time to consider a refresh to light-emitting diode (LED) lights, advises Rigs Santos, a residential energy advisor at Walton EMC.

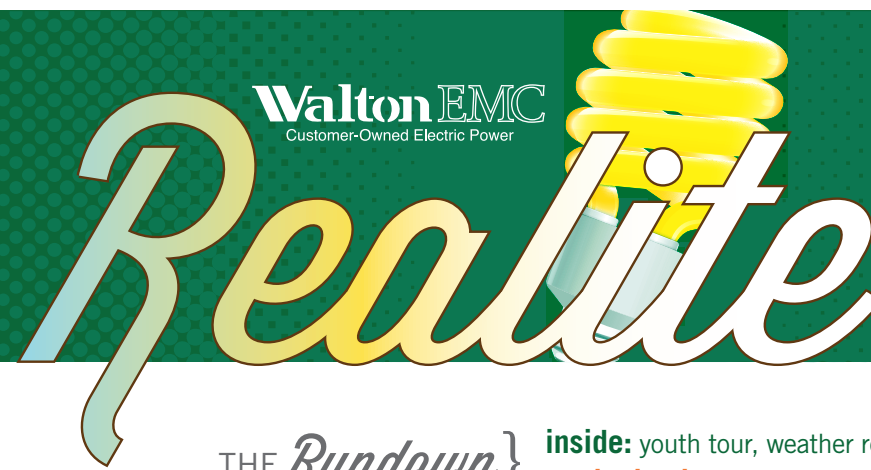
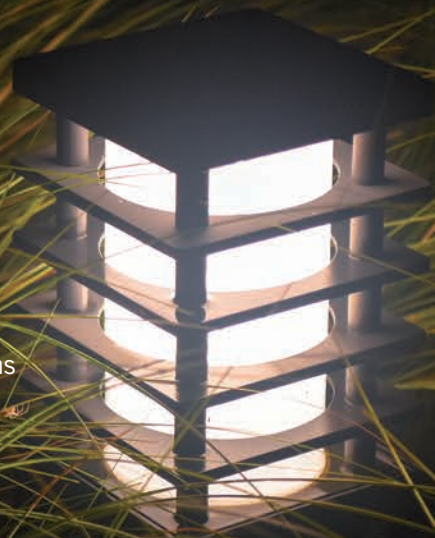
Thanks to technology advances and price drops, LED lighting is now preferred for landscaping and security lighting. LEDs use 25 to 30 percent of the energy and last up to 25 times longer than halogen incandescents, according to Energy.gov.

Make the switch

Here are a few reasons to make the switch from traditional halogen bulbs to LEDs for outdoor lighting.

- 1 LONGEVITY** A typical LED light can last about 50,000 hours, or nearly 20 years in the average outdoor application. Halogen bulbs, which have a maximum life of about 3,600 hours, must be replaced every one to two years.
- 2 ENERGY EFFICIENCY** LED lighting consumes up to 80 percent less power than halogen bulbs. A 30 watt halogen bulb can be replaced with a 5 watt LED bulb to produce the equivalent light.
- 3 DURABILITY** Halogen lights break easily. LEDs are much more durable.
- 4 VERSATILITY** LED landscape lighting rivals other options, offering a wide and varied range of beam angles, colors and wattages.
- 5 INSTANT ILLUMINATION** Same as halogen bulbs, LED diodes turn on instantly in milliseconds. That's why LEDs are widely used in motion-activated floodlights.
- 6 EASY CONVERSION** Most landscape lighting systems currently using low-voltage halogen bulbs can be easily converted to LEDs.
- 7 ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY** LEDs can be recycled. Traditional halogen lights contain mercury and can't be recycled.

Although an LED outdoor lighting system may initially cost a little more, the long-term savings is significant. Depending on the size of the system, it could begin paying for itself in both energy savings and reduced maintenance expenses in three to four years.



The news you need to know in 5 minutes!

Walton EMC
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QUICK GUIDE



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770.267.2505
waltonemc.com > Report an Outage

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Watkinsville – 2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.
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YouTube youtube.com/emctv

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THE *Rundown* } **inside:** youth tour, weather ready, energy resolutions
on the back: outdoor led makeover

School grants reach \$1 MILLION

2018 GRANTS TOTAL MORE THAN \$372,000

Schools throughout Walton EMC's 10-county service area have received more than \$1 million through the co-op's School EmPOWERment Grant program.

The latest round, presented in early December, saw 60 schools receive 85 grants worth \$372,193.

Money for the grants come from unclaimed capital credit refunds. Capital credits represent the money remaining after Walton EMC pays its operational bills. That money is returned to the cooperative's customer-owners.

Some of those refunds go to former customer-owners who move off our electric grid. If we don't have a correct forwarding address, those checks are returned. After we exhaust all attempts to find the owner, Georgia law allows for the money to be used for community development projects.



Walton EMC's Jeff Paul, left, and Cindy Haddon, third from left, present a \$7,000 grant to the Morgan County High School agricultural education program to fund a trailer for their livestock agri-science program. Also shown are Teacher Kaitlyn Marchant, Principal Miki Edwards and Superintendent James Woodard.

Students and teachers increasingly depend on technology for instruction. Walton EMC Director Billy Ray Allen, left, presents a School EmPOWERment grant to Sharon Elementary for more Chromebook computers. Also shown are Youth and Community Representative Jennifer Broun, Sharon Elementary Media Specialist Barbara Fuller, Principal Freda Doster, Assistant Principal Angel Stanley and Walton EMC Sr. Vice President of Finance Marsha Shumate.



School EmPOWERment Grant
\$7,665.00
Freda Doster
Sharon
Elementary School
Chromebook Initiative

School grants reach \$1 MILLION

—continued from front

BARROW COUNTY

Sims Academy of Innovation and Technology	\$3,010
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GWINNETT COUNTY

Anderson-Livesay Elementary	\$6,579
Brookwood Elementary	\$2,866
Centerville Elementary	\$4,700
Craig Elementary	\$5,740
Five Forks Middle	\$4,600
Grayson Elementary	\$5,500
Grayson High	\$3,298
Grayson Technical	\$1,187
R.D. Head Elementary	\$4,500
Hopkins Elementary	\$4,673
J.C. Magill Elementary	\$4,995
McConnell Middle	\$7,415
Mountain Park Elementary	\$7,500
Partee Elementary	\$3,500
Pharr Elementary	\$5,604
Rosebud Elementary	\$10,600
Shiloh Elementary	\$6,628
Shiloh High	\$5,250
Shiloh Middle	\$4,177
Starling Elementary	\$9,347
Trickum Middle	\$7,091
Trip Elementary	\$9,305

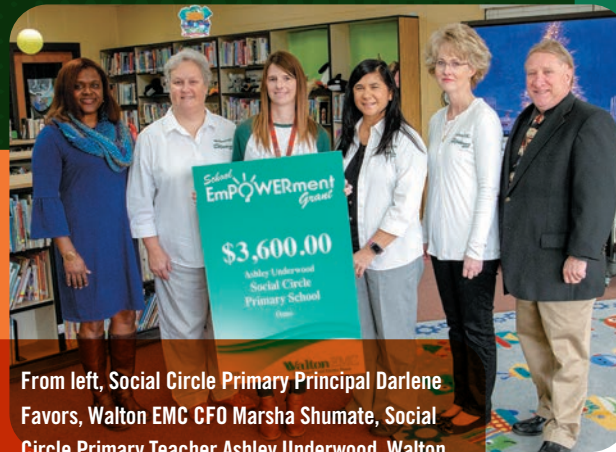
MORGAN COUNTY

Morgan County Elementary	\$8,019
Morgan County High	\$7,000
Morgan County Middle	\$4,111
Morgan County Primary	\$4,481

OCONEE COUNTY

Athens Academy	\$4,378
Colham Ferry Elementary	\$5,700
Dove Creek Elementary	\$20,000
High Shoals Elementary	\$2,500
Malcom Bridge Elementary	\$7,548
Malcom Bridge Middle	\$4,232
North Oconee High School	\$3,294
Oconee County Elementary	\$5,591
Oconee County High	\$6,315
Oconee County Middle	\$4,702
Oconee County Primary	\$5,095
Prince Avenue Christian	\$1,791
Rocky Branch Elementary	\$3,426
Westminster Christian	\$5,500

Communications Coordinator Savannah Chandler, left, presents Mountain Park Teacher Heather Bridges and Principal Brian Walker with \$7,500 to build on last year's grant that seeks to equip students with Chromebook computers.



From left, Social Circle Primary Principal Darlene Favors, Walton EMC CFO Marsha Shumate, Social Circle Primary Teacher Ashley Underwood, Walton EMC Youth and Community Specialist Kathy Ivie, Executive Assistant Kathy Joiner and Social Circle Superintendent Todd McGhee take part in a grant presentation to fund an Osmo system that fosters social intelligence and creative thinking.

WALTON COUNTY

Atha Road Elementary	\$7,751
Bay Creek Elementary	\$5,380
Carver Middle	\$5,000
George Walton Academy	\$4,739
Harmony Elementary	\$20,500
Loganville Elementary	\$7,773
Loganville High	\$1,505
Loganville Middle	\$13,000
Monroe Area High	\$6,000
Sharon Elementary	\$7,665
Social Circle Elementary	\$350
Social Circle High	\$3,970
Social Circle Middle	\$5,163
Social Circle Primary	\$6,100
Walker Park Elementary	\$15,000
Walnut Grove Elementary	\$9,500
Walnut Grove High	\$7,399
Youth Elementary	\$6,495
Youth Middle	\$7,151



Are you Weather Ready?

Take a look at our winter checklist to make sure you're ready for power outages caused by icy precipitation.

LOVED ONES Have a contingency plan for patients who have a medical necessity for electricity.

LIGHT Get flashlights and extra batteries.

WATER If you're on a well, stock up on drinking water. If you have livestock, secure a stand-by generator.

FOOD Have nonperishable foods that don't require cooking.

HEAT Use blankets, sleeping bags and extra clothing. Be careful with auxiliary heat sources.

POWER If you use a generator, make sure it's properly installed. Beware of carbon monoxide from the generator's exhaust. Get a cell phone charging battery. A power inverter lets you run electrical devices from your car's cigarette lighter.

INFORMATION Get a portable radio with extra batteries for local information and a NOAA weather radio for weather warnings.

MEDICAL Stock adequate supplies of prescription medicines and a first aid kit.

MONEY Have some cash on hand in case ATMs don't work.

Learn more at the Storm Center at waltonemc.com

APPLY NOW!

Walton EMC's Youth Tour

Walton EMC is sending four local high school sophomores or juniors to represent our co-op, hone their leadership skills and experience our nation's capital on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour – and it's all-expenses paid!

Delegates from all across the country interact with our nation's leaders and see firsthand how government works.



to qualify

- Be a high school sophomore or junior.
- Live or attend a school in WEMC's service area.
- Have your parent's permission to enter.
- Commit to making the trip on June 13–20 if you win.

three ways to get an entry form

- Go to waltonemc.com.
- Email jbroun@waltonemc.com.
- Call 770-266-2572.

learn more

See videos here: youtube.com/user/georgiaemcyouthtour

follow these steps

1. Complete and send the entry form, parent's authorization and student commitment. Walton EMC must receive this by 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 8, 2019.
2. You'll get study material in the mail.
3. Study!
4. Take a written test on Monday, Mar. 4, 2019 on the study material.
5. The eight contestants scoring the highest on the written test will advance to a short interview.
6. Judges choose four winners and two alternates.



From left, Abbas Rangwala, Mayu Takeuchi, Noah Irwin and David Han represented Walton EMC on the 2018 Washington Youth Tour.

Made any New Year's resolutions?

Check out our energy resolutions at waltonemc.com that help you save time and money. You'll be glad to know they're much easier to keep than those diet or exercise resolutions!