

Billing and Payment Resources

Here are billing and payment resources available to Walton EMC customer-owners. Call us or the agency listed for more information.

LEVELIZED BILLING Levelized Billing allows you to pay nearly the same amount on your electric bill each month.

PREPAY Instead of receiving a monthly bill after the fact, you set the payment plan and amounts that fit your budget.

SENIOR CITIZEN LOW INCOME DISCOUNT

Qualifying seniors are eligible for a monthly service charge discount.

United Way 211 Dial 211 or visit unitedwayatlanta.org/need-help. You can also text your zip code and need to 898211.

LIHEAP Qualified applicants may be able to receive home heating assistance.

Barrow, Clarke, Oconee:
770-532-3191

Greene, Morgan:
478-453-4111

DeKalb, Gwinnett,
Newton, Rockdale, Walton:
404-537-4300

Don't Get Left in the Dark

— continued from inside

IS A STANDBY GENERATOR WORTH THE ADDED EXPENSE?

Yes, concur the experts at [bobvila.com](https://www.bobvila.com). Their reasons: Standby generators tend to last a long time, about 15 years. And upon home resale, these machines recoup about 50 percent of their cost. And for some families, especially those who have vital medical equipment running in the house, the reliability afforded by a standby generator is virtually priceless.

WHICH TYPE OF GENERATOR IS SAFER?

Standby generators are installed professionally and provide safe, “hands-off” operation for the homeowner. The portable version, however, comes with some serious safety risks.

For starters, there is a greater threat of severe shock or electrocution – users must always be sure that the unit is properly grounded, which may be difficult to do in the midst of a severe storm. There is also a greater chance of exceeding the generator’s power rating, which can damage any equipment hooked up to it and/or cause a fire. The greatest risk, however, is when a user tries to use the generator to power the wiring in a home by plugging it into a wall

outlet. This approach, called “backfeeding,” can endanger the lives of Walton EMC line workers and your neighbors by sending unexpected, uncontrolled current through the lines.

CAN I MONITOR A STANDBY GENERATOR REMOTELY?

Some standby generator manufacturers now offer models with a remote monitoring feature, advises Keith Wasula, national account manager for generator manufacturer Generac. This allows a consumer to check on the current operating status and maintenance alerts of a home generator on a phone, tablet or computer from anywhere in the world.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO INSTALL A STANDBY GENERATOR?

Don’t wait until a major storm has been forecast to order your standby generator. The installation process may take up to a few weeks to complete.

Once you’ve scheduled installation of a standby generator that’s right for your family’s needs, sit back and relax. Your home will soon be protected against power outages of every kind, ensuring you’ll never be left in the dark.



Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

realite

SEPT '20

> standby generators

> fun fall at the farm

7 FALL FIX-UPS TO lower electric bills

Simple improvements to keep your home comfortable and energy efficient

One glance at the thermometer makes the thought of cooler days a tough sell. But autumn does officially arrive on Sept. 22, meaning cold weather – and the expense of keeping your home warm – will be here soon.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), most homeowners can save anywhere from 5 to 30 percent on heating costs by finding and fixing energy-wasting trouble spots around the house. Below, Walton EMC’s energy experts offer their top fall maintenance tips for decreasing your home’s energy consumption and lowering electric bills.

1 Replace or clean filters. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) estimates that keeping your filter clean can reduce your energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent. Inspect your air filter every 30 days to see if it is dirty and clogged. Clean or replace at recommended intervals.

2 Clear it. Blocking the flow of warm air causes your system to run longer cycles. Make sure no carpeting, furniture or draperies are blocking your return and supply vents and registers.

3 Schedule maintenance. Don’t wait until you think something is wrong with your heating system to call for maintenance. Getting a tune-up in early fall is the best way to avoid being left in the cold and paying for a sudden, emergency repair.

4 Upgrade the thermostat. If you’re still using a manual thermostat, consider upgrading to a programmable or smart one to save an estimated 8 to 10 percent on heating costs. The key feature of both a programmable and smart thermostat is that you can program your home’s heating and cooling systems to turn down automatically when you’re asleep or away.

5 Seal air leaks. Thoroughly sealing the thermal envelope of your home can cut 10 percent from your energy bill. Keep drafts at bay by filling cracks with caulk or spray insulation. Replace worn or insufficient weather stripping around doors and windows.

6 Inspect ductwork. In a typical house, About 20 to 30 percent of the air that moves through the duct system is lost due to leaks, holes and poorly connected ducts. Seal leaks on all the ducts you can access in the attic, crawlspaces, basement and garage.

7 Increase attic insulation. Eighty percent of a home’s heat gain and heat loss is through the attic, so be sure you have adequate insulation there. The DOE estimates that a well-insulated attic can shave 10 to 50 percent off your heating bill.

air filters

insulation

programmable thermostats

Walton EMC
waltonemc.com

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quick guide

IF YOUR POWER IS OUT

770.267.2505

waltonemc.com > Report an Outage

WHEN WE’RE AVAILABLE

Power Outages and Emergencies > 24/7

Contact Center > M–F, 7A–7P

Business Offices > M–F, 8A–5P

find us

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

emc leaders

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COO/Senior VP Engineering and Operations
Ron Marshall

Senior VP Corporate Services Russell DeLong

Senior VP Power Supply Robert Rentfrow

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walton gas

NEED NATURAL GAS SERVICE?

770.GAS.HEAT or wالتongas.com

emc security

NEED SECURITY SERVICE?

770.963.0305 or emcsecurity.com

©2020. Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 131,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties.

Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.

Fall Fun at the Farm

Walton EMC customer-owners help families make memories

“Making memories since 1993” is more than an advertising slogan at Washington Farms. For owners John and Donna Washington, it’s a personal mission statement. And the broad smiles and echoing laughter of families who visit their farm for fall fun are a testament that the Walton EMC customer-owners are achieving their goal.

This month, Washington Farms opens for the fall season. A pick-your-own pumpkin patch and 8.5-acre corn maze headline a broad offering of agriculture-inspired activities that provide hours of entertainment – and a memorable experience – for visitors of all ages.

“We want people to come out and have fun as a family,” said John. “My greatest joy is to hear real conversations between parents and their children while they’re picking a pumpkin or going on a hayride. I hope it’s something they’ll always remember.”

The outdoor venue encourages running and playing in a safe environment, added Donna.

“So many times today, families spend their time watching things together. We give them the alternative: getting out of the house and *doing* things together,” she said.

FUN FOR ALL

Though it’s open for berry picking in the spring and summer, fall is THE season at the Oconee County farm. A team of 130 employees is on hand to help the Washington family entertain guests with more than 30 attractions.

Children can burn plenty of energy playing in the corn box, climbing on hay bale mountain and engaging with farm animals in the petting zoo. Teens and adults alike will enjoy the recently added zip line, playing paintball or taking a nighttime walk through the corn maze.

The pig races are popular with all ages. Emceed by John, the races pit the farm’s own porkers against each other in a squealing, grunting sprint to the finish line.

For many, spending an autumn day at Washington Farms has become a family tradition.



“Parents who came here when they were kids are now bringing their own children out to the farm,” said John. “They’re creating new family memories.”

To make your own fall memories, visit Washington Farms at 5691 Hog Mountain Road in Bogart. During the fall season, the farm is open on weekends and some weekdays. Check their website at washingtonfarms.net or Facebook page for daily hours of operation, admission prices, complete list of attractions and details about special weekend celebrations.



Above: Among the most popular attractions at Washington Farms are the exciting pig races. Young porkers give it all they have in a race against each other to win a treat at the finish line.

Left: Families from many counties enjoy visiting Washington Farms to pick out a fall pumpkin, wandering through the corn maze or just spending time making priceless memories.

Don't Get Left in the Dark

Weather experts are defining this year’s Atlantic hurricane season as the second most active on record, meaning the potential for damaging storms here in northern Georgia is very real. Add to that a winter forecast that predicts colder-than-average temperatures in December and January, which could bring ice and snow our way.

If a fall or winter storm rips through Georgia, will you be ready if the lights go out?

While most Walton EMC outages last only a few minutes or hours, a serious storm that damages the electrical grid could interrupt the flow of power for several days. Investing in a standby generator can provide comfort, security and convenience in the event of such an emergency.

Choosing to install a standby generator is a big investment, so you’ll want to be well educated before making a purchase. Read these commonly asked questions and the answers to help you determine whether a standby generator is right for your family’s needs.

WHAT IS A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR?

A home standby generator, also called a whole-house generator, is permanently installed outside the home (similar to a central air conditioning unit). It continuously senses utility power and, if an outage is detected, comes on automatically. When it activates, it cuts off the home’s electrical system from the grid and takes over until it isn’t needed anymore.

WHAT ARE THE KEY BENEFITS OF A STANDBY GENERATOR?

The big advantages are that it kicks on automatically when the lights go out and it can power everything in your home at once, including critical hard-wired systems like air conditioning, heat, sump pumps, well pumps, security systems and large appliances.

Investing in a standby generator can provide comfort, security and convenience.

HOW DOES A STANDBY GENERATOR DIFFER FROM A PORTABLE GENERATOR?

While a standby model will cost considerably more, it wins out over the portable model in the important areas of convenience and power supply.

First, you must be at home to start a portable generator. So if you leave for vacation the day before an extended power outage, you’re likely to return home to an array of hazards and headaches ranging from a flooded basement (due to a failed sump pump) to a refrigerator full of spoiled perishables. By contrast, a standby generator comes on automatically when the power goes out.

Another key difference is the amount of power each can supply. A standby generator can power all the appliances your family is accustomed to using. So while the rest of the block is in darkness, your house can continue humming along as if nothing has happened. In contrast, a portable generator can handle the electrical demands of just a handful of appliances that must be plugged into it.

HOW IS A STANDBY GENERATOR POWERED?

A standby generator runs on natural gas or propane and hooks up to existing gas lines. A portable generator must be filled with gasoline every few hours. In addition, the oil must be frequently changed, especially if running continuously.

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WASHINGTON FARMS

ESTD. 1993