



Concern for Community

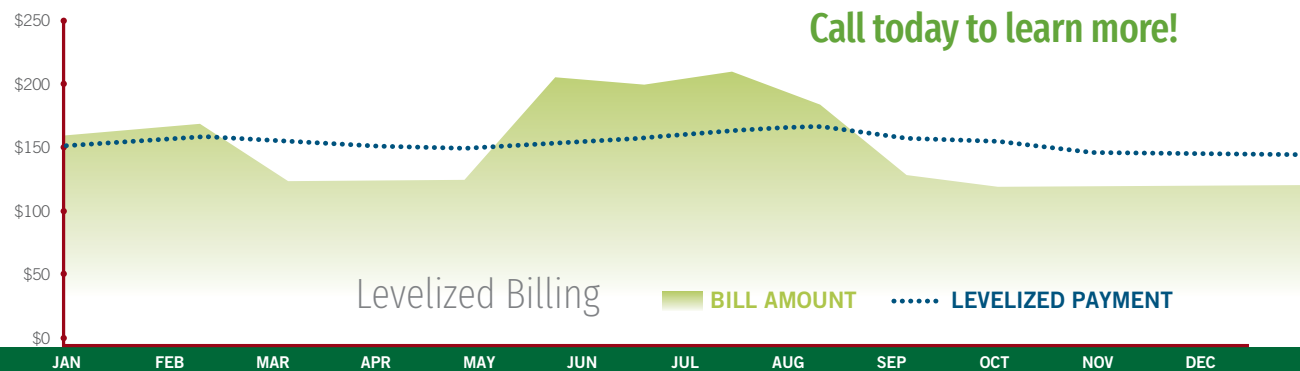
Walton EMC employee charities present a \$45,000 check from the proceeds of their annual Golf Classic to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Walton County. The money will be used to carry out the organization's programs that enable all young people, especially those who need them most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring and responsible citizens. Pictured are, left to right, Boys and Girls Club Unit Director Lynn Hill, club member Sebastian Boswell, Walton EMC Community and Youth Specialist Kathy Ivie, club member Breylen Jernigan, Walton EMC Member Services Director Jeff Paul, Walton EMC Finance and Accounting Director Darlene Butler, club member Quinijia Hill, and Boys and Girls Club Program Director Mequelle Jones.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS

Level Up Your Billing

So many things can be unpredictable these days. Knowing what to expect is a gift. Walton EMC's Levelized Billing program allows you to pay the average of your last eleven bills. Reducing monthly fluctuations gives you the benefit of knowing the approximate amount you will pay each month.



WaltonEMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

realite

SEPT '21

- > plan before you plant
- > prevent utility service disruptions
- > concern for community
- > leveled billing

It's sun-sational!

WALTON EMC MEMBERS PRAISE COOPERATIVE SOLAR

"It's the right thing to do."

Ask Oconee County couple Christine (Chris) Franklin and Dale Green why they participate in Walton EMC's Cooperative Solar program and the answer comes without hesitation.

"Why wouldn't we support a program that helps us produce energy while also doing the right thing for our environment and our planet?" reasons Chris, a retired University of Georgia statistics professor.

When the co-op announced plans to install its first solar collection site in June 2015, they were among the first to sign up. Besides the environmental benefits, they were attracted to the co-op program's ease and low cost of participation, said Dale, a physician at the University of Georgia.

"There's a significant upfront cost to installing your own [solar] system, and you have to deal with putting it on your roof," he said. "Why do all that when it's so easy to call the co-op and sign up for its solar program?"

—continued inside



WaltonEMC
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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

Twitter twitter.com/waltonemc

Youtube youtube.com/emctv

our leaders

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COO Ron Marshall

Senior VP Corporate Services Russell DeLong

Senior VP Power Supply Robert Rentfrow

CFO/Senior VP Finance Marsha Shumate

VP Walton Energy and External Affairs

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walton gas

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©2021 Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 133,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties.

Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.

It's sun-sational!

—continued from front

Walton EMC is responsible for maintaining its three solar farms, as well as metering and delivering solar electricity to the power grid.

Affordability is another important benefit of Cooperative Solar participation. “People think subscribing to solar is expensive, but that’s not true. It’s generally a wash as far as expense,” Dale said.

He and his wife purchased four blocks of solar power. Each block costs \$25 per month.

The kilowatt-hours of electricity produced by their blocks generally offset the same number of kilowatt-hours on their bill. During the summer, when days are longer, their blocks produce more electricity than they use, so they receive a credit for the excess.

Walton EMC members can discontinue their solar commitment at any time, but Chris and Dale say they’re sticking with the program and encourage others to sign up.

“It’s definitely met our expectations,” said Chris. “It’s a way to feel that we’re making a small contribution.”

Making a positive impact on the planet’s future has become even more important to the two now that they are grandparents. Grandson Henry was born in late 2020. They hope he’ll grow up watching them do the “right” things, said Chris.

“We want to set a good example for our children and grandchildren.”



SIGN UP FOR SOLAR!
Call Walton EMC at 770-267-2505.

Plan Before You Plant

DO YOUR RESEARCH BEFORE LOCATING TREES NEAR WALTON EMC’S OVERHEAD LINES

Trees can add beauty to your lawn and shade to boost the energy efficiency of your Georgia home. But when they’re planted too close to Walton EMC’s power lines, they can grow into big problems.

When trees grow too near overhead electrical lines, they can create safety and reliability concerns that can cause injuries or power outages. In fact, trees are the leading cause of outages for Walton EMC.

If your fall landscaping project involves a new tree or large shrub, remember to plan before you plant.

RIGHT TREE

Before you choose what tree to plant, stand in your yard and look up to find overhead power lines. Knowing the location of the lines should factor into choosing a tree that’s best suited for your yard. Remember: That sapling is going to grow, so you need to ensure the height and canopy of your mature tree won’t be too near power lines.

To choose the right tree, carefully research the maturity height and canopy size of any species you are considering. A good reference tool is University of Georgia Extension’s Shade Tree Selection Guide (bit.ly/shade_tree_guide).

RIGHT PLACE

Before you pick up the shovel, think carefully about where your tree will be planted in relation to utility lines.

Refer to the Walton EMC tree planting guide (pictured) to find the recommended distance from power lines. No trees should be planted within 25 feet of a power line. Trees planted 25 to 45 feet from a power line should have a mature height of no more than 30 to 40 feet. Trees that grow more than 40 feet tall should be planted more than 50 feet from power lines.

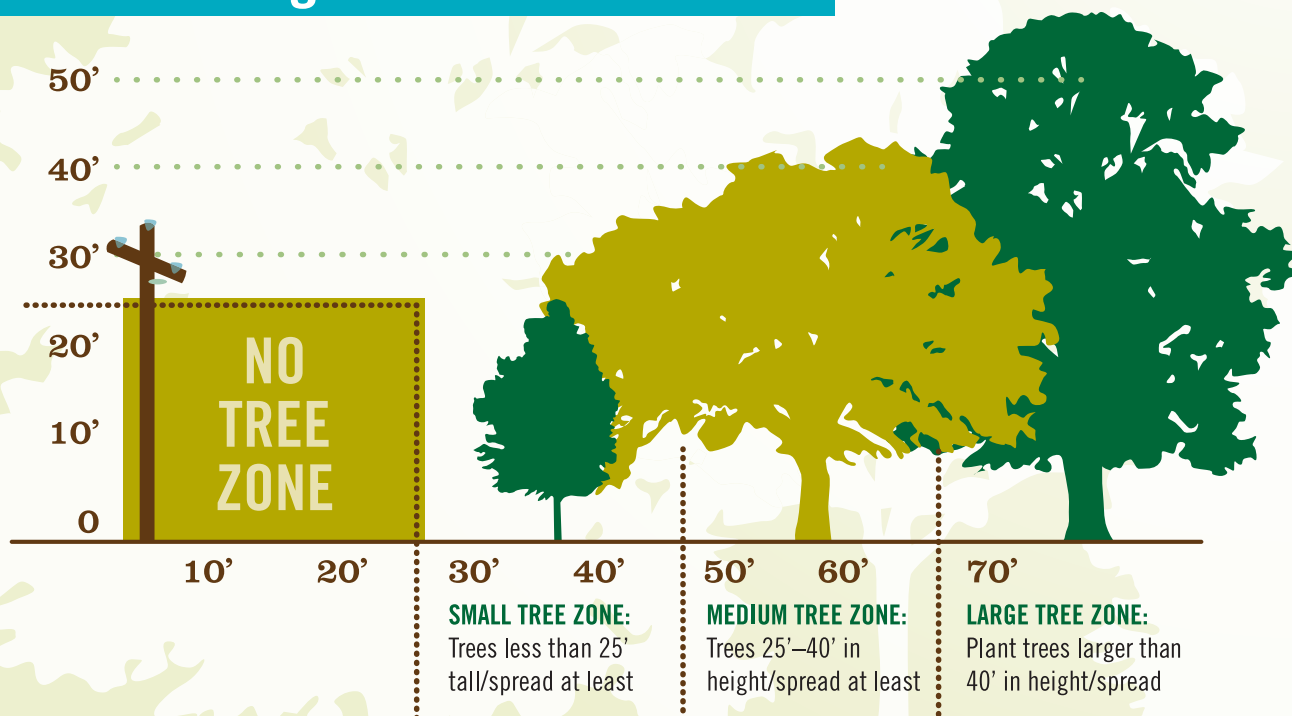
If planting guidelines are ignored and a tall-growing tree is planted under or near Walton EMC’s distribution lines, the co-op will have to trim it to maintain a safe clearance. This trimming can result in the tree having a displeasing appearance. Trimming can also put a tree under stress, making it more susceptible to disease and insect infestation.

With proper planning, planting the right tree in the right place isn’t difficult. By following Walton EMC’s guidelines at planting, you’ll be rewarded with a beautiful tree without the dangers and risks of being too near a power line.

Watch our video about keeping the power lines clear at bit.ly/WEMC_ROW.

80% of power outages are caused by fallen trees or limbs.

Tree Planting Guide



Prevent Utility Service Disruptions in Your Neighborhood

With more of us working and learning from home, we all know how important our utilities are. Don't interrupt service in your community. Always dial 811 before you dig to get utilities marked!

When should someone contact 811? Do-it-yourselfers and contractors should reach 811 at least two business days before ANY digging project.

A few common examples include, but are not limited to:

- Putting in a fence
- Planting trees or shrubbery
- Installing a sprinkler system
- Pool installation
- Installing a mailbox
- Grading, boring or trenching

One-third of U.S. homeowners have been affected by a utility service interruption during the COVID-19 pandemic*

Always contact 811 before digging to avoid service disruptions caused by damaged buried utilities.



*CGA Omnibus Study.