

Having Trouble Paying Your Bill? Talk to Us.



Your co-op realizes the current pandemic has created hardships for many families. That's why we want to work together to help you through these unprecedented times.

If you're having trouble paying your bill, please call and talk to one of our customer care representatives. In many cases, they can work with you on a plan to spread out payments or catch up on past due balances. Each plan is tailored to the specific situation.

Please don't leave things to chance. Letting us know what's going on is the best course of action.

Besides keeping the lines of communication open, here are more resources to help you:

LEVELIZED BILLING

Levelized Billing allows you to pay nearly the same amount on your electric bill each month, removing the month-to-month peaks and valleys caused by changing weather, changing energy use and other factors.

PREPAY

PrePay is pay-along electricity. Instead of receiving a monthly bill after the fact, you set the payment plan and amounts that fit your budget. PrePay gives you control over your energy costs and is available to most residential accounts. There is no extra cost or deposit for the program. PrePay may be right for you if it's easier to make weekly or bi-weekly advance payments or you're interested in closely monitoring your energy use.

Our contact center is open from 7A-7P, Monday-Friday.
770-267-2505



SENIOR CITIZEN LOW INCOME DISCOUNT

Qualifying seniors are eligible for a 50 percent monthly service charge discount.

To qualify:

- Be at least 65 years old.
- Have a total annual household income of \$20,000 or less.
- Only your primary residence is eligible.
- Apply in the customer-owner's name.

Other programs available that are not administered by Walton EMC include:

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.

To qualify:

- Household income must be at or below 60 percent of the state median income level.
- Person applying must be responsible for paying the energy costs of the primary home heating source and be a U.S. citizen or legal immigrant.

The assistance is generally a locally issued check to the utility on your behalf. The one-time benefit ranges from \$350 to \$400.

Barrow, Clarke, Oconee:
770-532-3191

Greene, Morgan:
478-453-4111

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

Keep up with the latest news
and events by following us on



50%
SERVICE CHARGE
DISCOUNT

BE AT LEAST

65
YEARS OLD

TOTAL ANNUAL
HOUSEHOLD INCOME
\$20,000
OR LESS

Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

realite

SELFLESS DEDICATION

Thanks Front Line Workers!



Walton EMC employees celebrated the selfless dedication of our communities' front line professionals in the fight against coronavirus.

Besides delivering comfort snacks like chocolate candies and potato chips, co-op employees erected a banner on a bucket truck displaying a thank you message outside Eastside Medical in Snellville and Piedmont Walton in Monroe.

Employees also visited Piedmont Athens and St. Mary's but couldn't use the bucket truck due to space considerations.

Several fire stations over Walton EMC's service area received appreciation visits and snacks as well.



JUN '20

- > cool for the pool
- > washington youth tour
- > scholarship recipients named
- > unclaimed refunds
- > bill pay

Walton EMC
waltonemc.com

REALITE JUNE 2020 VOLUME 70, NO. 6

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

CEO Ronnie Lee
COO/Senior VP Engineering and Operations 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 Jim Bottone
Board Chair Sam Simonton
Board Vice Chair Dawn Taylor
Board Secretary/Treasurer Dan Chelko
Board Members Tommy Adcock, Billy Ray Allen, Johnny Allgood, Michael Lowder, Jason Sidwell, Jim Whitley
Community and Public Relations Director Greg Brooks, MCC
Communications Coordinator Savannah Chandler, MCC
Design mPrint Design Studio

walton gas

NEED NATURAL GAS SERVICE?

770.GAS.HEAT or waltongas.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.

WHAT'S COOL FOR THE POOL

With families sticking closer to home this summer, backyard swimming pools are becoming a more popular source of entertainment and exercise, say local pool builders and suppliers.

"A swimming pool is no longer regarded as just a luxury item," said Mark Tuggman, owner of Athens Pool & Spa. "It extends the home living space outdoors."

Whether for a new install or an existing pool, in-ground or above-ground, consumers are searching for the same things: the easiest, most efficient way to keep their backyard oasis running smoothly. Area pool company representatives are recommending these products for saving energy, easy maintenance and improving comfort.



LED LIGHTS LED bulbs use just 10 percent of the energy to produce the same amount of light as their incandescent equivalents, making them a practical upgrade for an existing pool.

"They are long-lasting too, so you don't have the expense of changing them as often as traditional lights," said longtime Walton EMC customer-owner Butch Burnham, who is co-owner of Bethlehem-based Crystal Clear Pools & Spas. LED pool lights can last for well over 20,000 hours and might not need replacing for a decade or more.

LED underwater pool lights are available in a variety of colors for both in-ground and above-ground pools. Many come with an integrated smartphone app that allows users to easily change colors.

AUTOMATION Local pools are getting "smarter," said Tuggman, who is also a Walton EMC customer-owner.

"You can control everything right from your smartphone," he said about the WiFi-enabled pool care products that offer the benefits of convenience and energy savings. A pool's pump, lights, temperature and cleaners can be controlled with an app. Other outdoor components, such as landscape lighting, can also be controlled.

ROBOTIC CLEANERS As more pool owners make the shift to do-it-yourself care, robotic pool cleaners are gaining in popularity, said John Thompson, owner of Thompson Swimming Pool Supply in Loganville. These cleaners are attractive because they have advanced cleaning features and require only a 120V electrical outlet (with GFCI) for the power supply.

Thompson's top seller is the energy-efficient Dolphin, a robot cleaner manufactured in Georgia. He estimates it costs only 11 cents per day in Walton EMC electricity for a Dolphin cleaner to operate for a three-hour cleaning cycle.



Residential pools, such as this one built by Athens Pool & Spa, are in high demand to provide entertainment and exercise options while Georgia families spend more time at home.

VARIABLE-SPEED PUMP MOTOR A single-speed swimming pool pump motor is typically one of the largest consumers of household energy. Installing a variable-speed (VS) motor can cut electricity use by 50 to 75 percent while pumping the same amount of water.

"The VS motor is initially more expensive (than a single speed), but you can save a tremendous amount of electricity," Tuggman said. He adds that the variable-speed pumps also have a longer lifespan. Another benefit: New VS motors can be controlled from a smartphone or tablet.

DIVE DEEPER

Learn more from local swimming pool experts, read their specific product recommendations and access energy calculators on the Walton EMC blog, waltonemc.com/index.php/blog

Local Students Selected as Washington Youth Tour Delegates

The Washington Youth Tour seeks to build and inspire our area's young people to become leaders in the community.

High school sophomores and juniors compete annually to represent Walton EMC on the Washington Youth Tour. Eight finalists were interviewed to determine four winners and two alternates.

Those selected participate in leadership training that includes personal development and teambuilding sessions, meetings with state and national leaders and visits to major sights of our nation's capital.

Because the 2020 Youth Tour has been cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, winners were given the option of participating in next year's tour or receiving a college scholarship.



Front row, from left, Kade Stewart, Loganville Christian Academy (winner); Daniel Han, North Oconee High (winner); Noah Brave, Loganville Christian Academy; Caleb Lux, Parkview High (alternate).

Back row, Claire McNulty, George Walton Academy (winner); Jaela Krone, Archer High (winner); Haruki Takeuchi, Oconee County High (alternate); Darcy Johnson, Brookwood High.

Photo taken before the coronavirus pandemic.

2020 Walton Trust Scholarship Recipients Named

Several students in Walton EMC's 10-county service area will have a little easier time paying for college after receiving a Walton Electric Trust scholarship.

Over 250 students applied for the scholarship that helps fund post-secondary education at a college or vo-tech school. Applicants were evaluated on work ethic, triumph over obstacles, community service and extracurricular activities. The scholarship committee also reviewed recommendations from teachers and other adults involved in the students' lives.

The committee selected 31 students to receive \$4,000 scholarships. Another 29 were awarded runner-up scholarships of \$1,000.

The Trust has awarded more than 600 scholarships worth almost \$2.5 million since the program began in 2009. The scholarships are funded by unclaimed refunds to former Walton EMC customer-owners. After all efforts are exhausted to find the rightful owners, the money goes into an endowment provided for by Georgia law.

Students receiving a Walton Trust Scholarship this year are Tiffany Adams, South Gwinnett High; Mya Rose Bailey, Brookwood High; Sydney Bell, North Oconee High; Hannah Brown, Walnut Grove High; Trinity Carithers, Oconee County High; Emily Casey, Walnut Grove High; Taylor Crowe, North Oconee High; Katelynn Darnell, Monroe Area High; Alexander Hong, Brookwood High; Hannan Howard, Loganville High; Emileigh Keese, Monroe Area High; Thomas King, George Walton Academy; Michika Ito, North Oconee High; George Johnson, North Oconee High; Sydney LaBollita, Bethlehem Christian Academy; Demetra Langford, South Gwinnett High; Savanna Mitchell, South Gwinnett High; Damilola Osinibi, Shiloh High; Michael Porter, Oconee County High; Ridge Powelson, Scholar's Guild Academy; Lauren Rowell, Walnut Grove High; Amelia Sale, North Oconee High; Eli Searcy, Oconee County High; Adara Sewell, Loganville High; Durriya Shaw, South Gwinnett High; Aamerah Silas, South Gwinnett High; Kennedy Stevens, Monroe Area High; Hannah Temples, Dacula Classical Academy; Kelsey Watkins, Parkview High; Aliyah White, Winder-Barrow High; Addie Wise, Walnut Grove High.

WHERE ARE YOU?

Take a look at these Walton EMC customer-owners who discontinued service. We mailed refunds of deposits and/or membership fees, but the Post Office returned them.

If you know someone on this list, please have them contact us at 770-266-2507.

Unclaimed refunds

Andersen, Matthew; Bell, Eric M.; Brown, Mardell P.; Burge, Chris M.; Carey, Kendra; Chambers, Michael; Cheeks, Geraldine; Crespo, Silva W.; Daniel, Elaine; Diamond Event Hall; Digby, Bruce W.; Doster, Charles B.; Eagle Music Center, LLC; Emam, Tamara L.; Evans, Audrey R.; Farmer, Melissa; Felio, Tenisha T.; Filed Asset Services, LLC; Fulcher, Willie M.; Goode, James W.; Grayson Automotive; Gunnells, Curtis B.; Harbison, Samuel B.; Hernandez, Jose M.; Higgs, Greg C.; Horner, Gordon; Hundley, Ramona; Javens, Sarah; Klumpp, Frederick; Kouamou, Jean; Lake, Mac; Lawrence, Raymond E.; Lewis, Sarah E.; Life Healing Center, PC; Mancilla, Oscar; Mesic, Vitomir; Nguyen, Duy; Osuigwe, Juliet; Powley, Kelly A.; Rehabmart, LLC; Rezasoltani, Sakineh; RGIS Inventory Specialists; Riggs, William M.; Rodriguez, Gerardo; Rowthorn, Janet A.; Selby, Nichols; Stevens, Alicia; Sullivan, Danyelle L.; Taylor, Shonnet; Thomas, Latasha; Tori Williams Events; Williams, Dosshanda; Zoller, Jamie