

PLUGGED IN

Q: Is it OK to plant shrubs to hide the “green box” in my yard?

A: Walton EMC transformers, commonly called “green boxes,” are found in neighborhoods where power lines are buried underground. They are a key part of the system that delivers electricity to you and your neighbors.

Planting bushes, trees or flowers too close to these boxes is not permitted. The same goes for building a fence or placing an object to hide the transformer. Don't cover this equipment in any way.

Plants or objects can hamper Walton EMC crews from accessing a transformer in the case of an outage or emergency. An outage will last longer if vegetation has to be cut or removed before a box is opened.

Adequate space is also needed for air circulation around transformers. Allowing heat to escape during hot weather extends the life of the equipment.

Maintain a clearance of at least 10 feet from the sides and backs of underground transformers. Don't plant anything directly in front (the side with the lock).

Electric Bikes are Booming



Another overseas trend is power pedaling its way into American hearts. Unit sales of electric bicycles (e-bikes), long popular in Europe and China, outpaced those for electric and hybrid vehicles combined last year, reports the Light Electric Vehicle Association.

WHAT TO KNOW:

They're battery powered. E-bikes are equipped with a battery-assisted electric motor for an extra boost while riding.

You have options. Whether you enjoy riding challenging bike trails or want to cruise around the neighborhood park, there is an e-bike model to fit your criteria and budget. A well-rated, adult-size bike starts around \$1,000.

It's a good source of exercise. A study from Brigham Young University public health professors found pedal-assist bikes can provide essentially the same level of workout as conventional bikes.

No license required. In Georgia, the same rules of the road apply to both e-bikes and conventional bicycles. E-bikes are not subject to the registration, licensing or insurance requirements that apply to motor vehicles.



Want to know more about e-bikes? Check out this month's waltonemc.com/blog

IS THIS YOUR MONEY?

Unclaimed refunds

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 770-266-2519.

Ach Athens, LLC; Adebowale, John; Allgood, David C; Artham Realty, LLC; Axmacher (Jr), Edward H; Barnes, Winafred; Beyah, Musa; Boiso, Blanca; Brannen Development Co; Bussey, Kimberly; Davis, Angel H; Denny, Const; Domus Novus Borrower 1, LLC; Edwards, Clifton; ET-2LP; Fernandez, Romina L; Forman, Clyde K; Frost, Connie L; Galloway, Robert H; Hall, Mercita J; Halo Capital, Inc; Harris, Barbara J; Herbermann, Jacob; Hickman, Clifton; Huber, Kathy Ann DDS; Huff, Taylor; Jefferson, Shanese; Jones, Eric; Jones, Connie F; Kebede, Efrem; Kenney, Staci A; KRC Proerty Management, Inc; La Lavish, LLC; Leebol Shipping, LLC; Lewis, Kent W; Mapchhan, Lal; Marcano, Melanie; Mirand, Josette; Mizoguchi, Janet; Monestime, Fouchard; Moon, Teresa A; Morris, Paul; Murell, Sandra D; Nicholas, Larry; Ogle, Patricia; Oliver, Christopher; Passion, Benjamin; Pretium SFR Holding, LLC; Prisock, Howard E; Progress Atlanta, LLC; Progress Residential 2016-1; Progress Residential Borrow; Property Woner 5, LLC; Rahman, Shekh; Ramos, Javier C; Rea Property, LLC; RNTR3, LLC; Salas, Alvarez O; Sitton, Ben; Sligh, Charles; Starlight Homes; Stone Mountain Square; Strafford, Cindel R; Stryker, Robert G; Threadgill, Taelor; Umoren, Folashade; Villagomez, Ricardo; Walton, Donald; Whitmer, Philip M; Wildes, Arthur B; William, Judith W; XOXO Hair; Yamasa Co LTD.

Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

realite

APR '22

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- > guard against cybercrime
- > emPOWERment grants
- > youth tour delegates
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Putting It All On the Line

A NEW GENERATION OF WALTON EMC LINEMEN ARE COMMITTED TO KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

A new generation of line technicians is stepping up to fill the boots of Walton EMC veterans. A part of the co-op's team of 63 linemen, they are responsible for repairing and maintaining Walton EMC's more than 7,000 miles of power lines.

In recognition of National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18, we talked to four men who are participating in a seven-year apprenticeship to become a journeyman lineman at Walton EMC.

April 18 is National Lineman Appreciation Day

How do you feel about being a Walton EMC lineman?

Mason Tolbert

Age: 20
Entered program: 2020

"Not one day since I've worked here have I woken up and thought, 'Oh man, I have to go to work today.' It's a fun job! I found something that I truly love to do."



Harry Ruiz

Age: 29
Entered program: 2020

"Every day I'm doing something different and working with my hands. I like having a challenge every single day."



Adrian Mendoza

Age: 36
Entered program: 2017

"I can better myself as a person. I can make a career for myself and better provide for my family."

Coby Pickett

Age: 21
Entered program: 2019

"I love what I do. I could see myself doing this for a very long time."



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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

- CEO Ronnie Lee
- 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 Jim Bottone
- VP of Engineering and Operations Tim Morris
- Board Chair Dawn Taylor
- Board Vice Chair Michael Lowder
- Board Secretary/Treasurer Billy Ray Allen
- Board Members Tommy Adcock, Johnny Allgood, Dan Chelko, Jason Sidwell, Sam Simonton, Jim Whitley
- 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

©2022 Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 135,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties.

Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.

Learn more at waltonemc.com/be-a-lineman

2022 Annual Meeting

Walton EMC will conduct our annual business with a drive-through meeting at our headquarters office at 842 Hwy. 78 NW, Monroe, Georgia on Saturday, June 18, 2022, from 8 to 11 a.m.

You can pick up the traditional bucket of gifts, vote on directors and approve the minutes of the 2021 meeting.

NEW FOR 2022!

Look for the official meeting notice inside your May billing statement. Customer-owners will no longer receive a separate postcard notification.

Visit waltonemc.com/annualmeeting for:

- Directions
- 2021 Meeting Minutes
- Financials
- CEO and Board Chair Reports
- 2022 Nominating Report

Look in your May bill for the official Annual Meeting notice and registration barcode.



Guard Against Cybercrime

Criminals are getting better at using their computers to steal from you. The FBI estimates Americans lost more than \$4.2 billion to cybercrime in 2020.

Take these steps to improve safeguards against data breaches that can lead to the loss of money or the theft of personal, financial and medical information.

Opt in to multi-factor authentication.

Instead of asking for only a password — which can be reused or stolen — your email, bank, social media, online stores and streaming accounts will verify it's you by asking for two forms of information.

Update software. Turn on automatic updates of defensive software for all devices, applications and operating systems.



Think before you click. More than 90 percent of successful cybercrimes begin with a phishing scheme — a link or web page that looks legitimate, but is designed to steal your passwords, social security number, credit card numbers or other sensitive information. If it's a link you don't recognize, don't click.

Use strong passwords. The ideal password is at least 15 characters long and not used anywhere else.



FROM THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

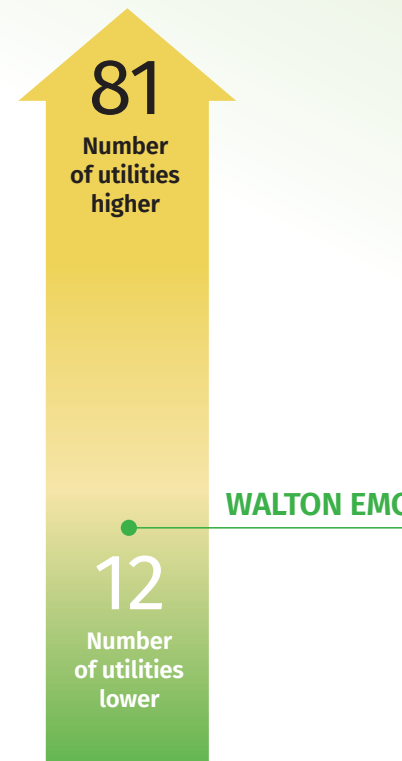
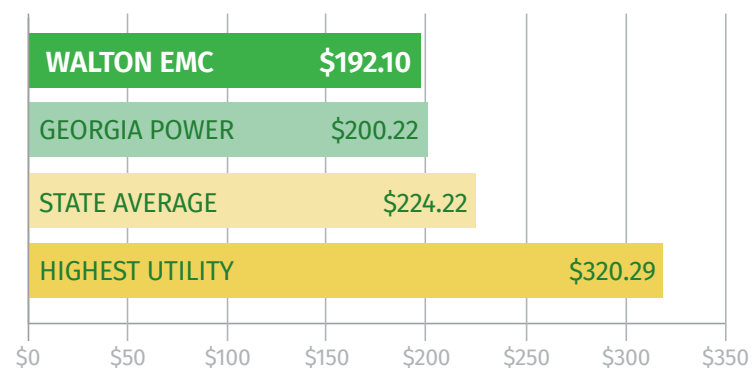
Walton EMC Electric Rates Continue to be Favorable

What you pay for electric power is still quite reasonable.

According to the Georgia Public Service Commission's Winter 2021 Residential Rate Survey, only 12 of the 94 utilities studied posted a lower cost than Walton EMC at the 2,000 kilowatt-hour level of electricity use.

The average Walton EMC customer-owner used 2,128 kilowatt-hours in January.

The commission surveys the rates of the state's customer-owned (EMCs), government-owned and investor-owned electric companies twice yearly.



School EmPOWERment Grants Top \$2 Million

The School EmPOWERment Grant program gives schools in nearby communities the chance to boost their instructional and service programs by funding worthwhile projects. Many of the projects are those that local systems don't have funds for in regular operating budgets.

The money that we distribute — over \$2 million since the program began just six short years ago — doesn't affect your power bills, either. That's because the funds are unclaimed money from former customers we can't find.

After we publish lists of these customers on our website, place legal ads and exhaust all attempts to find the owners, Georgia law allows the money to be used for community benefit.

"After providing reliable and reasonably priced electric power, serving our community is next on the list," said COO Ron Marshall. "Our School EmPOWERment Grant program is a perfect example of the cooperative principle 'concern for community.'"

2021-22 WALTON EMC SCHOOL EMPOWERMENT GRANTS

Fast Facts

Total Distribution.....	\$368,212
Average Grant.....	\$5,336
Number of Grants.....	69
Schools Receiving Grants.....	63
Total Since Beginning of Program.....	\$2,060,087
Source of Funds.....	Unclaimed Refunds

See a complete list of recipients at bit.ly/2022-empowerment-grants.



Congrats 2022 Washington Youth Tour Delegates!

Cam McCullers, Viceka Mehrotra, Michelle Li and Kenna Fortingo were selected to represent Walton EMC during the Washington Youth Tour in June. These students will get a peek at how our state and national governments work and what it takes to be a better leader. The trip includes one-on-one meetings with congressional delegates, visits to the White House and national monuments, and enjoying social activities with other delegates from across the nation.

Learn more at waltonemc.com

