

Wrap it up

Holiday gifts aren't the only thing you should be thinking about wrapping up this month. Your electric water heater may need to be snuggled in a jacket to rein in its energy consumption.

The water heater is second only to a central heating system as a home's most energy-hungry appliance, accounting for about 18% of electricity costs. Just like insulating your walls or roof, wrapping your electric water heater in a fiberglass sleeve is an easy and inexpensive way to improve energy efficiency. It can help cut annual water heating costs by as much as 16%, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

A water heater located in the attic or the garage, manufactured before 2005 or having an R-value of less than 24 (noted on the tank's sticker) is the ideal candidate for added insulation. If you don't know the R-value, touch the tank. If it's warm to the touch, it needs a blanket.

Pre-cut blankets are available at home improvement stores. Opt for one with an R-rating of at least 10. Expect to pay \$35 to \$50.

Wrapping your water heater can help cut annual water heating costs by as much as

16%



Walton EMC
Customer-Owned Electric Power

realite

DEC '23

- > gift certificates
- > bringing light & hope
- > scholarships & grants
- > wrap it up
- > unclaimed refunds

WALTON EMC RETURNS TO CUSTOMER-OWNERS: \$9,000,000

Just in time for the holidays, Walton EMC is returning \$9 million in capital credits to eligible customer-owners. Including this year's distribution, the co-op has refunded a total of \$143 million back to members and communities.

"As a cooperative, Walton EMC is owned by its members and they benefit from the financial success of the company," said Dr. Michael Lowder, Board chair. "Our capital credit allocation allows the co-op to return to members any revenue beyond the costs of providing electricity. It's a win-win for everyone in our community."

For not-for-profit companies like Walton EMC, any revenues over and above the total expenses for the year are considered margins instead of profit. These margins are assigned to customer-owners' accounts as a capital credit based on the total dollar amount each paid for energy in a particular year.

"Our competitively priced, reliable power supply, along with our continued efforts to maximize efficiencies and control costs, make these refunds possible," said Ron Marshall, Walton EMC president and CEO.

Each year, the co-op's member-elected Board approves refunds after reducing debt, saving for emergencies and investing in infrastructure, among other things.

The 2023 capital credit refunds are calculated based on the total dollar amount of energy each customer-owner purchased during 2000, 2001, 2018 and 2022. The distribution will occur from early December through early January.

Refund amounts below \$500 are applied as a credit to customer-owners' accounts. Checks are issued to active customer-owners receiving a refund above \$500, as well as former customer-owners who had accounts during the years targeted for the distribution.

FAST FACTS

Total returned this year:
\$9 million

Capital credits refunded since 1936:
\$143 million

Customer-owners with accounts in these years will get a refund:
2000, 2001, 2018 & 2022

When:
Early December through early January

How:
Bill credit (less than \$500) or check (\$500 or more)

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.

Abercrombie, Troy; Arriola, Christian; Asset First Properties, LLC; Austin Common Homes; Bankston, John; Bingaman, Kathleen; Blankenship, Martha; Brooke and Destiny, LLC; Burns, John; Clark, Kelly; Click House Buyers Inc.; Comfort Living, LLC; Corporate Housing Utilities; CRC Webb Gin Coinvest, LLC; Crestview Plaza Owner, LLC; Domus Novus Borrower 1, LLC; DTB1; Duitsman, Randy; EXP Realty, LLC; Fears, Charquetta; Fisher, Marceia; Frye, Tamie; FYR SFR Borrower, LLC; Godwin, Jimmy; Hernandez, Arturo; Holbrook, Nancey; Home SFR Borrower, LLC; Howard, Larry; Jacobs, Jonathan; JW Residential Group, LLC; Lang, Justin; Lawson, Charles; Lay, Jolunda; Lee, Fatima; Liranzo, Fernandez; Lowe, Thomas; Marshall, Jeremy; Mason, Kelly; Mile High Borrower 1 Core, LLC; Mitchell, Kevin; Newsome, Stephanie; Obebe, Joseph; Offutt, Jack; Olympus Borrower, LLC; Oni, Whitney; Parcc 360 Realty; Park West Apartments; Parkwood Terrace Owner I, LLC; Paz, Ronald; Perkins, Barbara; PMC SFR Borrower, LLC; Progress Atlanta, LLC; Progress Res Borrower 10, LLC; Progress Resi Borrower 16; Progress Residential; Rent Appeal Inc.; Res Home Buyer Atl, LLC; RHA 1, LLC; Ribbon Home LLC SPV II; Rivera, Damon; Rose, Kathleen; Samuel, Lionel; SFR Invest V Borrower 1 LLC; SFR V Tranche 3 Borrower LLC; SFR XII Atl Owner 1, LP; SFR XII Atl Owner 3, LLP; Shenhkhorov, Erdem; Sheppard, Christopher; Simmons, Susan; SN Georgia LI, LLC; Stovall, Hoke; Sylvan Homes, LLC; True North Borrower Georgia; Ventura, Graciela; Wake Pretty, LLC; Waldrip, Sandy; Yamasa Co. LTD; Zughayar, Susu.

Walton EMC
waltonemc.com

REALITE DEC 2023 VOLUME 73, NO. 12

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

President and CEO Ron Marshall
Senior VP Corporate Services Russell DeLong
CFO/Senior VP Finance Marsha Shumate
VP Walton Energy and External Affairs Jim Bottone
VP Engineering and Operations Tim Morris
VP Power Supply Hudson Kingery
Board Chair Michael Lowder
Board Vice Chair Jason Sidwell
Board Secretary/Treasurer Billy Ray Allen
Board Members Tommy Adcock, Dan Chelko, Stan Pitts, Sam Simonton, Dawn Taylor, Jim Whitley
Public Relations Savannah Chandler, Morgan Spivey
Design mPrint Design Studio

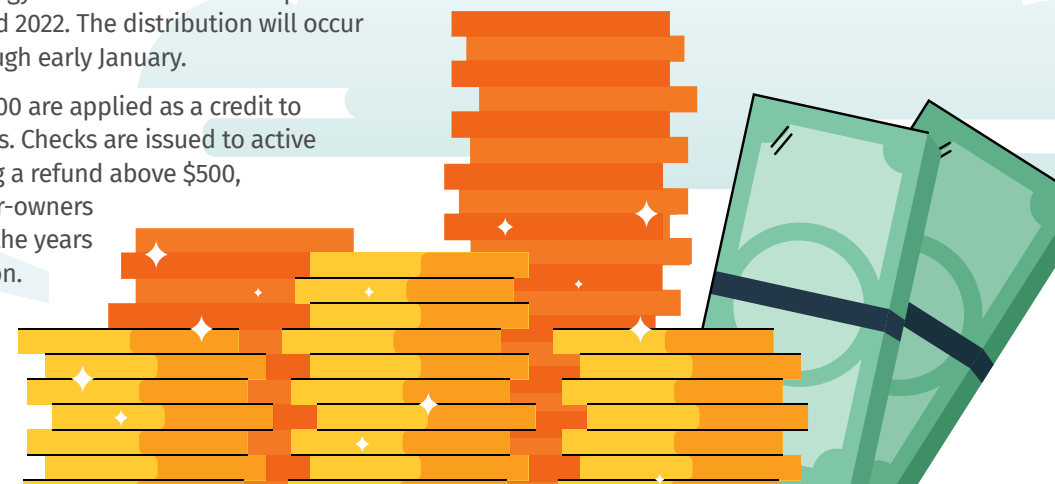
walton gas

NEED NATURAL GAS SERVICE?
770.GAS.HEAT or waltongas.com

emc security

NEED SECURITY SERVICE?
770.963.0305 or emcsecurity.com

©2023 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.





PLUGGED IN

Q: Does Walton EMC sell gift certificates for electricity?

A: The novel-yet-practical gift of electricity is an ideal present for family and friends who are Walton EMC customer-owners. Gift certificates can be purchased in any amount you choose. You don't have to be a co-op member to purchase a gift certificate.

Gift certificates can be purchased at any Walton EMC office during regular business hours. Be sure to bring along the recipient's complete service address.



ENERGY SAVERS
DO A LITTLE, SAVE A LOT

Cooking for a crowd?
Microwaves, toaster ovens and slow cookers can use

75%
less energy than a large electric oven

BRINGING light & hope

For the first time, there will be lights this Christmas in Sesaltul, a remote village in north central Guatemala. Walton EMC's Nate Howell and Hollis Lucas helped make it possible.

They were among 15 linemen from Georgia's electric cooperatives who spent two weeks installing four miles of electric lines and bringing power to the village's 90 homes, two schools and two churches. By any measure, it was a daunting task.

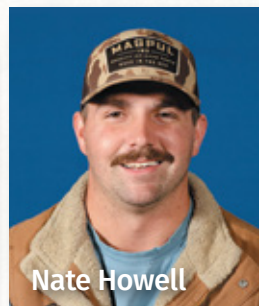
"Our whole apprenticeship at Walton EMC is based on learning how to build an electric system, and this is going to take all those skills," Lucas remembers thinking when he first surveyed the job site.

Aided significantly by villagers, the team labored daily in intense heat and humidity. "It was some of the hottest weather I'd ever dealt with," Howell said.

A lack of modern tools and equipment added to the grueling work.

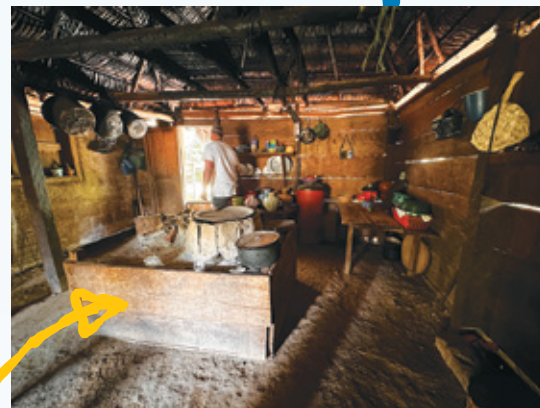
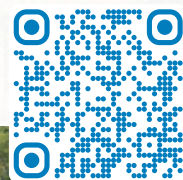


Hollis Lucas



Nate Howell

Watch their story:



Thanks to the efforts of Georgia linemen, 90 Sesaltul homes, which typically have palm leaf roofs, dirt floors and no running water, have electricity and lights for the first time. Having power will improve the standard of living for the families in this impoverished community.

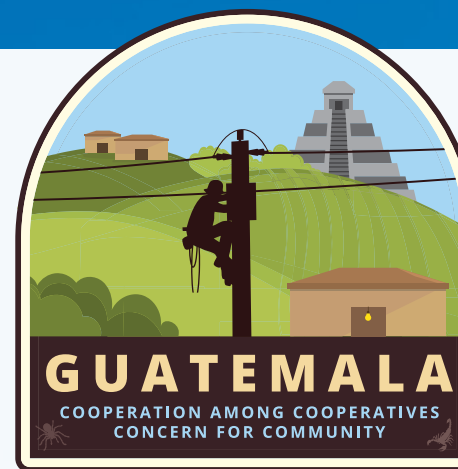
"No bucket trucks or power tools like we use for line work at home," Lucas said. Lineworkers climbed poles with their spikes, pulled heavy wire by hand, and generally did line work the way it was done years ago in Georgia.

They navigated difficult terrain along trails in heavy vegetation to extend lines to villagers' homes. The typical home is a one-room bamboo hut with a palm leaf roof, dirt floor and no running water. Sleeping hammocks and makeshift beds furnish the interior.

Each Sesaltul home received four lights, two switches and two outlets. Seeing villagers' reactions when their lights turned on is a treasured memory for Howell.



Walton EMC lineman Nate Howell and Hollis Lucas, joined fellow Georgia electric co-op linemen and local workers who helped bring electricity to a remote Guatemalan village.



"They would jump up and down, and smile. Then they'd run over and turn off the light, thinking it was going to run out of power," he said.

Access to electricity will enable growth in education, economic prosperity and a better quality of life for the people of Sesaltul. Those who helped bring light and hope also benefit.

"This experience changed my whole life," Howell said.

Lucas agreed, saying it was "an amazing feeling" to bring electricity to those who have never had access.

"I'm very thankful Walton EMC gave me the opportunity to go, and I'd go again tomorrow," he said.

Walton EMC lineman Hollis Lucas, left, worked 11-hour days in oppressive heat to help bring electricity to the people of Sesaltul.




Walton EMC Education Scholarships and Grants

SCHOOL EMPOWERMENT GRANTS

Walton EMC offers educational grants to schools and classroom teachers for multiple uses that further instructional programs. Schools throughout our 10-county service area have received more than \$2 million through the grant program. The money comes from unclaimed capital credit refunds.

Who can apply: Public schools located within Walton EMC's service territory and private schools that are served by Walton EMC.

Grant amount: Specific to the project

Deadline to apply: Dec. 15, 2023

WALTER HARRISON SCHOLARSHIP

Launched in 1987 and funded by Georgia's electric cooperatives such as Walton EMC, the Walter Harrison Scholarship program awards multiple \$1,000 scholarships annually based on academic achievement and financial need.

Who can apply: High school seniors and undergraduate students attending any vocational school or two- or four-year accredited college or university in Georgia.

Scholarship amount: \$1,000

Deadline to apply: Jan. 12, 2024

WALTON ELECTRIC TRUST SCHOLARSHIPS

The Walton EMC Electric Trust scholarship provides financial assistance to students who live in Walton EMC's service area and plan to pursue a degree.

Who can apply: Any graduating high school senior or incoming college freshman with no more than 15 hours of college credit.

Scholarship amount: \$4,000

Deadline to apply: Jan. 31, 2024

For more information on Walton EMC education scholarships and grants, visit waltonemc.com/youth.