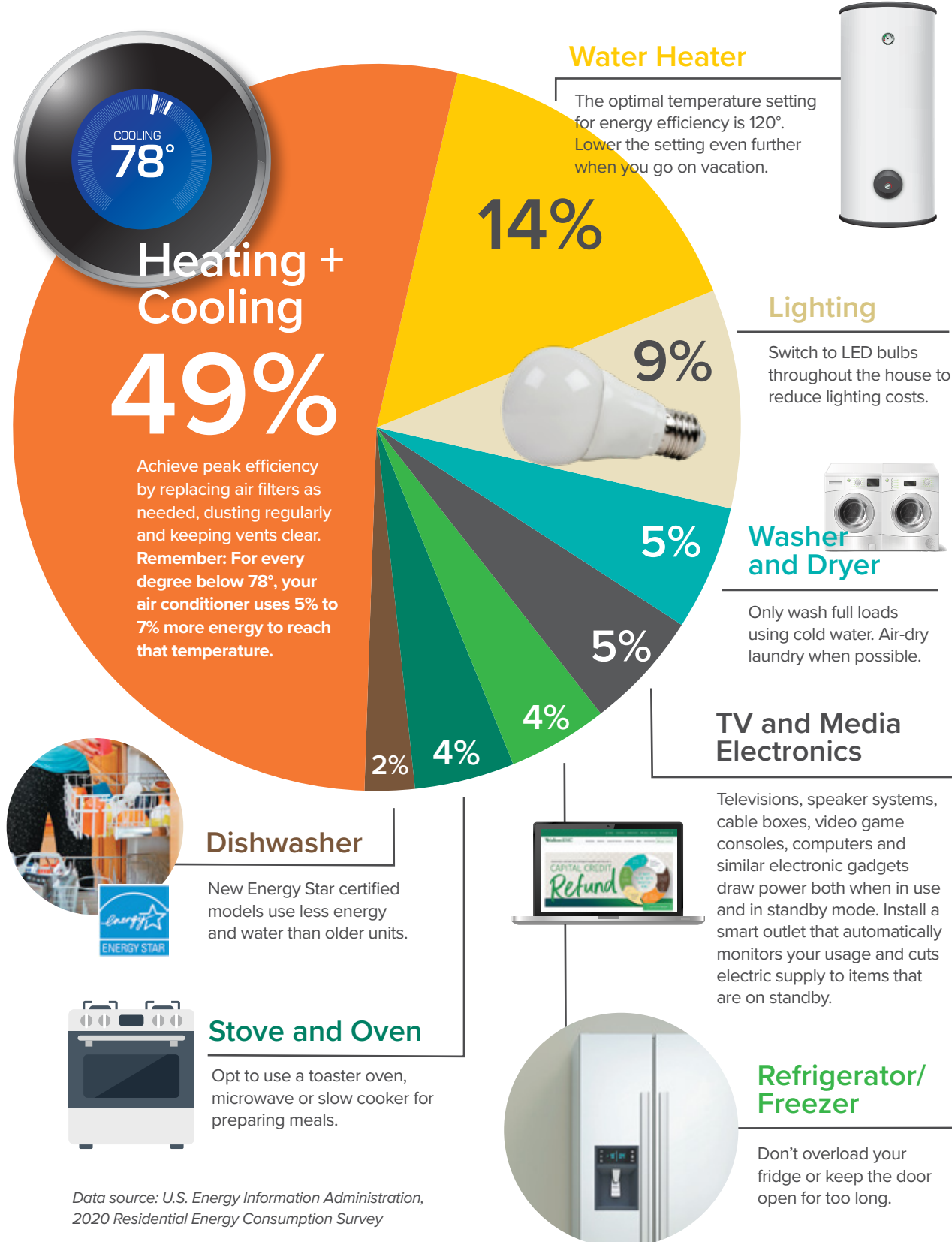


# Where does my electricity go?

At Walton EMC, we want you to conserve energy and keep money in your pocket. Knowing which home appliances use the most energy is an important step toward keeping your bill under control. Here's what uses the most energy in your home, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2020 Residential Energy Consumption Survey

Knowledge is **POWER**

# realite

MARCH 2024

**Walton EMC**  
INVESTING *energy* IN WHAT MATTERS MOST

reliability members safety employees community service



# Save the Date

FOR WALTON EMC'S 88TH ANNUAL MEETING

As a Walton EMC member, you have a direct voice in how we operate through the cooperative principle of democratic member control.

One way to exercise control is by participating in the annual members' meeting on Saturday, June 15 at North Oconee High School, 1081 Rocky Branch Road in Bogart. This year's gathering will be a hybrid event, allowing members to participate in person or use the convenient drive-through option.

Members can vote on important co-op issues at the meeting and elect fellow members to the Board of Directors. This democratic process allows the co-op to be guided by the people it serves.

New 2024 Location:  
North Oconee High School



## CHOOSE HOW YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE:

### Drive-Through

We will once again offer a drive-through option. Members can drive through the parking lot to vote and receive their traditional bucket of gifts. The drive-through allows you to engage with co-op employees without leaving your vehicle.

### In-Person

The annual business meeting will occur inside the North Oconee High School auditorium. Attending in person allows you to vote and pick up the traditional bucket of gifts. For those who want to interact with Walton EMC board members, we encourage you to join us inside North Oconee High School to do so.

Stay tuned for more details as the Annual Meeting date gets closer. Mark those calendars for Saturday, June 15!

Scan here

FOR THE REALITE ONLINE



**Step 1** Point your phone camera at the QR code.

**Step 2** Tap the screen to access Walton EMC news online.

**Walton EMC**  
waltonemc.com

REALITE MAR 2024 VOLUME 74, NO. 3

### 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

©2024 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.

# Don't dig up this buried treasure



It may not be treasure in the traditional sense, but what's buried under your lawn is valuable stuff.

A few inches underground, beneath your lawn and landscaping, are cables, wires and pipes that bring services such as electricity, natural gas, communications, water, sewer and other utilities to your home.

Nationwide, one out of every three damages to these underground utility lines is the result of uninformed digging. That's why Georgia law requires you to contact 811 before digging.

The rule applies to major excavations as well as small home improvement projects like planting a tree, putting up a new mailbox, or even planting a garden, advises Brad Adcock, director of safety and training for Walton EMC.

"Hitting an underground utility line can knock out service to your home and neighborhood or result in fines, damage or even serious injury," he said.

Call 811 or visit [georgia811.com](http://georgia811.com) at least three business days in advance of your digging project. At no charge to you, professional locators will visit your property and mark the locations of utility lines with colored flags and paint. Each utility has a designated color (see graphic below).

Once lines are marked, you're free to dig carefully around them.

<b>WHITE:</b>	Proposed Evacuation
<b>PINK:</b>	Temporary Survey Markings
<b>RED:</b>	Electric Power Lines, Cables, Conduit and Lighting Cables
<b>YELLOW:</b>	Gas, Oil, Steam, Petroleum or Gaseous Materials
<b>ORANGE:</b>	Communication, Alarm or Signal Lines, Cables or Conduit
<b>BLUE:</b>	Potable Water
<b>PURPLE:</b>	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation and Slurry Lines
<b>GREEN:</b>	Sewer and Drain Lines

## WALTON EMC GRANTS MAKE giant impact on local schools

Since 2016, Walton EMC has pitched in to help local educators accomplish their learning goals through our School EmPOWERment Grant program. Our cooperative just completed the 2023-24 round of grant distributions across the 10-county service area.

Fifty-nine public and private schools received 70 grants totaling almost \$370,000 for programs spanning technology to literacy to fine arts and more. Grants ranged from \$264 to \$20,300, with the average being \$5,243. "Many of these grants touch every student in the school that receives them," said Walton EMC CEO Ron Marshall.

Dove Creek Middle agriculture teacher Brandon Walker received a \$20,300 grant to build an animal science instructional facility. "This new facility will enhance our animal science pathway," said Walker. "Students are always looking for hands-on opportunities. This will provide them with a great experience, including animal science labs. We rely on financial aid from businesses like Walton EMC."

The grant money giveaway – almost \$2.7 million since the program began eight years ago – doesn't affect customer-owners' power bills. The funds come from refunds that are unclaimed by former co-op members.

"Our first priority as an electric co-op is providing safe, dependable and affordable electric power," said Marshall. "Serving our community runs a close second. Our School EmPOWERment Grant program is a perfect example of how we bring community service to life."

### 2023-24 WALTON EMC SCHOOL EMPOWERMENT GRANTS FAST FACTS

Total distribution: **\$367,044**

Average grant: **\$5,243**

Number of grants: **70**

Schools receiving grants: **59**

Total since beginning of program:

**\$2,668,720**

Source of money: unclaimed refunds



Walton EMC recently presented a **\$20,300 School EmPOWERment Grant** to **Dove Creek Middle School** to fund a new animal science facility. The grant was awarded to teacher Brandon Walker (center). Also pictured (left to right) are: Principal Mike Eddy, Walton EMC's Jennifer Broun, Walker, Walton EMC's Jeff Paul, and Oconee County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jason Branch. The funding will allow the school to build an animal science lab with small livestock and more for hands-on education.



**Five Forks Middle School** media specialist Monica Brown (right) excitedly thanks Walton EMC's Jennifer Broun (left) for the co-op's **\$5,000 School EmPOWERment Grant** awarded to the school. The funds will allow the library to purchase new books, e-books and audio books to bolster literacy and reading engagement among students. The grant donation will help further Five Forks Middle School's reading initiatives and support students' love of literature.



Walton EMC employees Kathy Joiner (fourth from left), Kathy Ivie (center) and Marsha Shumate (third from right) present teachers, students and **Monroe Elementary School** Principal Zeester Swint a **\$10,000 School EmPOWERment Grant**. The funds will allow the school to purchase new picture books and non-fiction books to boost literacy and reading skills among students. The new books will enhance Monroe Elementary's teaching materials and help foster students' love of reading.



For full list of 2023-24 School EmPOWERment Grants scan here:



## GOLF FOR GOOD Walton EMC Charity Golf Classic

**Wednesday, April 17**

Georgia Club  
1060 Chancellors Drive  
Statham, Georgia

Registration & breakfast:  
**7:30 a.m.**

Tee time: **9:00 a.m.**

**Want to become a sponsor?**

Scan here for details:



Proceeds benefit the Walton County Boys and Girls Club.