

### ENERGY USE TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

It's normal for a home's energy use to ebb and flow. Energy use changes with the weather and is the first factor to consider if you're trying to figure out why your electric bill may be higher in some months.

Walton EMC has a great tool to compare your home's energy use to the weather. Visit waltonemc.com and select "My Account" to see energy use, weather information and more.

But sometimes a higher bill may not be due to weather. Here's where to look for clues to solve the mystery:

#### **HEATING AND COOLING (HVAC) SYSTEM**

The largest energy user in most homes. Weather heavily influences how much energy your HVAC system uses, but a malfunctioning unit can really throw your power bill out of whack.

Check for: low refrigerant, emergency heat accidentally on, clogged filter, vents obstructed/closed, inadequate duct insulation, duct disconnected, outdoor unit coils obstructed, worn-out equipment, poor home weatherization

#### WATER HEATER

A major energy user, second only to the HVAC system.

Check for: leaking hot water faucet or pipe, leaking water heater, burned out element, malfunctioning thermostat, thermostat set too high, unnecessary hot water use

#### WELL PUMP

Check for: waterlogged pump, leaky pipes, irrigating lawn or garden

#### SWIMMING POOL OR HOT TUB

Check for: pump runs more than necessary, heater on, hot tub uncovered

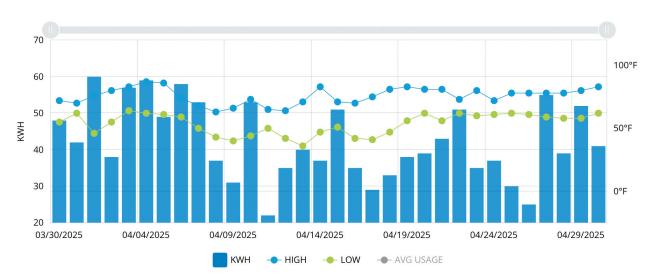
#### **APPLIANCES**

Check for: dryer filter or vent clogged, gaming consoles left on, extra refrigerator running in hot location, refrigerator or freezer low on refrigerant, more cooking or washing than normal

Did you notice lighting didn't make the list? With the invention of LEDs, lighting is a decreasing part of most residential energy bills - but it's still a great idea to turn lights off when not using them.

### YOUR ENERGY STORY...

The energy chart on your MyWaltonEMC account reveals how temperature fluctuations directly impact your household energy consumption - the primary factor behind fluctuating electric bills. Log into your Walton EMC account and select "Usage History" to explore your own unique energy patterns, identify how weather affects your HVAC usage and discover personalized ways to save.





# **WEATHER DISASTER:** DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?

As our area exits peak tornado season and heads into hurricane season, now is a good time to think about weather disasters. Not only is it smart to prepare for a disaster, it's also handy to know what to do if one hits.

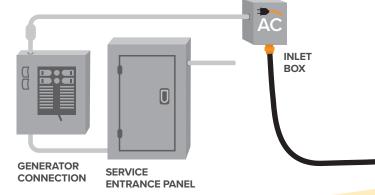
#### **GET READY**

- Protect your home and individual appliances with good quality surge protectors.
- If you have a generator, have a licensed electrician install a transfer switch to prevent accidentally energizing Walton EMC's electric system. Test your generator monthly.
- Have an electrician install ground fault circuit interrupters anywhere water is near electrical outlets or appliance use.
- · Get uninterruptible power supplies to protect computer systems from critical data loss.
- Watch our video on outage preparation at the waltonemc.com/stormcenter.

#### **IF A DISASTER OCCURS**

- Stay away from any downed utility line. You can't tell if a power line is energized just by looking. Communications lines can also be energized if they're tangled in power lines.
- Use generators safely. Operate generators in open spaces, away from buildings. Don't connect generators to the electrical system using haphazard methods.
- Don't use electrical devices that have been wet until they've been inspected by a qualified person.
- Never use electric appliances or touch wires, switches or electrical panels if you're wet or standing in water.
- Contact a licensed, experienced electrician for an inspection and repairs.

Georgia law requires the use of a transfer switch to connect a generator to a building's electrical system.



If your power does go out, we're available 24/365. Contact us at **waltonemc.com**, by using the Walton EMC app or by calling 770-267-2505.



**RATED #1 BY CUSTOMERS FOR BRAND APPEAL** AMONG RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

For J.D. Power 2024 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards





#### GET THE REALITE ONLINE

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

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



#### REALITE JUNE 2025 VOLUME 75, 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

#### mr leaders

President and CEO Ron Marshall Senior VP Corporate Services Russell DeLong

Senior VP Walton Energy and External Affairs Jim Bottone

VP Engineering and Operations Tim Morris

VP Power Supply Hudson Kingery

**VP Finance** Darlene Butler

Board Chair Michael Lowder

Board Vice Chair Jason Sidwell

**Board Secretary/Treasurer** Stan Pitts

Board Members Tommy Adcock, Billy Ray Allen, Dan Chelko, Wayne Lester, Sam Simonton, Dawn Taylor

Public Relations Savannah Chandler, Morgan Barfield

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

©2025 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.



### Mepani wins statewide scholarship

North Oconee High School honors graduate Deeya Mepani is among those receiving a \$1,000 Walter Harrison Scholarship to fund college studies. She is the daughter of Walton EMC members Payal and Nilesh Mepani of Bogart.

The scholarship presented by Georgia's electric co-ops will offset costs for Mepani's attendance at the Georgia Institute of Technology. She plans to become a physician.

"This support goes beyond just financial help for college ... [it] means time to study without stress, time to volunteer in my community, time to explore my hobbies and time to get involved in meaningful ways on campus," she said.

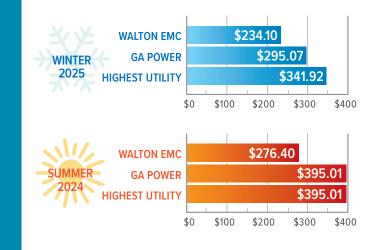
Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic achievements. extracurricular activities and service to the community. As a senior, Mepani was captain of her school's varsity tennis team and served as president of the National Honor Society, Leo Club, Future Business Leaders of America and Math Team. Active in STEM education initiatives, she led STEAM Night and a math tournament for local elementary students. She is a two-year appointee to the Oconee County School System's Superintendent Advisory Council.

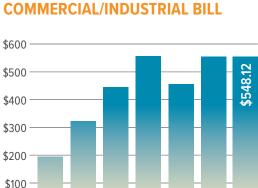
Mepani represented Walton EMC as a Washington Youth Tour delegate in 2023. "That week taught me so much about leadership, service and the kind of impact young people can have," she said

Every June, we gather and present financial information about your cooperative. Take a look at our expanded edition prepared especially for this month's newsletter.

#### **ELECTRIC RATE SURVEY**

Twice yearly, the Georgia Public Service Commission conducts a rate survey with all 94 of the state's electric utilities. The level of use for this comparison is 2,000 kilowatt-hours per month.

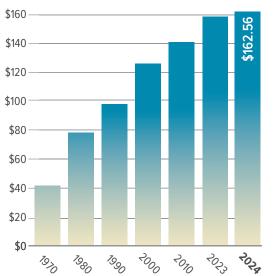




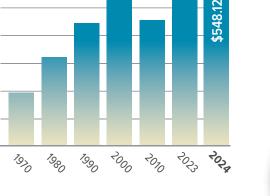
**2024 CAPITAL CREDITS** 

\$180-

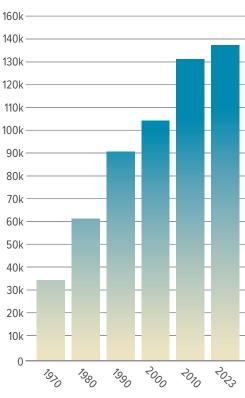
AVG. MONTHLY RESIDENTIAL/FARM BILL



## **AVERAGE SMALL/MID**

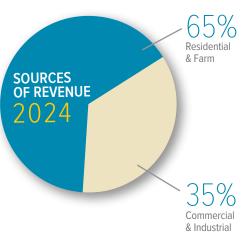


### AVERAGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS



#### SOURCES OF REVENUE

This shows how our revenue is divided based on residential and commercial accounts.



As a member of Walton EMC, you're also an owner. One benefit of ownership in a not-for-profit cooperative is sharing funds remaining after expenses are paid and reserves are met. Every Walton EMC customer-owner has a capital credit account and receives a refund based on the amount of electricity they use.

The co-op's directors assess the financial condition of the co-op to determine when and what amount of leftover funds, called capital credits, can be returned to members after reserves are set aside for capital improvements and emergencies.

**Tommy Adcock** 

District 6

Good Hope

**Capital Credits Returned** \$9,000,000

All-Time Total





District 7

Mountain Park

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS & CEO** 

\$0



District 11

Southwest Walton



District 4

Eastville



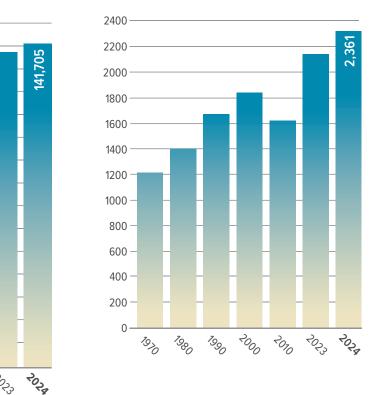


Michael Lowder District 3 Farmington

District 10 Centerville-South Snellville

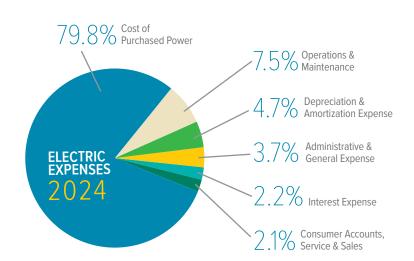
Secre Treasu Stan Pitts

#### **AVERAGE KWH PER MONTH**



#### HOW ELECTRIC REVENUE WAS USED

This is how we spend the money we receive. Most is used to buy power and operate the co-op. Less than 10% is spent on administration.



**Jason Sidwell** District 2 Rutledge-Bostwick-Apalachee



Sam Simonton District 8 **Bold Springs-Gratis** 



**Dawn Taylor** District 9 Five Forks-North Snellville



Ron Marshall CEO