

The green box next door

They're green, made of steel, about the size of the air conditioning unit found outside your home and sit beside many streets. Have you ever been curious about their function?

Called pad-mount transformers, this equipment is a vital part of the system that delivers power to your home and business. They reduce high primary voltage electricity from our substations to a lower secondary voltage that's suitable for appliances and building electrical systems.

A single pad-mount transformer may serve one or several accounts. They're filled with inert mineral oil that cools and insulates the inner workings of the unit. The pads they sit on are made of concrete or polyethylene plastic.

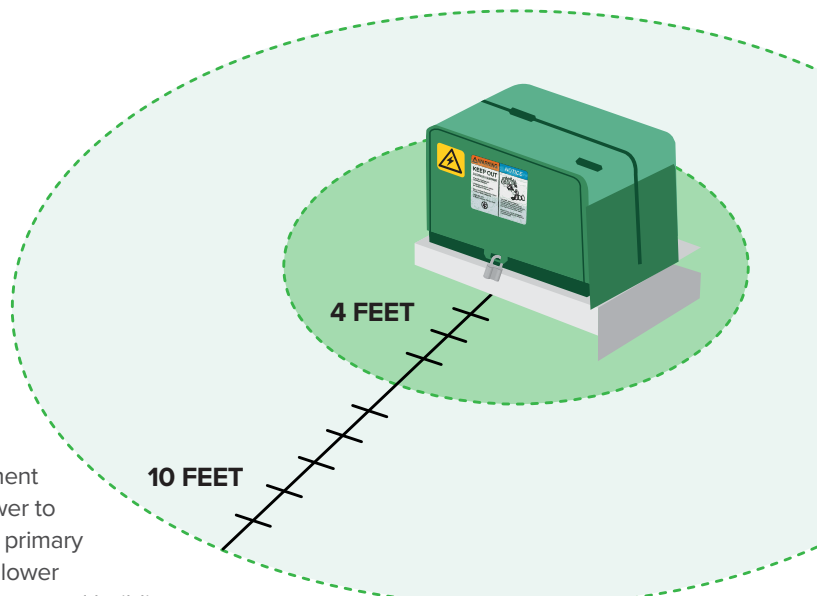
Pad-mounted transformers have these advantages:

- Blends into landscaping
- Fully enclosed, locked, grounded cabinet eliminates the need for fencing
- Durable
- Space efficient

Every pad-mount transformer installed by Walton EMC has a "KEEP OUT" warning sign attached. These signs should never be covered or painted over. "KEEP OUT" applies to the transformer itself and the surrounding area. Never climb, sit on, play on or be near these devices.

Plant landscaping 10 feet away from a pad-mount transformer. Call 811 before digging in its vicinity.

Day after day, these dependable servants do their job without much notice. Enjoy the power that flows thanks to these low-profile neighborhood heroes.



LET US KNOW!

Although pad-mount transformers are incredibly reliable – some remaining in service for 50 years or more – they can still fail. Notify us if you see any of these conditions concerning a pad-mount transformer:

- Unit is unlocked
- Physical damage
- Moved or knocked off pad
- Uneven or holes in ground adjacent to unit
- Oil leak
- Smoke or fire
- Explosion or loud noise
- Foul odor

MAY 2026

REALITE

Walton EMC

90 Years
1936–2026



Snellville crews recognized for

EXCELLENCE

Walton EMC
waltonemc.com

REALITE MAY 2026 VOLUME 76, NO. 5

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

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.



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

our leaders

President and CEO Ron Marshall
Senior VP Corporate Services Russell DeLong
Senior VP Walton Energy and External Affairs Jim Bottone
Senior 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
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walton gas

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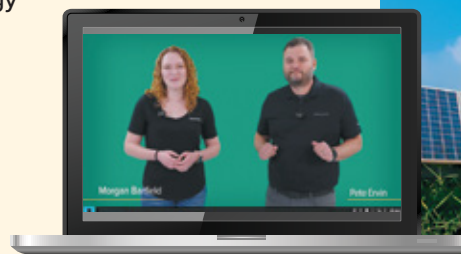
unclaimed funds

Scan the QR code



SHINE BRIGHTER!

- Support green energy
- No rooftop panels
- No contracts
- No upfront costs or equipment
- Maintenance-free
- All members can participate



For more information on the benefits of Cooperative Solar, watch our video at waltonemc.com/solar

Harness the sun and power your future for only

\$25 PER MONTH*



Scan to sign up for Cooperative Solar!



* Must be a Walton EMC member to participate

Walton EMC Cooperative Solar

©2026 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.

Snellville crews recognized for excellence

Chances are you're near underground wires, pipes and fiber almost anywhere you go these days. Because the use of underground utilities keeps growing, work for crews whose job includes digging becomes more complicated every day.

Walton EMC is proud to share that its Snellville-based underground crews have been recognized by the Georgia Utility Coordinating Council (GUCC) for their exceptional efforts in avoiding utility damage.

The Golden Backhoe Award is presented annually to an outstanding utility crew in each of the seven GUCC districts across Georgia. Recipients are selected based on several factors, including workload, avoiding damage while digging, local GUCC participation and ongoing training.

Walton EMC crews have been recognized with the Golden Backhoe and other safe digging awards in years past. With their continued commitment to high standards, earning another award comes as no surprise.

"The Golden Backhoe isn't just a trophy," said CEO Ron Marshall. "It represents crews that consistently do the hard, careful work of protecting underground infrastructure – work that determines whether our members' lights stay on, their internet stays connected and their water faucets work."

COVER PHOTO:

In what's become a Walton EMC tradition, the co-op's Snellville underground crews have been recognized for their excellence in safe underground digging practices for 2026. This year's Golden Backhoe-winning crews consist of linemen (left to right): Jeffery Smith, Fred Muldrow, Austin Schexnayder, Blaine Pulliam, Supervisor Tommy Ledford, Matthew Boone, Josiah Newport, Tyler Standridge and Luke Davis. Not pictured: Jason Wright and Nik Harrison.



STUDENTS RECEIVE

\$156,000

IN WALTON ELECTRIC TRUST SCHOLARSHIPS

High school seniors from Walton EMC customer-owner families are sharing \$156,000 in scholarships to continue their education. Thirty-two students are receiving \$4,000 Walton Electric Trust scholarships. Another 28 are each receiving a \$1,000 finalist scholarship.

"These scholarship recipients reflect some of the very best students in our communities," said Sara Beddington, selection committee member. "They are an exceptional, deserving group of young people whose achievements extend well beyond the classroom."

Student 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 Walton Electric Trust has awarded nearly 900 scholarships totaling over \$3.85 million since 2008. The scholarships are funded by unclaimed capital credit refunds.

\$4,000 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Athens Christian School
Avery Haas

Brookwood High School
Mina Torab, Abraham Allred

George Walton Academy
Audrey Powell, Wendy Menard, Madeline Garrett, Kaden Franklin, Will Vaughn

Homeschool
Peyton Brust

Loganville High School
Cierra Toolsie

Monroe Area High School
Avery Herrington, Aspen Roach, Riley Daut, Ashley Phiel

North Oconee High School
Caleb Wickham, Tyson Mathis

Oconee County High School
Ellie Johnson, Rylan Mixon, Troy "Austin" Gay, Kylee Cass, Sadie Hale, John Ricks, Benjamin Worthington

Prince Avenue Christian School
Aiden Cameron, Layla Bentley

Scholars Guild Academy
Luke Portal, Natalie Scoggins

Shiloh High School
Aaden Scarlett, Rabun Tucker

South Gwinnett High School
Shane Green

Walnut Grove High School
Zoe Moser

Westminster Christian Academy
Ethan Townsend

\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Bethlehem Christian Academy
Kole Kennedy, Ryleigh McDaniel, Chloe Swanson

Brookwood High School
Nathaniel Peltier, Conor Huneycutt, Emelia Furman, David Thompson

Cedar Shoals High School
Zeta Conway

Central Gwinnett High School
Jaye Geyer

George Walton Academy
Lilah Johnson

Grayson High School
Jonathan Cobb

Greater Atlanta Christian School
Lauren Edmunds

Loganville High School
Cady Watkins

Monroe Area High School
Grant Daniel, Anslee Connelly, Macie Shumate, Parker Ashley

North Oconee High School
Autumn Blackwell, Zoe Hill

Oconee County High School
Kellis Moran, George Gao, Katie Phelps

Prince Avenue Christian School
Conner Mitchell

Social Circle High School
Harrison Davis

South Gwinnett High School
Taliah Daniels, Eden Giday, Jocelyn Grundy

Walnut Grove High School
Jarrod Cook

2026 Annual Meeting



SATURDAY
June 20
8–11 a.m.

Walton EMC Headquarters
842 US HWY 78,
Monroe



Walton EMC is conducting our annual business with a drive-thru meeting at Walton EMC Headquarters, 842 US HWY 78, Monroe, on **Saturday, June 20, 8–11 a.m.**

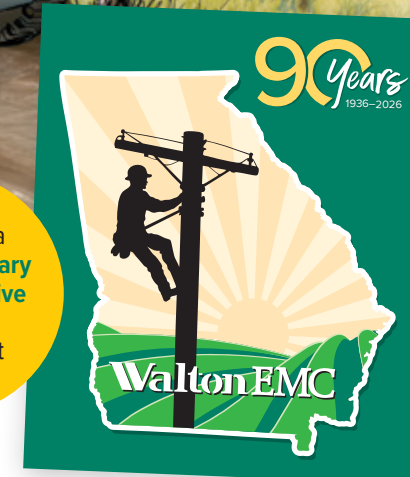
View Annual Meeting information, including directions, 2025 meeting minutes, financials, reports from our CEO and board chair, the nominating report and more at waltonemc.com/annualmeeting.

Members will be entered in a drawing for one of many \$50 bill credits and a chance to win a **retired pickup truck!**

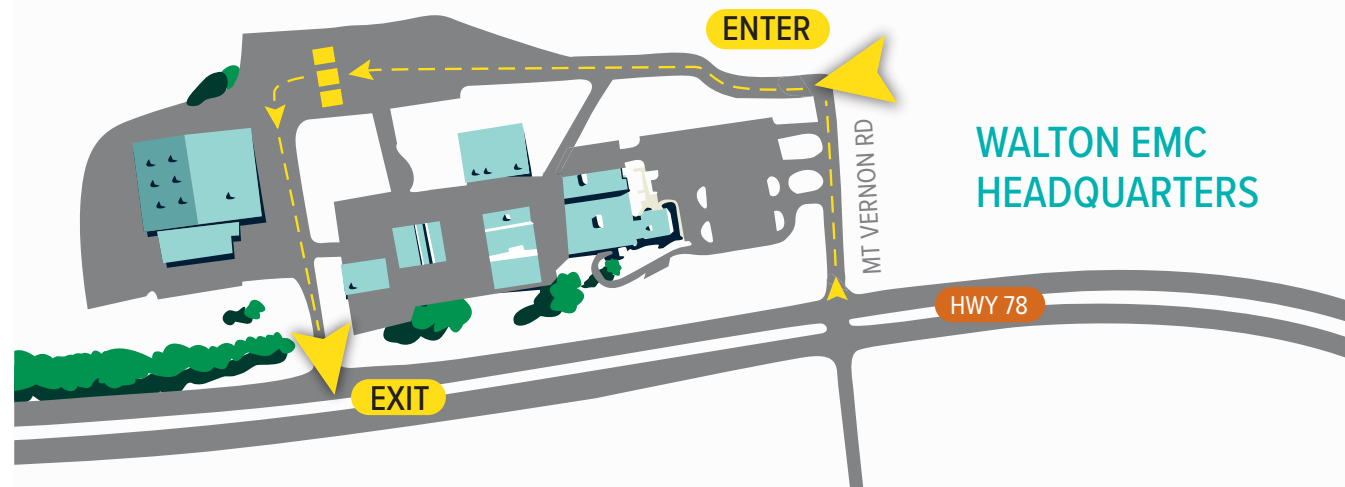
Watch your mailbox in early June for a separate mailing from Walton EMC with everything you need for the 2026 Annual Meeting — including registration materials, your official ballot and proposed changes to the bylaws.



Attendees will receive a **90th Anniversary commemorative blanket** and a **bucket of gifts!***



*Bucket of gifts limited to the first 2,500 registered.



WALTON EMC HEADQUARTERS