

DECADES OF INNOVATION:

1990s

A look back at the milestones that powered 90 years of progress

While the first half of the 1990s turned out to be much like the previous decade, the second half was marked by new challenges and opportunities.

Talk of deregulating energy utilities was growing in Georgia. If deregulation became a reality, electric companies—including co-ops—would be split into companies that handled different aspects of consumers' power needs. One company would market and sell energy while another would maintain the power lines and deliver the electricity.

The co-ops began preparing for this possibility. Oglethorpe Power, Walton EMC's power supplier, was reorganized into three distinct companies in 1997. This gave Walton EMC the ability to shop the wholesale power market to secure the best long-term deals for its members.

The co-op also looked for ways to strengthen its relationship with members. In 1998, Walton EMC and sister cooperative Jackson EMC formed EMC Security. The new company broke the mold in the security industry by being the first to offer no-contract monitoring. Today, EMC Security is one of the largest home and business security providers in the country.

In 1997, legislators decided to begin utility deregulation with Georgia's natural gas market. When the market opened the following year, Walton EMC was able to offer natural gas service to its members through a partner company. After consumer dissatisfaction with natural gas deregulation, electric utility deregulation was shelved.

The '90s also brought innovation in financing. Traditionally, electric co-ops borrowed some or all their funds from the federal government through the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). In 1996, Walton EMC switched its financing to the Cooperative Financing Corporation, another co-op. Paying off RUS loans early saved the co-op millions of dollars and meant Walton EMC no longer relied on government loans or subsidies.

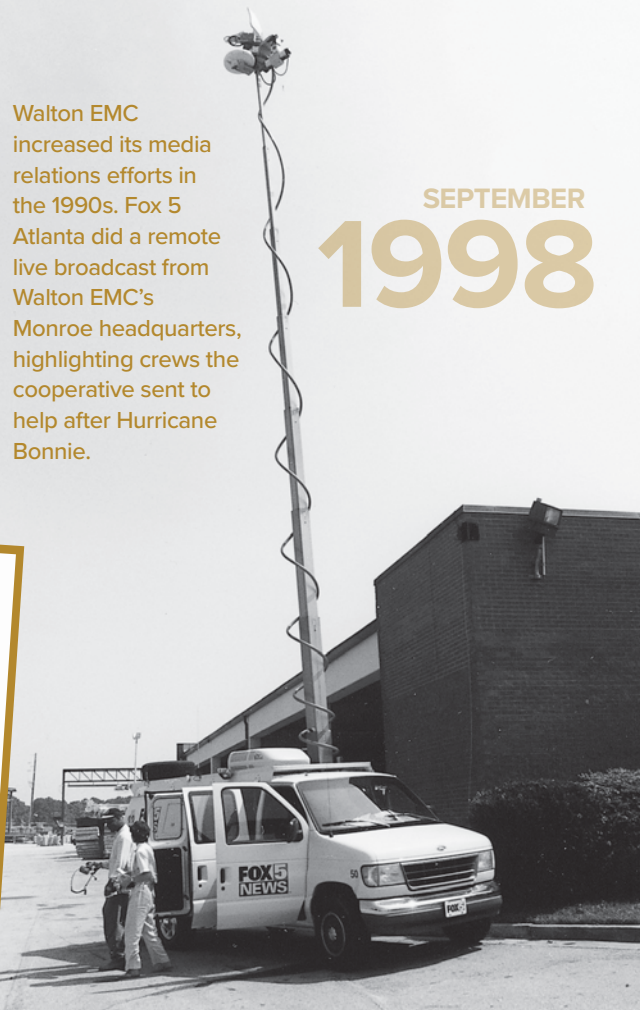
Concern for Community, one of the seven Cooperative Principles, took center stage in 1998. The co-op launched Operation Round Up, a program that gives members the opportunity to round up their monthly electric bill to the next dollar with the resulting change distributed to deserving organizations throughout the co-op's 10-county service area. To date, Walton EMC has awarded over \$10 million to community organizations through Operation Round Up.

Walton EMC increased its media relations efforts in the 1990s. Fox 5 Atlanta did a remote live broadcast from Walton EMC's Monroe headquarters, highlighting crews the cooperative sent to help after Hurricane Bonnie.

SEPTEMBER
1998

1997

Walton EMC's website debuts, making it one of the nation's first websites created for electric cooperative members.



SEPTEMBER 2026

REALITE

Walton EMC

90 Years
1936–2026

IMPACT 2025

Walton EMC
waltonemc.com

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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

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

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Snellville 3645 Lenora Church Rd.
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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 Jason Sidwell
Board Vice Chair Stan Pitts
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©2026 Walton EMC is a customer-owned power company. That means our cooperative focuses on service, not profit. We serve more than 145,000 accounts in Athens-Clarke, Barrow, DeKalb, Greene, Gwinnett, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Rockdale and Walton Counties.

Our subsidiaries supply natural gas and security services.

MEMBERS

\$163M

Total capital credits returned to customer-owners following an \$11 million refund in 2025



3,198 NEW METERS

2,430 MEMBERS

Set new attendance record for Annual Members' Meeting



Walton EMC's Kelvin Smith, left, and Darrell Powers, right, deliver a capital credits refund check to representatives of the Oconee County Board of Education. The check represents the school system's share of an \$11 million refund to members who had electric service with the co-op in 2001, 2002 or 2024.



Check presentations at 55 local public and private schools totaled \$366,164 in School EmPOWERment education grants to provide teachers with the tools they need to stimulate classroom learning.

COMMUNITY

\$1.5M

Community investment from Operation Round Up, School EmPOWERment Grants, scholarships, corporate donations and employee charitable giving

\$35M

Taxes and franchise fees paid to maintain and improve public safety, community infrastructure, schools and parks



SAFETY

3 TOP-FIVE AWARDS

Earned by Walton EMC apprentice linemen in the cooperative division at the 41st Annual International Lineman's Rodeo

SERVICE

143 MILES

New overhead and underground lines installed to reliably deliver electricity

4.4 BILLION KILOWATT HOURS

Electricity distributed to Walton EMC's residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customer-owners



EMPLOYEES

262

Full-time jobs supported

Current and retired Walton EMC employees who served in the armed services are honored with an annual Veterans Day Luncheon.

COVER PHOTO:

Adam Simmons, now Walton EMC's safety and training instructor, restores power after a summer storm.

DON'T BE LEFT IN THE
DARK!



Keep your home or community in the best light by reporting outdoor lighting trouble spots to Walton EMC.

Using our simple online form to report darkened or faulty lights is as easy as:

- 1 Visit **waltonemc.com**.
- 2 Click on Outages, then Report Outdoor Light Outage.
- 3 Complete the short form that lets you mark the light's location on an interactive map and share a photo showing the problem.

Be Prepared!

STAY SAFE DURING STORM-RELATED POWER OUTAGES

The Atlantic hurricane season peaks this month, bringing with it the possibility for heavy rain, strong winds and flooding in our area. Before severe weather is forecast, take steps to ensure your safety and comfort should a storm event lead to an extended electric outage.

STORM PREP

PLAN FOR MEDICAL NEEDS.

Have a contingency plan for household members who have a medical necessity for electricity. Secure a backup power source, have extra medical supplies on hand and make an emergency relocation plan should conditions warrant.

ASSEMBLE EMERGENCY SUPPLIES.

Pack enough nonperishable food, water, flashlights (and batteries) and medications to get you through at least three days.

STAY CONNECTED. Charge cell phones and laptops. Have a battery-powered AM/FM radio and NOAA weather radio.

KEEP IN TOUCH

BOOKMARK the Walton EMC storm center (**waltonemc.com/stormcenter**) where you can report outages, view a current outage map, and find detailed storm preparation and safety information.

FOLLOW Walton EMC on Facebook to receive updates on restoration progress during widespread outages. Reminder: Never report outages through social media.

Watch
Walton EMC's
Storm Prep
Video

