

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

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Comments from the CEO

The value of electricity continues to shine

Many of us may remember going with a parent or grandparent into town to pay the "light bill." Today's consumers don't typically have to make a trip into town to pay their bills, but whether you pay in person, by mail or online, paying your monthly bill does a lot more than just keep the lights on.

Electricity keeps us connected to our modern world. Consider all the necessities and conveniences we enjoy, in part because of the power lines running to the electric meter outside your home.

Count up your televisions, desktop, laptop and tablet computers, printers, your gaming consoles, music and video players and personal assistant devices. Whether they get used every day or just occasionally, the electricity that keeps them working comes from Amicalola EMC.

Have you looked around your kitchen lately? Besides the coffee maker, toaster and the microwave, many of us have added several other modern small appliances.

If you've got a craft nook or workshop, many of the power tools and machines you use to cut and shape your projects are either plugged in or recharged from the

outlets connecting your household wiring to Amicalola EMC.

You use electricity to run all these devices, and we still keep the lights on, the stove and heating and air conditioning going, and keep hot water flowing from the tap.



The good news is, even as we rely more and more on electricity, it's still a bargain, especially compared to other things we pay for regularly.

Since 2011, medical care, residential housing and education have increased at rates of 3 percent or more per year. Butter, meat and egg costs have been up by more than 1 to 2 percent annually, and even bread costs have risen better than a half-point on average.

Wholesale electricity costs rise about 1 percent a year, but not residential rates. It's been about 10 years since we saw a residential retail rate increase here at Amicalola EMC. In addition, many co-ops across the country have reported a decline in average residential use per household in the past few years. That means we're doing more things with less energy.

When it comes to value, electricity is a clear winner, and we're always looking for ways to help you

use less. That's why we urge members to practice energy efficiency and look for ENERGY STAR® appliances.

That's also why we promote technology that's designed to give members more control over their electricity use. Energy performance dashboards, smart thermostats and power strips, and appliance settings that shift most water heating, laundry and dishwashing outside of peak rate periods help reduce the co-op's overall power demand. They also give you opportunities to control or even trim your monthly utility bills.

That's good for families, couples and individuals trying to live within their budgets. And it's going to become even more important as digital devices and internet-connected technologies become more important in our lives. The average home now has 10 Wi-Fi connected devices. That number is expected to explode to 50 by 2020.

Technology and the gateways that keep it working use electricity. Now, and in the future, you'll depend on Amicalola EMC for more than just the power to keep the lights on. We are always working to provide service that's reliable, affordable, and even more valuable to you, your family and your neighbors.



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

Amicalola EMC's Operation Round Up continues to provide much-needed funding for community charities and qualifying individuals



January 2018 recipients

Dawson County High FFA—funds to help purchase a livestock trailer

The goal of FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through Agriculture Education.

Dawson County Wee Books—grant to purchase books

Over the last nine years, Wee Books Childhood Literacy Program has put more than 70,000 age-appropriate books into the hands of Dawson County preschool children (up to 5 years of age), helping them to become learners for life.

Enotah CASA, Inc.—funds to purchase drug screens in the substance abuse prevention program

Enotah CASA improves the lives of children in the dependency system by pairing them with trained volunteer advocates that seek to reduce and reverse the effects of child abuse and neglect that so often accompany substance abuse.

Gilmer Christian Learning Center—funds to purchase a laptop, table and classroom supplies

The Gilmer Christian Learning Center is a Released Time Education ministry in Gilmer County that teaches courses in the Bible to public high school students and middle school students for free elective credit.

Gilmer High Technology Student Association (TSA)—grant for lodging costs for state conference

National organization of students engaged in science, technology,



engineering and mathematics. Open to students enrolled in or who have completed technology education courses, TSA's membership includes more than 233,000 middle and high school students in about 2,000 schools spanning 49 states.

Good Samaritan Health and Wellness Center—grant to purchase new patient exam tables

The center's mission is to provide the medically underserved in our community with compassionate and individualized health care and related services in an atmosphere of respect and dignity.

Isaiah House—funds to purchase four bunk beds

Transitional housing for men with life controlling issues associated with drug and alcohol addictions. Isaiah House's vision is to provide a healthy, balanced and structured environment for the whole man, addressing the spiritual, physical, emotional and financial issues with future expansion into a 10-month residential addiction recovery program.

Joy House—grant to purchase food, shelter and clothing

The Joy House provides Christ-centered restorative care for struggling teens, families and individuals.

Residential housing is available for both boys and girls and a counseling center is now available to provide Christ-centered counseling to families and individuals struggling with difficult life issues along the 575/515 corridor.

Lumpkin Family Connection—funds to provide emergency assistance for families in need

The Lumpkin Family Connection collaborative serves as the local decision-making body, bringing community partners together to develop, implement, and evaluate plans that address the serious challenges facing Georgia's children and families.

North Georgia Interfaith Ministries, Inc.—help purchase 250 "to go" bags for homeless individuals

The mission of North Georgia Interfaith Ministries, Inc., in cooperation with churches and county partnerships, is to aid in homelessness prevention by offering life-skills workshops and referrals to partner agencies and to serve the homeless in Lumpkin County through the provision of transitional housing, counseling services and basic life-skills training, helping them become self-sufficient and productive citizens.

North Georgia Pregnancy Center—grant for educational materials and baby supplies such as diapers and wipes

The center offers pregnancy tests, counseling and abortion alternatives. Services include the Mommy Store and Diaper Bag Ministry, Earn While You Learn program, and Angel Babies Boutique—including gently used clothing and baby supplies for the mom and baby.

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Powering up after an outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:

1. High-voltage transmission lines:

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main distribution lines:

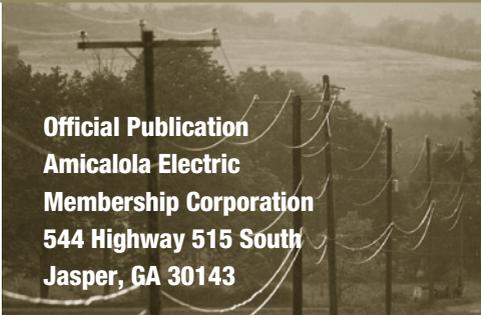
If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

4. Tap lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Individual homes:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issue.



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Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation
544 Highway 515 South
Jasper, GA 30143

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TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO CALL IN CASE OF POWER INTERRUPTIONS:

Outage Hotlines

- 706-253-0359
- 706-276-0359
- 706-864-0359

Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation

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 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays

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 Stacey Godfrey Fields, CCC



Operation Round Up, *Continued from page 26B*

The center also offers first trimester ultrasounds, fatherhood programs, childbirth preparation classes and community-wide educational outreach.

Pickens County Board of Education— for emergency fund

To supply school children with clothing, school supplies and medication.

Pickens Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy—provide 1,000-plus books for local children

Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy's mission is to provide books for local communities to prepare preschool children for reading and learning success, regardless of race, religion, gender or financial need, with the philosophy that any child who cannot read is at risk.

Want more control over your electric use? HomeEnergy Suite is for you.

This quick interactive calculator is a great way to estimate your energy use. Based on your input, it allows you to accurately pinpoint areas that will give you opportunities for savings.

Special purpose calculators allow you to get a quick idea of what it costs to operate your appliances or ideas on how to save on lighting costs.



Let's say you want to know how much it costs to run a space heater. Using the space heater calculator, you can plug in the number of heaters and the number of hours in use each day to quickly calculate the monthly cost.

These free tools and much more are available at www.amicalolaemc.com.

Nondiscrimination statement

Amicalola Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, and employees and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 11!** Set your clocks ahead by one hour.



Are we holding your money?

Six months left to claim capital credit refunds

Aug. 31, 2018, marks the deadline to claim capital credit refunds from the year 1991. If you had electric service with Amicalola EMC during 1991, we may have a refund waiting for you.

Members who still have an active account would have received a credit on their bill. Members who no longer have an account would have been mailed a check, provided we have

a current address. All others are included on a list of names which can be found at www.amicalolaemc.com or in person at any local Amicalola EMC office.

After Aug. 31, 2018, unclaimed funds will be distributed for charitable purposes in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act.