

BEACON

Comments from the CEO

Five ways to fight the winter chill *and* save energy

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all the fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: High winter bills are never fun. Amicalola EMC is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1. Mind the thermostat. This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or the lowest comfortable setting) and leave it. When you're away for an extended period of time, try setting it a couple of degrees lower.

2. Button up your home. The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weatherstripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

3. Use window coverings wisely.



M. MAZER PIXABAY

Before you turn the thermostat up, put on an extra layer of clothing and get cozy under your favorite blanket.

Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

4. Consider your approach to appliance use. When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running

the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

5. Think outside the box. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 706-253-5200 to take advantage of our free home energy audit. Amicalola EMC's energy expert can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Visit our website at www.amicalolaemc.com for additional energy-saving tips.



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

Washington Youth Tour returns to nation's capital

The Washington Youth Tour (WYT) celebrated its 57th year in Georgia by returning to an in-person experience in Washington, D.C., June 16-23, 2022. Seventy high school delegates sponsored by 26 electric membership cooperatives (EMCs) throughout Georgia and by Georgia EMC made the trip, in addition to seven chaperones and three staff members from Tucker-based Georgia EMC.

"The trip was a triumphant return of Georgia's EMCs to Washington, D.C.," says Beth McMillan, WYT Coordinator and Senior Communications Specialist at Georgia EMC. "On the heels of the COVID-19 pandemic and with all the logistical challenges that presented in the planning stages, I'm proud of the program we put together and the experiences we provided to the delegates."

McMillan, who represented Marietta-based Cobb EMC as a delegate in 2004, says there's something special about a large group of strangers who meet and become close friends in just one week.

"Late high school is such a pivotal time for developing character, and the high caliber of the students our EMCs send on this tour each year creates a perfect environment for young people to discover themselves as individuals, as well as learn how many others there are across the state with their same passion, drive and enthusiasm for making a difference," she says.

A few of the group's standard stops were not on the program in 2022 because some buildings had not been reopened to the public or large groups since the onset of the pandemic, but McMillan says they managed to include a majority of their traditional tour stops.

"Travel disruptions were certainly our biggest setback, but in many ways, this offered delegates opportunities to see and demonstrate leadership in action," McMillan adds. "Resilience, positive attitude, problem-solving and teamwork were all on display in reacting to sudden changes in our plans, and these are all areas in which we encourage growth during a normal tour. Student evaluations were extremely positive, with many describing the tour as a life-changing experience."

The eight-day Youth Tour kicked off with a visit to Roosevelt's Little White House State Historic Site in Warm Springs. The hope was to introduce U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt as the creator of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA)/rural electrification movement and the Little White



KATHRYN GREEN, SOUTHERN RIVERS ENERGY



Georgia's 2022 Youth Tour delegation tours Roosevelt's Little White House in Warm Springs on June 17, 2022.

House as its birthplace, thus giving delegates a better understanding of the history and purpose of their local electric co-op and the statewide network of EMCs that provided this leadership experience for them.

The group viewed an introductory video upon arrival, then enjoyed a self-guided tour of the museum, house and grounds.

"That visit helped tie together nicely the sponsoring EMCs with our nation's capital, which we were about to visit," McMillan says. "And it helped demonstrate the power local folks have to effect change, better their own communities and better the nation as a whole."

2023 Amicalola EMC Scholarship & Youth Tour Program

The deadline to apply for the 2023 Amicalola EMC Scholarship Program (for high school seniors) and the 2023 Washington Youth Tour (for juniors) is Jan. 31, 2023.

Students must live in an Amicalola EMC household to be eligible. To apply, go to www.amicalolaemc.com, My Community and choose either Scholarships or Youth Tour. For more information, please call Director of Public Relations Stacey Fields at 706-253-5287.

2022 Service Awards

5 YEARS

Joey Crump
Eli Wishon
Collan Sanford
Daniel Long
Lucas Bramlett
Thomas Patrick
Brandon Davenport
Ron Caviness
Shawn Eller

10 YEARS

Kaylee McClure

15 YEARS

Becky Patterson
Kevin Davis
Eric Johnson
Mark Pack
Michael Martin

25 YEARS

Mary Jo Brown
Annette Lanning

35 YEARS

Stacey M. Fields
Tim Cline
Randy Mooney
Scotty Newberry
Dwight Henderson
David Mullins
Ray Carpenter
Gary Chester
J. Marty Dean

40 YEARS

Donna F. Gaddis
Pete Walker

Directors/Attorney earning service awards

50 YEARS

Charles R. Fendley

President/CEO Todd Payne congratulates employees below for their years of service.



Stacey Fields, 35 years



Dwight Henderson, 35 years



Ray Carpenter, 35 years



Gary Chester, 35 years



Donna Gaddis, 40 years



Pete Walker, 40 years



President/CEO Todd Payne congratulates Charles Fendley for 50 years of service on the Amicalola EMC Board of Directors. Fendley serves as Chairman of the Amicalola EMC Board of Directors and Chairman of Georgia Transmission Corp. Board of Directors.

Are we holding your money?

Local electric cooperatives operate at cost; any excess revenues are returned to member-owners in the form of capital credits refunds.

To find out if you have an unclaimed refund, visit www.amicalolaemc.com.

Choose the **Capital Credits** tab on the homepage, and then click on the **Unclaimed Recipients** link. You may also call 706-253-5200 or visit any Amicalola EMC office.

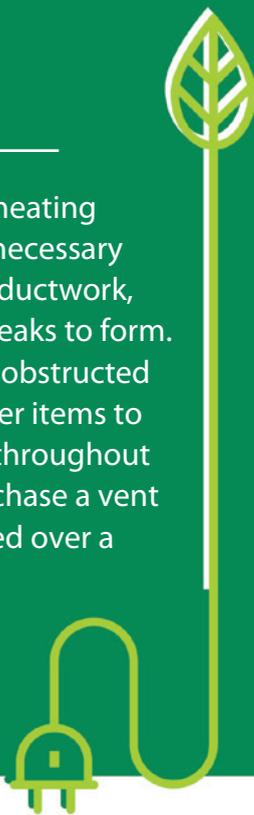


After a mandatory five-year waiting period, any unclaimed capital credits refunds are distributed in accordance with Georgia's unclaimed property laws O.C.G.A. §44-12-236.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form. Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: energy.gov



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.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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, D.C. 20250-9410;

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

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.