

current lines

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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Become Summer's Biggest Fan

Summer is a great time of year — synonymous with sunshine and vacation. But in Georgia, summer also means it's hot and humid. Really hot and humid! To keep your home cool and humidity low, your air conditioner will likely run more, causing your energy use to go up. One way to get the best bang for your electric dollar during the summer heat is to keep conditioned air inside your home. Follow the electric tips below to help reduce your energy use and enjoy summer again!

Stop Air Leaks

Add weather-stripping on doors and windows and caulk the cracks and plumbing penetrations to keep cool air inside and hot air from leaking into your home.

Put Your Home in Summer Mode

During the summer, it's best to run your fan in the counter clockwise position. Only keep fans on when people are in the room. Fans cool people, not the air. Also, if you built fires in the winter, make sure the damper to your fireplace is closed so that the cool air can't sneak out through the chimney.

Maintain Your HVAC Equipment

Make sure there are no leaves, grass or shrubs blocking airflow to your outside HVAC unit. Clear at least 6 feet above the unit and 2 feet around the coils to optimize efficiency. We recommend getting your HVAC system serviced and coils cleaned by a heating and air contractor each year to extend the life of your system.

Install a Smart Thermostat

A smart thermostat allows you to set different temperatures for different time periods throughout the day. Once you program it, you won't have to touch it again. You can also control the system from your smartphone.

Properly Insulate Your Attic

Install recommended levels of insulation to lower cooling costs. On warm days, attic temperatures can get up to 140 degrees. Recommended levels of insulation vary. Contact us to help you determine the right level for your home.



Use Our Online Tools

In our online Energy Efficiency Center, you will find tools to help you conserve energy in your home. The Billing Insights Calculator will help you break down your energy usage using your bills and allow you to perform energy saving scenarios to pinpoint opportunities for savings. In addition, you can use the Appliance Calculator to determine what it is costing to operate each appliance in your home. Visit www.tri-countyemc.com/energy-calculator.cms for more information.

Schedule an In-Home Energy Audit

If you want to take your energy savings a step further, contact us for an In-Home Energy Audit. Our Energy Services Representative will evaluate your home to find out where you are using the most energy and help you determine ways to conserve. This audit is free to Tri-County EMC members. To schedule an audit, contact us at 1.866.254.8100.

Ways to Pay

Payments No Longer Accepted In The Field

Each month, members are sent a bill, or e-bill, letting them know when their payment for electric service is due. If your account is past due, you are sent a reminder notice by mail or email and a courtesies phone call to the phone numbers we have on your account. While the majority of members pay on time each month, some members wait until the lineman shows up to disconnect their power to pay their bill.

For the safety of our employees, and the efficiency of the cooperative, our personnel will no longer take payments in the field. We encourage members to take advantage of the many ways to pay an electric bill listed below. Visit www.tri-countyemc.com/billingoptions.cms to learn more.



Disconnect/Reconnect Policy

- If payment is not received by the disconnect date on the reminder notice, electric service will be subject to disconnection without further notice.
- All members whose service has been disconnected for failure to pay will be subject to pay an additional security deposit. To be reconnected, the member will be responsible for paying the additional security deposit, the past due amount and a service charge in order to be reconnected.
- Service calls to restore service to accounts disconnected for nonpayment will only be made on Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 8 PM.

Meter Upgrade

Installation Begins June 12

We will be changing out meters over the next 18 months. We will be installing new meters that utilize powerline carrier technology – the same we've used for the past decade. These new meters will let us know when your power is out so that we can quickly restore power to your home.

We will be working with Anixter, our meter contractor, to conduct the change outs. Their vehicles will be marked with the Tri-County EMC logo and each contractor will be wearing a Tri-County EMC contractor name badge. The Anixter employees will take photos of the old and new meters and test the meter base. This process should take around 5 minutes.

If you have questions regarding the upgrade, please contact us at 1.866.254.8100. (67162002)

Make a Payment

Automatic Draft

Tri-County EMC can automatically draft your checking account or credit card on your due date. There will be a 2.45% fee for each credit card transaction.

Online Bill Pay

You may pay using Visa, Mastercard, Discover or an e-check through the online member portal. There is a 2.45% convenience fee for credit card transactions and a \$.60 fee for e-check transactions.

By Phone

Payments can be taken over the phone by calling 1.866.254.8100 or locally at 478-986-8100.

PaySite™ Kisok

Make a payment by using one of five convenient PaySite™ Kiosk locations in our throughout our service area. A list of kiosk locations can be found at www.tri-countyemc.com/contact-us.cms

myTCEMC App

Another easy way to pay is using your myTCEMC mobile app. The app is available on the Apple and Android Marketplaces.

Set Up Notifications Alerts

Set up reminders using the online member portal or the myTCEMC app that will notify you when your bill is due through text message, email and push notification.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online here, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by US Mail to US Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Protect Your Linemen

Don't Attach Objects to Poles

What do yard sale signs, security cameras, satellite dishes, deer stands and birdhouses have in common? They are often found illegally attached to utility poles. While attaching objects to poles may seem innocent, they can put our linemen at risk.

Tri-County EMC crews climb utility poles in all hours of the day and night. Many times, they work in dark, rainy weather where visibility is limited. Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples or barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment worn by our linemen, making them vulnerable to electrocution. (33601001)

"Not only do these attachments put our linemen at risk, but it puts the person placing the attachment at risk as well — especially the higher you go up the pole," says Keith Brooks, vice president of operations. "We recommend that our members stay at least 20 feet away from power lines."

Help us keep our linemen and our members safe by not attaching objects to power poles. Fixtures not belonging to the cooperative or another utility will be removed by the cooperative.



Did you find your account number?

Find your complete account number inside parentheses in this issue of *Current Lines* and win a \$50 bill credit. Call 478.986.8126 to claim your credit.

Two students earn scholarships from the Tri-County EMC Foundation

In addition to awarding grants each quarter, the Tri-County EMC Foundation also awards scholarships to two deserving students in the service area twice per year. The scholarships are worth \$1,000 and are awarded based on academics, financial need and service to others. Special consideration is given to non-traditional students who are working full or part-time and have returned to school. Congratulations recipients!



Takia Daniel

Takia is a senior at Jones County High School. She is a member of HOSA, Drama Club and the Varsity Spirit Cheerleading Team. She is a Georgia Certificate of Merit Scholar, received the President's Education Award and was a Scholar Athlete. She plans to attend Kennesaw State University in the fall and ultimately become a Nurse Practitioner.



Destiny Kieu

Destiny is a senior at Putnam County High School. She is a member of HOSA, National Honors Society, Beta Club, Student Council, Girls Soccer and Volleyball, the International Club and the Audio/Video Club. In her spare time, she enjoys volunteering with the Adoptive and Foster Parent Association of Putnam County. She plans to attend UGA in the fall to obtain a degree in Biology to become a doctor.

Save Paper Vote Online

Board of Directors Election

To opt out of paper ballots and vote online during this year's annual election, visit us online at www.tri-countyemc.com/voting.cms and complete the form or give us a call at 1.866.254.8100. By opting out of paper balloting and choosing to vote online, you will be sent your login information for the voting website via email. You will not be mailed a paper ballot.



If you have opted out before, there is no need to opt out again unless your email address has changed. In that case, please complete the online form with your updated email address or give us a call. If we do not hear from you before August 30, you will automatically receive a voting packet in the mail this fall. In the voting packet, you will have the option to return your paper ballot by mail as in years past, or you can vote online using information provided in your ballot package. (61039001)

If you have questions regarding online voting, please call us at 1.866.254.8100. Remember that Tri-County EMC is owned by its members, so member participation in the annual election is a crucial part of a successful cooperative.

Information Update Contest

And the Winner Is...

In March, we invited members to update their contact information with us for a chance to win an iPad Mini or a \$400 bill credit. All members that updated their information before April 30 received a \$5 bill credit and were given one entry into the drawing.



The winner of the Information Update Contest is Mitzi Weekley of Jones County.

Thank you to all of our members for your participation. Having up to date contact information in our system will help you keep connected to your cooperative through news updates, outage reporting and board election information.

Although the contest is over, you can still update your contact information by using the online member portal.

Recipe Box

Kale and Blueberry Salad

Thanks to Georgia Grown for sharing this delicious recipe! **Did you know that your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen?** Send your best recipes to kimb@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

Salad Dressing Ingredients

- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 5 tablespoons pink grapefruit juice
- Zest from 1 grapefruit
- 3 tablespoons cooking, salad or olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper

Salad Ingredients

- 6 cups Raw Kale
- 2 cups Blueberries
- 2 ounces Feta Cheese



Photo Courtesy: Georgia Grown

Directions

Make salad dressing by whisking together honey, Dijon mustard, grapefruit juice and grapefruit zest. Whisk in oil. Season to taste with salt and pepper. In a large bowl, mix together kale, blueberries and feta cheese. Drizzle with salad dressing. Portion into 1-cup servings and refrigerate until ready to serve. Serves 8.



Tri-County
EMC

Owned by Those We Serve

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