

current lines

May 2017

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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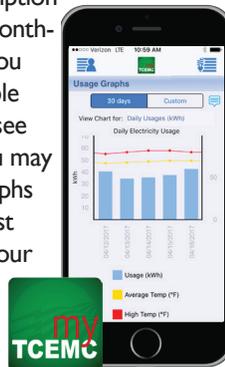
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Home Energy Management

Lower Summer Energy Usage

Manage Your Energy Consumption

The first step of managing your energy consumption is knowing how much energy you use. Your monthly bill statement shows the number of kWhs you use each month, but daily usage data — available through the myTCEMC app — allows you to see patterns of energy use and determine how you may be able to cut back. The daily energy usage graphs allow you to see what days you use the most energy. By comparing that to the activities in your home on those days, along with the outside temperature, you will be able to determine what appliances are using the most energy and figure out ways to reduce the consumption.



Small Changes. Big Savings.

While some energy conservation improvements cost money, you can also conserve energy just by changing your behavior. The simplest thing you can do that would have the most impact is to increase the temperature on your thermostat. Each degree increase can save about 3% on your bill. Another way to cut energy use is to keep the heat outside — draw your drapes to avoid direct sunlight, cook outside instead of using the oven and avoid using heat-producing appliances such as hair dryers and curling irons. Only run the dishwasher and washing machine when they are full and run them during the cooler parts of the day. Also, turning the temperature on your water heater down



from 140 to 120 degrees can save 4% or more on your bill. And using ceiling fans when you are in the room can make the room feel 6 degrees cooler while using less energy than a light bulb.

Invest In Energy Savings:

If you are interested in investing money to conserve energy, there are a few more advanced changes you can make in your home. With attic temperatures getting up to or above 140 degrees in the summer, installing recommended levels of insulation can go a long way to lower cooling costs. Another way to manage usage is to install a programmable thermostat. Once programmed, you will not have to worry about turning the temperature up when you leave the house or down when you return. The thermostat will gradually adjust the temperature according to your schedule, making your HVAC system more efficient. In addition to the thermostat, having your HVAC system serviced can increase the life of the system and allow it to run more efficiently. And a simple investment of adding weather-stripping and caulking to your home can help keep the cool air inside and hot air outside.



In Home Energy Audits Available

If you would like advice on the best ways to save energy in your home, contact our office for a complimentary in-home energy audit. Our Energy Services Representative can take a closer look at your energy usage to see what actions you may be able to take to cut back on your energy consumption. For more information, contact us at 1.866.254.8100.

Member Satisfaction Survey

Member satisfaction surveys will begin this month. Each quarter, Tri-County EMC will survey about 300 members by phone regarding satisfaction with the cooperative. Interviewers will identify themselves as calling from "Data Deci-

sions Group on behalf of Tri-County EMC". The phone number will show up on caller ID as 919.391.3483.

The survey should only take about 7-10 minutes and we encourage every mem-

ber contacted to answer the survey. The survey results will serve as a benchmark to know how we are doing as a cooperative and what you would like to see from us in the future.

Delegates Chosen for Washington Youth Tour



Tri-County EMC has chosen two students to represent the co-op for Georgia EMC's Washington Youth Tour. Jonathan Daniel and BitLeigh Vu will join 110 Georgia high school students on the week-long leadership event this June. The Georgia students will join more than 1,500 students from 44 states for the event. As Georgia's oldest leadership program for teens, the Washington Youth Tour is designed to teach high school students about U.S. history, government and the importance of public service.

Before flying to Washington D.C., the students will attend a kickoff banquet and spend a day in Georgia where they will develop their leadership skills through team building activities. Once in D.C., students will visit the Smithsonian Museum, Holocaust Museum, Union Station, Mount Vernon, Supreme Court, Capitol, Washington Monument, and the Jefferson World War II, Lincoln, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans monuments and memorials. (47366001)



Jonathan Daniel is a sophomore at GMC Prep School in Milledgeville. He is involved in the GMC JROTC Color Guard and drill team. He is also an avid boy scout, achieving the Eagle Scout ranking in 2016. After graduation, Jonathan plans to attend the US Naval Academy and complete Navy SEAL Training.



BitLeigh Vu is a senior at Baldwin County High School in Milledgeville. She is president of the Science Club and an active member of the Math Club, Key Club and Beta Club. She is also a talented clarinet player and has been part of the marching band and concert band. After graduation, BitLeigh plans to attend Georgia Tech.

Right-of-Way Seasonal Maintenance Begins

In May, Tri-County EMC will work with NaturChem for herbicide application to keep trees, brush and foliage from interfering with the delivery of your electric service. Overgrown trees and other vegetation within 15 feet of overhead power lines are trimmed year-round. Herbicide is applied to brush annually, with each quadrant of the service area treated every 4-5 years. This year's herbicide application will occur near the Baldwin/Putnam County Line. The map to the right shows the general area where the maintenance will occur. For a full list of addresses that will be affected, visit tri-countyemc.com and click on **Your Energy** then click on **Right of Way**. Only nonrestrictive, nonresidual chemicals are used. Landscaped areas such as lawns, streams or ponds will not be sprayed. (12063001)

When planting trees this spring, always be sure to observe the 15 foot clearance on each side of a power line. It is important to keep trees, limbs and climbing plants away from power lines to prevent outages and power blinks.



Did you find your account number?

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

Get to Know Your Cooperative

Annual Meeting: October 19

One of the most important benefits of cooperative membership is your right to elect board members to represent you in running your cooperative. Elections are held annually and any member meeting the minimum qualifications can be elected to serve on the board of directors. The following bylaw excerpts will help you to better understand the nomination and election process. If you are interesting in running for a board position, contact Kim Broun at 478.986.8126 to determine if you meet the qualifications according to our bylaws. If you meet the qualifications, you will also need to submit your name to a member of the nominating committee (preferably from your board district) by June 22, 2017.

“I would like to run for director. How do I qualify?”

Directors are Tri-County members with their primary residence served by the co-op. “No person shall be eligible to become a director of the Cooperative who is not a member for a minimum period of two (2) years prior to the election of directors. No person shall be eligible for election thereto whose age, at the time of such election is less than eighteen (18) years of age. No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of, or to hold any other position of trust in, the Cooperative who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative.” (Bylaws, Section 4.02)

“What are the steps taken to elect directors?”

The Nominating Committee nominates director candidates. However, “any one hundred (100) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together over their signatures not less than

ninety (90) days prior to the meeting, may make additional nominations . . . ” (Bylaws, Section 4.06) “At each annual meeting of the members, directors shall be elected by secret ballot, including those cast by mail or email, by the members . . . ” (You can mail or email your ballot or bring it to the annual meeting.) “. . . provided, that, when the number of nominees per district does not exceed the number of directors to be elected from or for a particular Directorate District, and if there is no objection, balloting may be dispensed within respect of that election. Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present and voting including those votes cast by mail.” (Bylaws, Section 4.03) (72610001)

“How is the Nominating Committee elected?”

Elected at the annual meeting, the Nominating Committee serves the next year and meets at least 90 days before the annual meeting. (Bylaws, Section 4.06)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

District 1

Bibb, Jones & Twiggs Counties

Tracy Gattie
Norma Hancock
Thomas Comer

District 2

Jasper, Morgan & Putnam Counties

James Anderson
Carl Haizlip
Sandra McKinney

District 3

Baldwin & Wilkinson Counties

Jack Brock
Bruce Dempster
Charles McCuen, Jr.

Interested in running for a board position? Contact Kim Broun to see if you qualify at 478.986.8126. If you do qualify, you will need to submit your name to a nominating committee member by June 22, 2017.

Your Tri-County EMC Board

District 1

Bibb, Jones & Twiggs Counties

*Post 1: Dan Greene
Post 2: Chester Mercer
Post 3: Cecil Patterson

District 2

Jasper, Morgan & Putnam Counties

*Post 1: Brenda P. Green
Post 2: Buck Comer
Post 3: Mike Rainey

District 3

Baldwin & Wilkinson Counties

*Post 1: Sammy Hall
Post 2: Tommy Noles
Post 3: Marion Nelson

Pictured:

L to R: Back Row: Marion Nelson, Buck Comer, Sammy Hall, Brenda P. Green, Chester Mercer, Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey **Front Row:** Tommy Noles, Dan Greene



*denotes directors up for re-election in 2017

Now Accepting Applications for Cooperative Couples Conference.....

Tri-County EMC is now accepting applications for the Cooperative Couples Conference. This conference, scheduled for August 11 - 13 on Lake Chatuge in Hiawassee, GA, is designed for couples to network with leaders of cooperatives and learn the economic and service benefits of the cooperative business model. To learn more about the conference or to download an application, visit tri-countyemc.com/couplesconference.cms.

All applications are due to Tri-County EMC by June 15, 2017. (569310002)

Did you know?

Properly hooking up your clothes dryer can help save on energy costs. The outdoor dryer exhaust door should close when the dryer is off. Check to make sure the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to the dryer and also to the inside wall fitting. The vent hose should not be kinked or clogged.

Happy Memorial Day!

Tri-County EMC offices will be closed on **Monday, May 29** in observance of Memorial Day. Offices will reopen **Tuesday, May 30** at 8:00 AM.

Recipe Box

Happy Accident Pie

Thanks to Sheila Long of Jones County for submitting this recipe. Did you know 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.

Ingredients:

- 1 large can frozen lemonade with watermelon added
- 2 cans sweetened condensed milk
- 1 large container of non-dairy whipped topping
- 2 graham cracker pie crusts

Directions:

Thaw the lemonade and whipped topping. In a large bowl, mix together with an electric mixer the lemonade, condensed milk and 1 cup of the whipped topping. Spoon mixture evenly into pie crusts. Top with remaining whipped topping. Freeze. Thaw slightly and serve.



Note: This pie was named after Sheila accidentally bought watermelon lemonade instead of regular lemonade. It turned out to be a great surprise.



Owned by Those We Serve

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478.986.8100
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Ray Grinberg, , CEO

Board of Directors

Brenda P. Green, Chairman
Sammy Hall, Vice-Chairman
Thomas Noles, Secretary/Treasurer
George "Buck" Comer, Dan Greene,
Sammy Hall, Chester Mercer,
Marion Nelson, Cecil Patterson, Mike Rainey

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Kim Broun, Editor
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