



Tri-County
EMC

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NOVEMBER 2023

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THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSURES

Both office locations will be closed on November 23 & 24.

CO-OP HOLDS 84TH ANNUAL MEETING

On October 19, Tri-County EMC hosted its 84th Annual Meeting at the Tri-County office in Gray concluding the 2023 Board of Directors' Election. Voting online or by paper ballot, over 1,500 Tri-County EMC members participated in their cooperative's election process. Billy Jerles, Tri-County EMC Board Attorney, reported the following election results.

Incumbents Dan Greene (Post 1, District 1), Brenda P. Green (Post 1, District 2), and Sammy Hall (Post 1, District 3) were re-elected to serve three-year terms on the Tri-County EMC Board of Directors. The proposed bylaw change to allow for the board to set a "Record Date" for members to be eligible to vote in any annual election passed. The 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved with a majority vote. (71511002)

Beginning her address, Brenda P. Green, Chairman of the Tri-County EMC Board of Directors, reported that the cooperative is in sound financial health and is in good standing with its financial partners. Green informed viewers that several factors will play a key role in improving the overall integrity of Tri-County's distribution system, most notably the addition of the fiber project. "Our fiber project is nearing completion and provides the EMC additional system intelligence and operational capabilities," said Green. "It also has provided us the opportunity for bridging the digital divide by leasing excess fiber capacity to our subsidiary, doing business as Tri-CoGo." As announced in the cooperative's Annual Report, Green reported that plans are in the works for a new substation to be built in late 2024 to support the growth in Lake Oconee.

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CO-OP HOLDS 84TH ANNUAL MEETING

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Brenda P. Green, Chairman

Green emphasized the challenge that Tri-County EMC faces with its single largest expense, wholesale power costs. “Generating and transmitting the power across the grid to our substations and to your homes is a complex and costly process,” stated Green. “The EMC maintains a diversified wholesale power portfolio to ensure reliability in the most challenging of times.” While the

cooperative has little control over the cost of generating power, Green was pleased to report that Plant Vogtle’s nuclear Unit 3 is fully operational and Unit 4 is projected to come online by next Spring. According to Green, this alone will provide needed base load generation that will serve all Georgians, including Tri-County EMC members, for the next 60 to 80 years. Green concluded her message with a promise that the Tri-County EMC Board of Directors will continue to strategically plan for the long-term future of the cooperative by working together and staying informed on energy issues and trends.



Ray Grinberg, CEO

CEO Ray Grinberg ensured viewers that the cooperative’s mission to enrich the quality of life in our communities remains. He touched on the cooperative’s commitment to its members through providing scholarships and grants that wouldn’t be possible without the generous contributions of members who participate in the Operation Roundup program.

Tri-County EMC COO Greg Mullis updated viewers on the status of the fiber project, noting that 25 of 30 zones now have internet available and almost every Tri-County EMC member will have access by the end of the year. Since the 2022 Tri-County EMC Annual Election, more than 3,000 members have had Tri-County EMC service installed in their homes. As for the future of Tri-County EMC, the subsidiary is installing around 350 new customers every month. In addition, it is exceeding revenue projections and is expected to be cash flow positive early next year. Mullis reported that there is still work to be done. “We are certainly not at a point to drive a flag in the ground and declare victory,” said Mullis. “We look forward to completing the remaining five zones on the cooperative’s system and are grateful for the trust that Tri-County members have placed in Tri-County EMC to be their internet service provider.



Greg Mullis, Tri-County EMC COO

Watch Tri-County EMC’s 2023 Annual Meeting on the cooperative’s Facebook page and YouTube channel.

BALLOT DRAWING WINNERS

To conclude the meeting, Communications Specialist Anna Smith drew names for bill credits to be distributed to eleven lucky winners. Members who cast their vote in the election were automatically entered for a chance to win. Tri-County EMC member Donald Rogerson won the grand prize of a \$500 bill credit. The ten \$50 bill credit winners are listed on the right. Thanks to everyone that participated in the election this year and be sure to vote in next year’s election for another chance to win!

\$50 BILL CREDIT WINNERS

Kathy Kendrick
Geraldine Lankford
Linda Youmans
Candace Christian
Brandon Neff

Pat Patterson
Marilyn Phillips
Sheilah Hamilton
Vicky Brown
Allen Robertson

LOW INCOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS (LIHEAP)

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a federally funded program that assists low-income households in heating or cooling their homes. The heating assistance application cycle begins November 1. If you are interested in applying, please contact your local Community Action Agency, listed below. (59501001)

LIHEAP CONTACTS

Bibb County:

Macon-Bibb County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.
478.738.3240
maconbibbeoc.com

Baldwin, Jasper, Putnam

& Wilkinson Counties: Overview, Inc.
478.453.4111
overviewinc.com

Jones & Twiggs Counties:

Middle Georgia Community Action Agency, Inc.
478.922.4464
mgcaa.org

Morgan County:

Action, Inc.
706.546.8293
actionathens.org

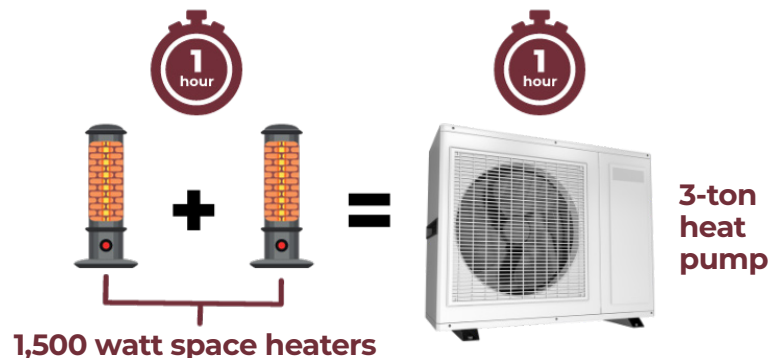
DOCUMENTS TO APPLY

- Most recent cooling bill or statement of service
- Most recent heating bill or statement of service
- Social security cards for each member of the household
- Proof of Citizenship or legal residency for the applicant
- Proof of income for the last 30 days for each adult household member (i.e. paycheck stub or public assistance verification letter)
- Verification of Social Security or unemployment benefits for all applicable household members

SPACE HEATERS VS. HEAT PUMPS

We all know Georgia weather can be unpredictable. How early is too early to turn on your heat? Can your space heater serve as a placeholder until it gets really cold outside? Remember that while space heaters work great to supplement inadequate heating in a small space, having them as your main source of heat uses more energy than you think. (1062002)

In one hour of operation, a 1,500 watt space heater will use 1.5 kWhs of electricity while creating 5,120 BTUs of heat. In comparison, a 3-ton heat pump will use about 3 kWhs of energy to run for an hour while creating 36,000 BTUs. So, for the amount of energy used to run two space heaters for one hour, you could run a central heat pump large enough to heat an 1,800 sq. ft. home. Why the big difference in operating costs? Space heaters are energy hogs and use resistance elements to create heat. A heat pump uses an electric compressor and fans to move heat from one place to another through the refrigeration cycle.



So, what are best practices when it comes to warming your home this winter? As your trusted energy advisor, Tri-County EMC recommends alternative solutions that do not require as much energy. First, open your blinds and drapes to open up your home to direct heat from the sunlight. Add weather-stripping on doors and windows, and caulk the cracks to keep conditioned air inside and outdoor air from leaking into your home. Lastly, you can install recommended levels of insulation to lower heating costs. These tips may seem minor, but when practiced together can save energy.

Visit www.tri-countyemc.com/energy-saving-tips.cms for more information.

RECIPE BOX



COWBOY CAVIAR

Courtesy of Hunter McMichael of Eatonton

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 can black eyed peas, drained
- 1 can corn, drained
- 1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 green bell pepper
- 1 yellow bell pepper
- 1 avocado
- 2 jalapenos
- 1 purple onion
- 1 tomato
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 2 limes, juiced
- Garlic powder
- Chili powder
- Cumin
- Salt and pepper

DIRECTIONS:

In a large serving bowl combine black eyed peas, corn, and black beans. Dice bell peppers, jalapenos (removing seeds for less spice), onion, and tomato. Add to bowl and combine.

In the same bowl, add olive oil, apple cider vinegar, lime juice, and seasonings and mix to combine. Dice and add avocado and gently mix. Serve with tortilla chips (lime flavored are amazing) and enjoy!



Did you know your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to annas@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

SAVE ENERGY, NOT CALORIES

The entire holiday season revolves around food. Whether you're cooking a delicious turkey for Thanksgiving lunch or baking Christmas cookies to leave out for Santa, a lot of time and energy is spent in the kitchen. As we approach the holidays, keep these tips in mind to cut down on your power bill.



Match your pan sizes to the burner you're using. Only large pots and pans should be placed on the large burners because any additional space not being used is a waste of energy. Also keep in mind that quality of your cookware also matters. Thick, stainless steel cookware is great for retaining heat.



Clean your stove top burners and oven regularly. We know the last thing you want to worry about after you've cooked a full meal is cleaning up, but food build-up can affect the amount of energy needed to heat up.



Cook with small counter top appliances, such as toaster oven, when possible. Small appliances use less energy than a full-sized oven. If you do have to use your oven, be sure to keep the door closed. Every time you open the door to have a look at your meal's progress, additional energy is used to replace the lost heat.

From our table to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!



Tri-County
EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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Gray, GA 31032
478.986.8100

www.tri-countyemc.com

Ray Grinberg, CEO

Board of Directors

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

CURRENT LINES

Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members

**Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity
provider and employer**