

HELP WALTON EMC BEAT THE COSTS OF PEAK DEMAND

Avoiding power grid 'rush hour'

Electricity is flowing constantly to supply power to homes and businesses along Walton EMC's lines. Power demand — how much electricity is being used at any given time — varies with the time of day, day of the week and the time of year.

Peak demand is when most members use electricity at the same time. Pete Ervin, Walton EMC's member services specialist, compares peak demand to rush hour traffic on the interstate.

"For a few hours a day, when the cars are bumper-to-bumper, the interstate is at 'peak' demand," he said.

It works the same way for power grids. "When everyone comes home from work and starts cooking dinner, washing and drying clothes, and taking showers, we're creating rush hour for the power system," he added.

In summer, peaks occur on hot afternoons, typically between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Winter peaks most often occur on cold mornings between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Better managing peak demand is key to controlling the co-op's power costs, which keeps electricity affordable for all, Ervin said. Here are simple things you can do to help reduce peak demand.

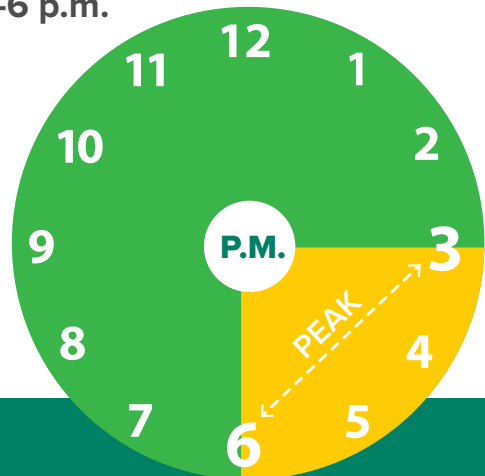
- **Install a smart thermostat.** Set it to raise in the summer and lower in the winter when you leave for the day.
- **Stagger major appliance use.** Use appliances like your dishwasher, clothes washer and dryer, oven and water heater at off-peak times.
- **Use a timer.** Schedule appliances like your dishwasher or pool pump to run when demand isn't at its highest.

“When everyone comes home from work and starts cooking dinner, washing and drying clothes, and taking showers, we’re creating rush hour for the power system.”

—Pete Ervin, member services specialist

PEAK DEMAND TIMES

SUMMER
April–October
3–6 p.m.



WINTER
November–March
6–9 a.m.



EDUCATING ENGINEERS

Walton EMC scholarships contribute to a brighter future

Walton EMC Engineering Leadership Scholarships are contributing to a brighter future for some local students attending the University of Georgia (UGA).

"Thinking about tomorrow is everyday work here at Walton EMC. Along with ensuring a reliable electric grid and keeping rates reasonable, training the next generation of human power must be a priority," said Walton EMC CEO Ron Marshall.

First awarded in 2017, the scholarships were officially endowed with a \$1.3 million gift by Walton EMC in 2021. The donation was initiated by former CEO Ronnie Lee who retired from the co-op last year following 43 years of service. He is a 1970 UGA agricultural engineering graduate.

The gift funds up to five annual awards to outstanding engineering students who maintain permanent residency within Walton EMC's service area. The renewable scholarships cover tuition, fees, books and other expenses.

"The Walton EMC scholarship has honestly changed my life," said Ashleigh Sayles, who grew up along co-op lines in Bogart. She's a senior majoring in mechanical engineering and Spanish with additional certification in electric mobility.

Duluth's Clara You, a junior in mechanical engineering, says the scholarship will allow her to graduate from college debt-free. Senior Mason Autry, of Rutledge, is using the financial aid to earn dual majors in mechanical engineering and German.

Recipient Justin Wu of Duluth, a senior in mechanical engineering, plans to use his education to improve environmental sustainability. "As a low-income student, this scholarship empowers me to pursue my dream of contributing to a cleaner future," he said.

Sixteen local students have received a Walton EMC engineering scholarship since its inception. They are pursuing careers in electrical, biochemical, biological, environmental and mechanical engineering.



Ashleigh Sayles, a graduate of North Oconee High School, is among the current recipients of a Walton EMC Engineering Leadership Scholarship awarded to University of Georgia students who live in the co-op's 10-county service area.



Mason Autry began dreaming of being an engineer when he was a sixth grader. With financial help from Walton EMC, the Rutledge resident is now a senior pursuing dual majors in mechanical engineering and German.

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- Step 1**
Point your phone camera at the QR code.
- Step 2**
Tap the screen to access Walton EMC news online.

quick guide

IF YOUR POWER IS OUT
770.267.2505
waltonemc.com > Report an Outage

WHEN WE'RE AVAILABLE
Power Outages and Emergencies > 24/7
Contact Center > M–F, 7A–7P
Business Offices > M–F, 8A–5P

find us

Monroe 842 US Hwy. 78
Snellville 3645 Lenora Church Rd.
Watkinsville 2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.

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our leaders

President and CEO Ron Marshall
Senior VP Corporate Services Russell DeLong
CFO/Senior VP Finance Marsha Shumate
Senior VP Walton Energy and External Affairs Jim Bottone
VP Engineering and Operations Tim Morris
VP Power Supply Hudson Kingery
Board Chair Michael Lowder
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walton gas

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Lester joins Board



Walton EMC customer-owners have elected Oconee County's Wayne Lester to represent District 4 – Eastville on the co-op's Board of Directors. He fills a seat vacated by longtime director Jim Whitley who retired at the end of his term.

Lester, an accountant with 48 years' experience, is associated with the firm of Williams and Guined, PC of Athens. He has served as a member of the Walton Gas Board since its inception in 2002. An active community volunteer, he previously served as a director for The United Way of Northeast Georgia, Oconee County Warrior Club and Families 4 Change. He and wife Cindy are active members of Prince Avenue Baptist Church in Bogart.

Lester is one of nine board members who represent customer-owners and communities from different geographical districts throughout the co-op's 10-county service area. These democratically elected directors represent their fellow customer-owners in setting policies and general direction for Walton EMC. Directors are elected to three-year terms.

Don't shoot the lines

Georgia's dove hunting season opens on Sept. 7. Walton EMC urges hunters to avoid shooting at or near power lines that often serve as roosting spots for doves. Firing at these lines can cause extensive damage, costing thousands in repairs, leading to higher utility bills. Power lines damaged from a gunshot can also ignite fires and pose electrocution risks to people nearby. Damaging electrical equipment is against the law and could result in criminal charges or financial liability for repair costs. Stay aware of these dangers and think before you shoot.

WALTON EMC IS READY FOR fall storm season

MEMBERS SHOULD PREPARE TOO

This year's wild and wooly hurricane season is expected to peak over the next 60 days. When these storms push inland, they can bring damaging winds and water to Walton EMC's service area.

"Forecasters are expecting an above-average number of storms that could affect many communities and Walton EMC customer-owners this fall," cautioned Tim Morris, vice president of engineering and operations for the co-op.

When strong storms blow through, power outages can follow. Walton EMC employees are ready to respond.

"We work well in advance of hurricane season to make sure we have enough materials stockpiled to repair lines following a major storm," Morris said. "We make it a point to have extra power poles, transformers and wire available to replace damaged lines and restart the power flowing as quickly and safely as possible."

The co-op also has a plan for obtaining extra help to restore power should the need arise. Thanks to longstanding mutual aid agreements with other member-owned electric co-ops in the state and region, additional electric linemen are always on standby to travel to the area and assist with restoration work.

"Electric co-ops pull together during emergencies and times of crisis," said Morris. "If our power lines are hit hard from a storm, we know we can depend on fellow co-op linemen to give us a hand in restoring service. It's the co-op way."

BE PREPARED

Walton EMC customer-owners are likewise urged to prepare for the stormy season. Use this checklist to protect your family when severe weather is in the forecast.



Visit Walton EMC's Storm Center at waltonemc.com for comprehensive information on preparing for and coping with power outages, including tips for medically fragile patients, generators, food spoilage, storm safety and power restoration.

EARLY PREPARATION

- **Make an emergency plan.** Identify your safe space and let every family member know their role in case of emergency.
- **Know your family's medical needs.** If you or a family member require electricity to power medically necessary equipment, be sure to have a plan in case of power failure. This equipment may need battery backup or a generator to function.
- **Prepare an emergency storm kit.** Have an easily accessible storm kit with household essentials such as food, water, medications, flashlights, batteries and a weather radio.

AS THE STORM APPROACHES

- **Protect your home.** Secure windows and doors and move loose items inside.
- **Fill your tank.** It is always good to fill your car with gasoline in preparation for a lengthy outage. This can serve as another charging source for your devices while your home is without power.
- **Activate your medical plan.** Now is the time to charge battery backup devices for medically necessary equipment. Alternately, consider temporarily relocating to an area less likely to lose power due to the storm.
- **Stay updated.** Keep up with storm news for your area with weather apps, local TV stations and websites like weather.gov. Follow Walton EMC's Facebook page for timely updates before and after a storm.
- **Know how to report outages.** If you experience an outage, report it by calling 770-267-2505, online at waltonemc.com or via the **myWaltonEMC** mobile app. Electronic reports are the fastest way to get your information to the co-op. Have a copy of your electric bill handy to reference account information that may be requested.

NO POWER? HERE'S HOW TO REPORT IT



Online
Visit waltonemc.com and click Outage to report from a mobile device or computer.



App
Download the **MyWaltonEMC app** and follow the directions for submitting an outage report.



Phone
Call 770-267-2505 and follow the voice prompt. Be prepared to enter the correct telephone number at the location of the outage.

WATCH OUR STORM PREP VIDEO



DIY diggers: Don't forget 811

Georgia's autumn days are ideal for diving into outdoor home improvement projects like planting landscaping or installing a new mailbox. If your plans involve digging, don't forget to contact 811 before picking up a shovel.

"Digging without knowing the approximate location of underground utilities can result in serious injuries, service disruptions and costly repairs when electric, natural gas, communications, water and sewer lines are damaged," said Brad Adcock, Walton EMC's director of safety.

Walton EMC customer-owners are encouraged to call 811 or visit georgia811.com to submit a line location request at least three days before digging. Professional locators will visit the dig site and mark the approximate location of underground utility lines with spray paint or flags, indicating the location of underground utility lines to avoid.

For more details, visit georgia811.com.

Walton EMC Invests in Youth with D.C. Leadership Experience

Four high school students representing Walton EMC were among the 1,800 teens participating in this year's Washington Youth Tour, a week-long leadership and citizenship development experience in the nation's capital. The purpose of the Youth Tour is to help electric cooperatives promote stronger communities and a stronger nation by giving young people the ability and desire to make meaningful, lifelong contributions to their communities.

Applications for the all-expenses-paid 2025 Washington Youth Tour are available mid-October at waltonemc.com.



Representing Walton EMC at the 2024 Washington Youth Tour are, from left, Vy Nguyen, North Oconee High School; Matthew Bovenkerk, Walnut Grove High School; Rahul Mohanty, North Oconee High School and Hailey Mott, Loganville High School.