

Mitchell



EMC

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The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
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Proudly supporting
Breast Cancer Awareness Month



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A Community Partner Since 1937

Mitchell EMC Celebrates *National Cooperative Month*

October is National Cooperative Month, and Mitchell EMC – and all co-ops across the U.S. – are celebrating the benefits and values that cooperatives bring to their members and communities.

While co-ops operate in many industries and sectors of the economy, seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member’s economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

“Today, people prefer options and alternatives to ‘big box’ businesses,” says Tony Tucker, President/CEO. “The co-op business model is unique and rooted in our local communities. Co-ops help us build a more participatory, sustainable, and resilient economy.”

Mitchell EMC is proud to be part of America’s cooperative network, which includes more than 47,000 cooperative businesses.

Electric co-ops provide power for many Georgians, with 41 electric co-ops serving 1,637,030 members.

Mitchell EMC is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts and public power districts serving 42 million people in 47 states.

To learn more about Mitchell EMC, visit www.mitchellemc.com.

41 electric co-ops
Serving 1,637,030 members



Start saving with a DIY home energy audit

By Anne Prince

As temperatures begin to drop and your energy focus turns from cooling your home to heating it, consider using this time to increase energy efficiency and cost savings for the colder months ahead. Whether your home is old or new, chances are you are spending more on energy costs than necessary.

Armed with some basic knowledge and a little time, you can conduct a baseline energy audit of your home to identify where you are losing energy (and money). Use a checklist and take notes on problems you find as you walk through your home. Remember, the audit itself won't save you money unless you act on your findings.

DIY 101

So, where to start? If your home has multiple levels, work from the top down. Begin in your attic or highest floor, and work your way down to the first floor or basement.

- **Insulation and air leaks (drafts)** – According to the Department of Energy, improving your home's insulation and sealing air leaks are the fastest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste and make the most of your energy dollars. Check to see whether there is sufficient insulation in the attic. Are openings containing piping, ductwork and chimney sealed?

- **Electronic devices** – Inventory all of the electronic devices you have and how often you use them. Computers, printers, DVD players, phones and

gaming consoles are notorious “vampire power” users – they drain energy even when not in use. If items can be turned off without disrupting your lifestyle, consider plugging them into a power strip that can be turned on and off (or put on a timer).

- **Lighting** – Note where you still have incandescent lights. Can you replace them with CFL or LED upgrades? Do you have nightlights? If so, consider replacing them with LED nightlights. Are there places where you can install motion sensor lights in low use areas, such as a closet, porch or garage?

- **Thermostat/indoor temperature** – Do you have a programmable thermostat? When was the last time it was programmed? Is the date and time correct? If they are not, this could throw off the automatic settings. Is it set so the temperature is lower during the day and/or times when no one is home and at night when people are sleeping? Consider lowering the temperature a few degrees.

- **Appliances and cleaning** – Appliances are large energy users, and if yours are more than 10 years old, they are likely not as energy efficient as today's options. How and when you use them also make a difference. Do you wash your clothes in hot water, or can you use cold water instead? Do you use your washer, dryer or dishwasher during the day? Consider running them at night, during off-peak times. Does your hot water heater have a blanket? If not, consider insulating it. Make sure your dryer vent isn't blocked – this will not only save energy, it may also prevent a fire.

Evaluation

Once you have completed the audit, take a look at the findings. Prioritize actions that you can take based on your time and budget, weighing where you can get the most impact for your investment. Increasing your home's energy efficiency will make your family comfortable while saving you money.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



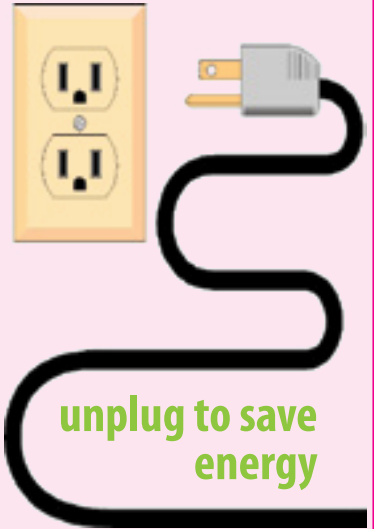
Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

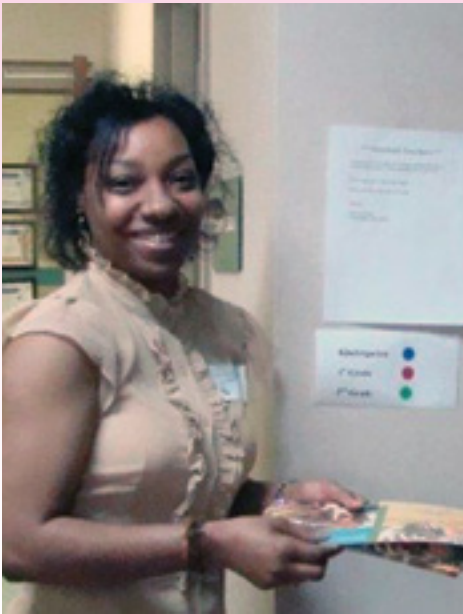


Don't let vampires suck the life out of your energy efficiency efforts! Unplugging unused electronics – otherwise known as “energy vampires” – can save you as much as 10 percent on your electric bill.

Source: energy.gov



Employee SPOTLIGHT



Tijauna Hamilton is Mitchell EMC's October Employee Spotlight. Tijauna is a Customer Service Representative in the Sylvester District Office, and has been employed with MEMC for 15 years.

As a lifelong resident of Worth County, Tijauna has the advantage of already knowing quite a few of our members that reside in our service area.

One of my most memorable events at MEMC was our first year participating with Relay for Life at the Duck Pond in Sylvester. I enjoyed working with fellow co-workers who came together for a good cause and a night of fun. MEMC was recognized for its participation and fundraising in the community. Many thanks to retiree Laura Zethmayr and Glen McCrary our co-worker who passed away from cancer.

In her spare time Tijauna enjoys spending time with her family and friends.



Note: *If you move or no longer have electric service with Mitchell EMC, it is important that members keep their address current, so that future disbursements can be properly mailed. Capital credits are reserved for members even if they move out of the Mitchell EMC service area. Mitchell EMC will make a diligent effort to send a check by mail.*

Statement of Equal Employment Opportunity

All applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), age, national origin, disability, genetic information, or past or present military status. The employment practices shall ensure equal treatment of all employees, without discrimination as to promotion, discharge, rates of pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, disability, age, genetic information, or past or present military status. M/F/V/DV/D

WATT'S COOKING



HALLOWEEN BARK

12-14 orange and black sandwich cookies,
broken up into large chunks
1 cup pretzels, broken into pieces
1 lb. almond bark or white chocolate melts
1 1/2 cups candy corn
20-30 candy eyeballs
1-2 tablespoons of a variety of Halloween
food sprinkles

Directions:

1. Melt almond bark according to package. Stir frequently to prevent burning.
2. In the meantime, cover a large cookie sheet with wax paper or parchment paper. Spread broken cookies, pretzels and about 1 cup of the candy corn onto the prepared cookie sheet.
3. Drizzle the melted chocolate over the cookie mixture, spreading with spatula to coat evenly.
4. Quickly sprinkle remaining candy corn, candy eyeballs and food sprinkles over the almond bark while it is still wet. Place cookie tray into refrigerator until set and firm.

Source: familyfreshmeals.com

Share & Win!

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can win a **\$25 credit** on your next Mitchell EMC bill.

Send recipes to Heather Greene, P.O. Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.