

Mitchell EMC



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

Mitchell EMC Scholarship Opportunities Available

Mitchell EMC is proud to offer two (2) scholarship opportunities for the youth of our area. We are currently accepting applications for the Walter Harrison Scholarship and our Operation Round Up Scholarships. Application forms and criteria can be found on our web site, www.mitchellemc.com.

Walter Harrison Scholarships:

- Mr. Walter Harrison was a pioneer in the electric industry in Georgia, and this scholarship is named in his honor and memory.
- It is a statewide \$1,000 scholarship.
- Scholarships are awarded based on academic achievement and financial need.
- Application deadline is **February 1, 2020**.



Operation Round Up Scholarships:

- Funds for these scholarships are provided by consumer participation in the Operation Round Up program at Mitchell EMC.
- A maximum of fifteen (15) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors and/or college/technical school students.
- Scholarships are awarded based on **"All Around Student Performance"** including academic performance, volunteerism, and participation in school, church and community activities. Financial need is also considered.
- Application deadline is **March 1, 2020**.



Please note that the scholarships have different deadlines and should be mailed to different addresses listed on the scholarship form. We encourage students to apply for both scholarships. Applications will be judged by an independent scholarship committee, and winners will be notified by May 1.

Three DIY Efficiency Projects for 2020

By Abby Berry

A New Year brings new opportunities to save energy—and money. You may think energy efficiency upgrades require a great deal of time and expense, but that's not always the case.

If you're interested in making your home more efficient but don't want to break the bank, there are several DIY projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let's take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save energy throughout the year.

Trim Dryer Vent

Level of difficulty: *easy.*

Supplies needed: *tin snips, gloves, measuring tape and masking tape.*
Estimated Cost: *about \$25 depending on the supplies you already have.*

If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line—it should not have a lot of slack, with twists and curves. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint buildup, which can create potential fire hazards.

Simply measure, mark and trim the hose to the desired

length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent. If you're unsure about the hose length, check out YouTube.com for a quick video tutorial.

Seal Air Leaks

Level of difficulty: *moderate.*

Supplies needed: *caulk and caulk gun, weather stripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels.*
Estimated Cost: *\$25 to \$50 depending on the materials you purchase.*

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10% to 20% on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing to seal in conditioned air. You should also weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Types of caulking and weather stripping materials vary, but ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need. For more information, the Department of Energy provides step-by-step instructions for caulking and weather stripping: <https://bit.ly/2Kesu6W>

Insulate Attic Stairs Opening

Level of difficulty: *moderate.*

Supplies needed (if you build the box yourself): *rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood.*
Estimated Cost: *\$50 to \$100.*



A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home, but many homeowners don't consider insulating the attic stairs, or the opening to your attic space. Even a well-insulated attic can leak air through the stair opening, but luckily, there's an easy fix.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a local home improvement store like Home Depot or Lowe's for about \$60. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>. It should also be noted, if your attic opening is located in a garage that you do not heat and cool, this upgrade will not be as effective.

Saving energy doesn't have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

Source: energy.gov



A+ Educator

WALB and Mitchell EMC have teamed up to award “A+ Educators” in South Georgia. Every month, one outstanding educator who is making a difference in the lives of their students and communities will be selected.

Jean Beck, a math teacher at Pelham High School, was named WALB’s A+ Educator for October.

To nominate a well deserving teacher, please visit the contest tab on WALB’s website and complete the form.



Exceptional Safety Practices Earn Statewide Recognition for Mitchell EMC

Working with electricity is inherently dangerous, but the electric utility industry has developed robust safety protocols that are employed in the field, in warehouses and in offices so that everyone can practice safety at work.

For its part to encourage zero injuries and zero lost-time accidents, Mitchell EMC recently received accreditation for its safety practices from the Electric Cooperative Safety Accreditation Program of Georgia. The award is based on the utility’s safety record and safety programs over the last three years, says Harry Reeves, Georgia EMC’s vice president of Training, Education & Safety.

“Georgia’s EMCs take the subject of workplace safety very seriously, making sure they do everything possible to keep workers and members of the public safe,” says Reeves. “Achieving accreditation shows that a cooperative is taking the right precautions and teaching the right lessons to stress safety on the job.”

The accreditation process is comprised of two primary components: record keeping and a multi-day on-site visit. The recordkeeping portion consists of a check of a cooperative’s safety records and its adherence to safety programs and regulations from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

“A rigorous inspection process ensures that EMC employees are following the proper safety protocols in the office and in the field to keep themselves, co-workers and the general public safe,” Reeves says.

During the on-site inspection, observers visit the main office, warehouse and district offices as well as the utility’s service area. Inspectors make sure that equipment used by cooperative employees--everything from rubber goods and fiberglass-insulated sticks used to handle live wires to utility trucks--is in compliance with testing protocols. Inspectors include personnel from accredited EMCs and

the Electric Cooperative Training Center.

The inspection process also includes criteria to determine whether the cooperative is keeping the public safe. Observers inspect public rights of way, utility poles, and overhead and underground wiring to ensure that proper utility practices are being followed.

Dr. Charles Gilbert of Mitchell EMC says that safety is ingrained in the culture of the organization.

“This award shows the commitment we make to safety,” says Dr. Gilbert. “We live it, we breathe it, and we practice it day in and day out to better serve our members and protect our employees.”

The Safety Accreditation Award was presented to Mitchell EMC during the Annual Meeting of Georgia EMC on Nov. 11 in Savannah. Georgia EMC developed its own accreditation program for member cooperatives in order to tailor to their members’ safety practices.

Mitchell EMC is one of 15 EMCs to receive the ESCAP accreditation which is effective for three years. Georgia EMCs undergo accreditation on a rotating basis.

Mitchell EMC is a consumer owned cooperative providing electricity and related services to approximately 15,830 members in 14 counties.

Georgia EMC is the statewide trade association representing the state’s 41 electric cooperatives, Oglethorpe Power Corp., Georgia Transmission Corp. and Georgia System Operations Corp. Through this statewide network, the EMCs provide electricity and related services to 4.4 million people, nearly half of Georgia’s population, across 73 percent of the state’s land area. To learn more, visit www.georgiaemc.com and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

Employee SPOTLIGHT



Brandi Smith is Mitchell EMC's January Employee Spotlight. Brandi is an Accountant II in the Camilla District Office and has been employed with MEMC for 6 years.

When she is not on the job, Brandi enjoys spending time with her family and friends, exploring the family farm with her boys, baking and reading. Three words to describe Brandi are honest, hard-working and compassionate. She also enjoys singing in the car. Brandi is married to Cory Smith and they have two sons Walker and Hartley. Brandi and Cory recently moved into a 1950s farmhouse that they have spent the last year remodeling.

Her favorite part about working for Mitchell EMC is the family atmosphere.

Mitchell EMC Recognized as "Partner of the Year"

Mitchell EMC is honored to be recognized as the Dougherty County School Systems "Partner of the Year." Rhonda Ragan Wood and Tye Piercey accepted the award on behalf of Mitchell EMC. Both employees work in the Albany District Office. Mitchell EMC is proud to support the communities we serve.



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



Taco Bean Soup

Ingredients:

1 pound lean ground meat
½ jar mild taco sauce
1 package of taco seasoning
1 (15oz) can Fire Roasted Diced Tomatoes
1 (15oz) can Tri-Bean Blend
1 can of water (use the bean can)
¼ cup chopped onions
1 tsp minced or fresh garlic
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Brown meat in skillet, add taco seasoning using direction on the seasoning package. Simmer until thick, add onions, garlic, and mild taco sauce, fire roasted tomatoes, beans and water. Add salt and pepper to taste. Simmer for about 30 minutes. If you want it thick, simmer more or if you want a soup add a little more water. The longer you let it simmer the more flavors you will have. Eat with tacos or corn chips. It is great the next day too.

Thanks!
to

Deborah Posey,

Worth County, GA, for sharing this recipe.

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.