VOL. 61 NO. 1 • JANUARY 2024

Mitchell EMC

The news you need to know in 5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

Happy New Year!

Mitchell EMC's offices will be closed on January 1.

Scholarship Opportunities

Walter Harrison Scholarship Due in the Camilla Office by Feb. 1st

Mitchell EMC is pleased to be a part of helping our members pursue their dream of a college education. We annually offer the prestigious Walter Harrison Scholarship, a program sponsored by the EMCs of Georgia. The $1,000 scholarship can be used to defray educational costs at any accredited two- or four-year university, college or vocational-technical institute in Georgia. | *Continued on Page 3.*

Operation RoundUp Scholarship Due to Community Foundation of South Georgia by March 1st

What better way to invest in the future than by investing in the outstanding youth of our communities? Mitchell EMC Members who enroll in Operation Round-Up are doing exactly that by providing scholarships to deserving students. Participating members allow us to round their electric bills up to the nearest whole dollar amount. Though it may not seem like much, those funds added together make a huge positive difference in our local community. | *Continued on Page 3.*

Beginner's Guide to the Electric Grid

By Maura Giles

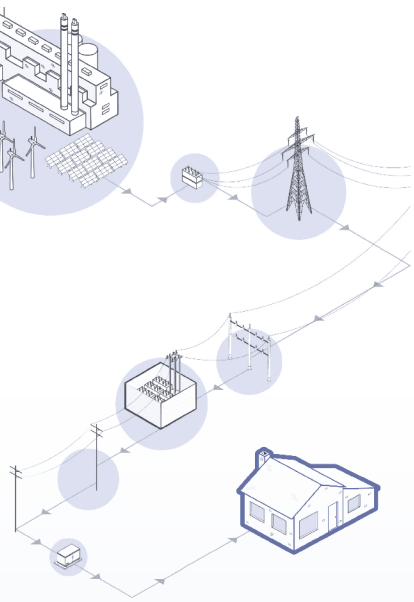
Electricity plays an essential role in everyday life.

It powers our homes, offices, hospitals and schools. We depend on it to keep us warm in the winter (and cool in the summer), charge our phones and binge our favorite TV shows. If the power goes out, even briefly, our lives can be disrupted.

The system that delivers your electricity is often described as the most complex machine in the world, and it's known as the electric grid.

What makes it so complex? We all use different amounts of electricity throughout the day, so the supply and demand for electricity is constantly changing. For example, we typically use more electricity in the mornings when we're starting our day, and in the evenings when we're cooking dinner and using appliances. Severe weather and other factors also impact how much electricity we need.

The challenge for electric providers is to plan for, produce and purchase enough electricity so it's available exactly when we need it. Too much or too little electricity in one place can cause problems. So, to make sure the whole system stays balanced, the electric grid must adjust in real time to changes and unforeseen events.



At its core, the electric grid is a network of power lines, transformers, substations and other infrastructure that span the entire country. But it's not just a singular system. It's divided into three major interconnected grids: the Eastern Interconnection, the Western Interconnection and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. These grids operate independently but are linked to allow electricity to be transferred between regions when backup support is required.

Within the three regions, seven balancing authorities known as independent system operators (ISOs) or regional transmission organizations (RTOs) monitor the grid, signaling to power plants when more electricity is needed to maintain a balanced electrical flow. ISOs and RTOs are like traffic controllers for electricity.

The journey of electricity begins at power plants.

Power plants can be thought of as factories that make electricity using various energy sources, like natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear energy. Across the U.S., more than 11,000 power plants deliver electricity to the grid.

Mitchell EMC receives power from our generation and transmission (G&T) co-op, Oglethorpe Power Corporation. We work closely with Oglethorpe Power Corporation to provide electricity at the lowest cost possible. Being part of a G&T benefits members like you by placing ownership and control in the hands of your co-op, prioritizing affordability and reliability, supporting local economic development and fostering a sense of community.

To get the electricity from power plants to you, we need a transportation system.

High-voltage transmission lines act as the highways for electricity, transporting power over long distances. These lines are supported by massive towers and travel through vast landscapes, connecting power plants to electric substations.

Substations are like pit stops along the highway, where the voltage of electricity is adjusted. They play a crucial role in managing power flow and ensuring that electricity is safe for use in homes and businesses.

Once the electricity is reduced to the proper voltage, it travels through distribution power lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road. Distribution lines carry electricity from substations to homes, schools and businesses. Distribution transformers, which look like metal buckets on the tops of power poles or large green boxes on the ground, further reduce the voltage to levels suitable for household appliances and electronic devices.

After traveling through transformers, electricity reaches you––to power everyday life.

We're proud to be your local, trusted energy provider. From the time it's created to the time it's used, electricity travels great distances to be available at the flip of a switch. That's what makes the electric grid our nation's most complex machine––and one of our nation's greatest achievements.

See related graphic on back page of this newsletter.

Maura Giles writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing nearly 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% of the nation's landscape.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

Source: energystar.gov

Walter Harrison Scholarship | Continued

To be eligible for consideration, students must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program, complete the two-page Walter Harrison application, and write a two-page autobiographical sketch with references to future plans and goals. Students applying for this scholarship MUST live in a house that receives electric service from Mitchell EMC.

Entries received will be forwarded from Mitchell EMC to the Statewide Competition. The statewide scholarship selection committee is comprised of EMC Directors and Managers from across Georgia. ***Please do not alter the original application. All submissions must be on Georgia EMC Application Forms. Walter Harrison Scholarship Applications must be submitted to Mitchell EMC. Applications must be submitted directly to Mitchell EMC by postal service or at one of our office locations. Incomplete applications or applications received AFTER the due date of February 1st will NOT be considered.***

Operation RoundUp Scholarship | Continued

A maximum of ten (10) renewable scholarships will be awarded on an annual basis. Scholarships will be $2,500 per semester, twice a year, for up to four years to assist in attaining an undergraduate degree from a post-secondary institution in the United States. After the first Semester, the monies for subsequent semesters will be issued provided that students have submitted prior semester grades to verify they have maintained a minimum GPA of 2.5 and continue to be enrolled as a full-time student.

Applicants must be a graduating high school senior, or a student currently enrolled in or attending a post-secondary college, technical college, or university in the United States, and that has attained at least a 2.5 GPA. The applicant, their parent(s), or legal guardian(s) must have their primary residence or a place of business in the Mitchell EMC Service Area. Preference will be given to Mitchell EMC consumers. However, further consideration will be given based on financial need, academic achievement, extracurricular school activities or employment, community service, and leadership qualities.

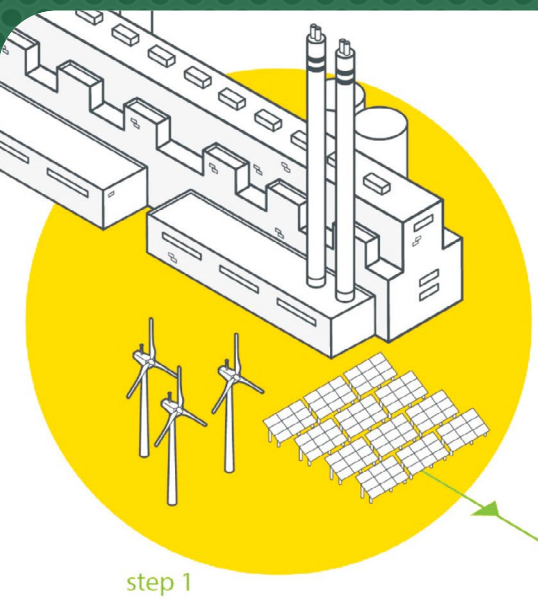
Applications are available at: The Community Foundation of South Georgia, P.O.Box 2654, Thomasville, Ga. 31799 or visit our website for application. ***Please do not alter the original application. Incomplete applications or applications received AFTER the due date of March 1st will NOT be considered. Applications must be submitted to the Community Foundation of South Georgia.***

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.

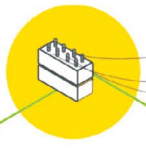
Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

CRITICAL CONNECTIONS: HOW ELECTRICITY GETS TO YOU

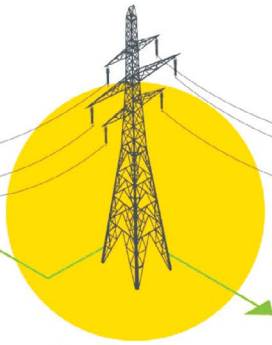
The electric grid is considered one of the most complex machines in the world, delivering the electricity we need for everyday life.



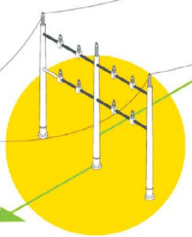
step 1
GENERATION
Power plants generate electricity using a variety of energy sources, like solar, natural gas, nuclear and wind energy.



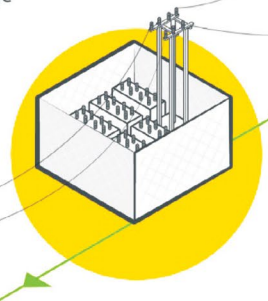
step 2
STEP-UP TRANSFORMER
A step-up transformer increases the voltage to push the electricity over long distances.



step 3
TRANSMISSION LINES
High-voltage electricity travels over long distances through these lines.

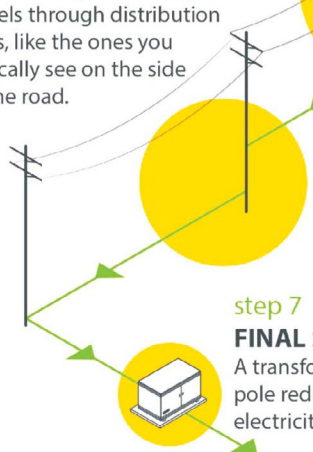


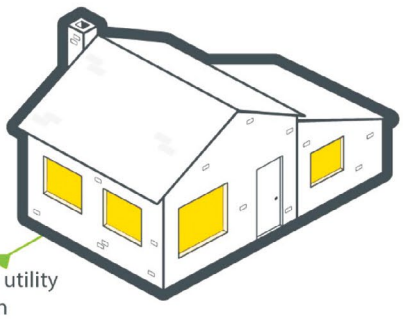
step 4
TRANSMISSION SUBSTATION
Voltage is lowered at a transmission substation so electricity can travel across the local distribution system.



step 5
DISTRIBUTION SUBSTATION
These substations lower the voltage again so the electricity is ready to travel on distribution lines.

step 6
DISTRIBUTION LINES
Lower-voltage electricity travels through distribution lines, like the ones you typically see on the side of the road.





step 7
FINAL STOP
A transformer located on the ground or a utility pole reduces the voltage a final time, then electricity is sent inside your home, school or business.

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 applications 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

Southern Fried Cabbage

Ingredients

⅓ cup vegetable oil
3 slices bacon, cut into thirds
1 teaspoon salt, or to taste
1 teaspoon ground black pepper, or to taste
1 head cabbage, cored and sliced
1 white onion, chopped
1 pinch white sugar

Directions

Heat oil in a large pot over medium heat; add bacon and season with salt and pepper. Cook until bacon is crisp, 5 to 7 minutes. Add cabbage, onion, and sugar; cook and stir continuously until cabbage and onion are tender, about 5 to 10 minutes.

Submitted by:
www.allrecipes.com/recipe/73833/southern-fried-cabbage/

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.