



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

Pelham Middle School Participates in Solar Sprint Race

Mitchell EMC, through its affiliate Green Power EMC, promotes awareness, as well as produces Green Energy. Through the Sun Power for Schools Program, Mitchell EMC partnered with Pelham Middle School to provide educational materials used in classrooms to educate students about Green Energy and its impact on our environment. The solar sprint car allows students the opportunity to build a sprint car powered by the sun.

On May 19, 2017, Pelham Middle School sixth grade students took part in the solar sprint. The fastest car went to the team of Keonta Battle and Oscar Morales. Silas Smith and Hunter McManus took home the award for most original design. The students worked with their sixth grade science teacher Ms. Brittany Forrest to design their cars before the competition. The students worked in teams of two. The only stipulation the students had was that the car must work. They had freedom in design and originality. A total of 120 students participated in the event.



"This partnership is one of the ways that Mitchell EMC gives back to the communities that we serve," says Mitchell EMC CEO Tony Tucker.



After a major power outage

The steps to restoring power

Step 1. Transmission towers and lines supply power to one or more transmission substations. These lines seldom fail, but they can be damaged by a hurricane or tornado. Tens of thousands of people could be served by one high-voltage transmission line, so if there is damage here it gets attention first.

Step 2. A co-op may have several local distribution substations, each serving thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, the local distribution substations are checked first. A problem here could be caused by failure in the transmission system supplying the substation. If the problem can be corrected at the substation level, power may be restored to a large number of people.

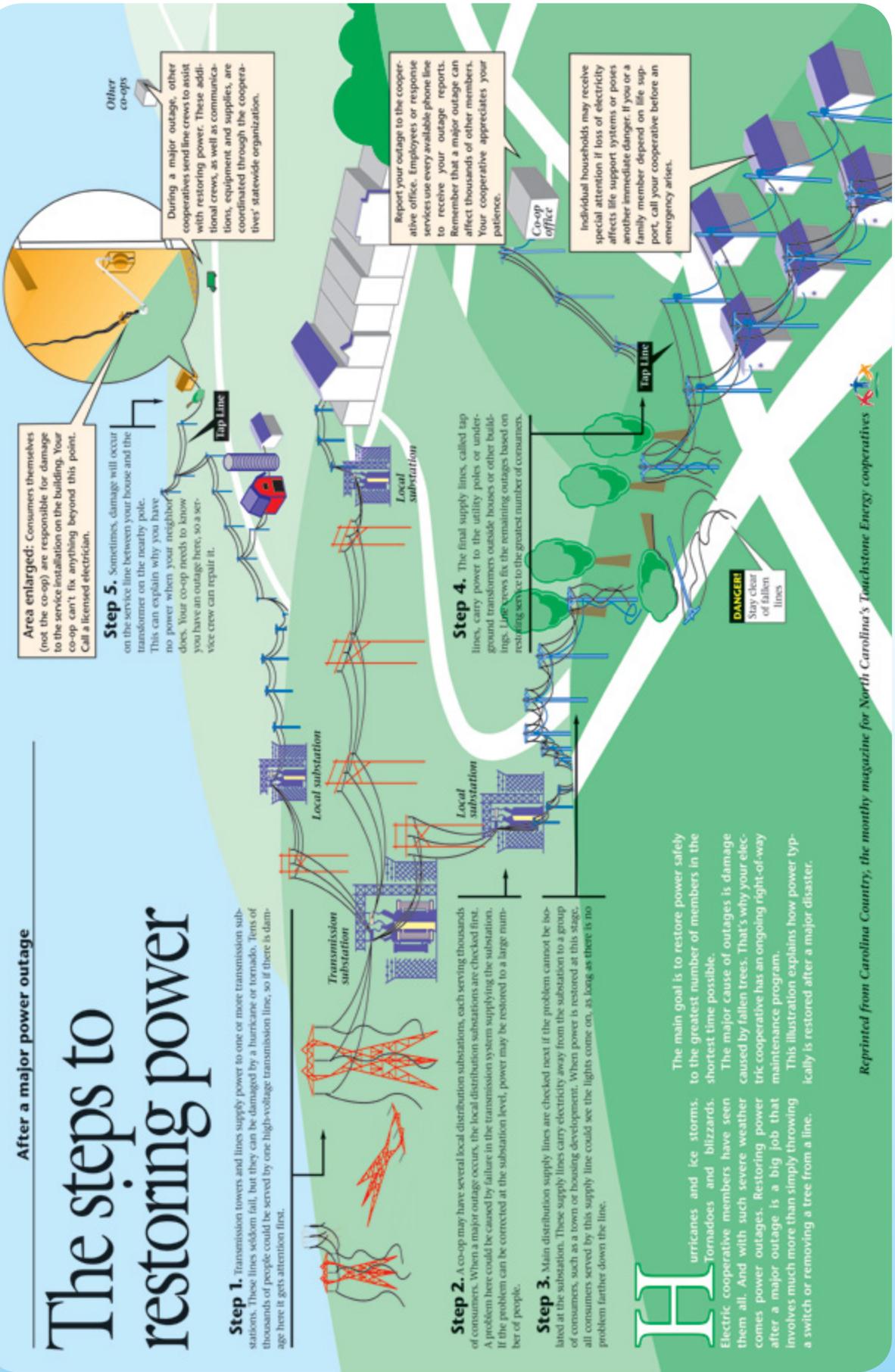
Step 3. Main distribution supply lines are checked next if the problem cannot be isolated at the substations. These supply lines carry electricity away from the substation to a group of consumers, such as a town or housing development. When power is restored at this stage, all consumers served by this supply line could see the lights come on, as long as there is no problem farther down the line.

Hurricanes and ice storms. Tornadoes and blizzards. Electric cooperative members have seen them all. And with such severe weather comes power outages. Restoring power after a major outage is a big job that involves much more than simply throwing a switch or removing a tree from a line.

The main goal is to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible.

The major cause of outages is damage caused by fallen trees. That's why your electric cooperative has an ongoing right-of-way maintenance program.

This illustration explains how power typically is restored after a major disaster.



Area enlarged: Consumers themselves (not the co-op) are responsible for damage to the service installation on the building. Your co-op can't fix anything beyond this point. Call a licensed electrician.

Step 5. Sometimes, damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on the nearby pole. This can explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. Your co-op needs to know you have an outage here, so a service crew can repair it.

During a major outage, other cooperatives send line crews to assist with restoring power. These additional crews, as well as communications, equipment and supplies, are coordinated through the cooperatives' statewide organization.

Report your outage to the cooperative office. Employees or responsive services use every available phone line to receive your outage reports. Remember that a major outage can affect thousands of other members. Your cooperative appreciates your patience.

Individual households may receive special attention if loss of electricity affects life support systems or poses another immediate danger. If you or a family member depend on life support, call your cooperative before an emergency arises.

Step 4. The final supply lines, called tap lines, carry power to the utility poles or underground transformers outside houses or other buildings. Line crews fix the remaining outages based on restoring service to the greatest number of consumers.

DANGER
Stay clear of fallen lines

EMC LEADERS MEET ON CAPITOL HILL

Staff with Mitchell EMC recently met in Washington, D.C. for the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference.

During April 23-25, approximately 150 EMC leaders from Georgia joined a contingent of 2,000 directors, managers and representatives from electric cooperatives across the country to educate members of Congress and administration officials on legislative issues affecting electric cooperative member-owners.

“EMCs play an important role in the communities we serve, and we’re committed to the same fundamental mission--empowering our consumer-owners and supporting policies that promote affordable and reliable electricity,” said Chad Carden with Mitchell EMC.

“Advocating for our members doesn’t stop at the edge of our service territory. It is critically important that our elected leaders keep cooperatives in mind when crafting laws and regulations that impact us.”

This year, the EMCs in Georgia met with U.S. Senators David Perdue and Johnny Isakson and members of Georgia’s congressional delegation. Mitchell EMC joined others in educating policymakers on the unique benefits of the locally-controlled, consumer-owned, cooperative business structure and urged lawmakers to support initiatives in five key areas:

- **Energy Tax Incentives** – A bill introduced by Tom Reed (R-NY) and Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) to help co-op members save energy and money by extending tax credits for highly-efficient geothermal heat pumps.



- **Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Electric Loan Program** – Maintain current funding levels which provide affordable capital to electric cooperatives for infrastructure development.

- **The Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act**, introduced by Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) and Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR), to ensure grid reliability and reduce the risk of fires and fire hazards on utility rights-of-way on federally-owned lands.

- **Endangered Species Act Reform** – Make the process of determining threatened or endangered species more transparent, effective and less costly.

- **Rural Broadband** – Continue to further efforts to close the broadband gap in rural communities by assuring that rural broadband expansion is included as part of any infrastructure spending plan as well as making necessary modifications to existing federal rural broadband programs to ensure these programs are working as they should.

Mitchell EMC is a consumer owned cooperative providing electricity and related services to over 15,000 members in 14 Counties.

Georgia EMC is the statewide trade association representing the state’s 41 EMCs, Oglethorpe Power Corp., Georgia Transmission Corp. and Georgia System Operations Corp. Collectively, Georgia’s customer-owned 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.

The NRECA is the national service organization that represents the nation’s more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Setting your thermostat to a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



Be Prepared and Keep Safe

Storm Watch

How to prepare your family and property for severe weather

Outside

- Trim dead or weak branches from surrounding trees. Do not leave them for curbside pickup during a storm watch.
- Moor boat securely, store it upside down against a wall or move it to a safer place. Remove canvas, anchor a boat trailer with strong rope.
- Protect your windows with custom-fit shutters or ½-inch plywood. Check with your local building inspector.
- Keep roof drains clear.
- If you live in a flood-prone area, elevate or move structures to higher ground.
- Bring indoors objects that may be blown or swept away, such as lawn furniture, trash cans, children's toys, garden equipment, clotheslines and hanging plants.
- Lower water level in pool 6 inches. Add extra chlorine tablets. Add extra chlorine equipment and treat any exposed filter pumps with a waterproof covering.
- Plan how to take care of your pets. Leave them with a friend. If you must evacuate, it is best to take your pets with you, but most shelters will not allow them. Large animals in barns should have plenty of food and water.

Inside

- Store valuables in a waterproof container at the highest point in your home.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks, and toilets with clean water in case power goes out.
- Make two photocopies of vital documents and keep the originals in a safe deposit box. Keep one copy in a safe place in the house and give the second copy to someone out-of-town. Vital documents include birth and marriage certificates, tax records, credit card numbers, financial records, wills and trusts.
- Install smoke alarms on each level of your home, especially near bedrooms. Use the test button to test them once a month. Replace batteries at least once a year.
- Take down outdoor antennas, after unplugging them.

Resource Information

**American Red Cross
Federal Emergency
Management Agency (FEMA)**
500 C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20472
Phone: (800) 480-3520
www.fema.gov

**American Red Cross
Attn: Public Inquiry Office**
431 18th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone: (202) 639-3520
www.redcross.org

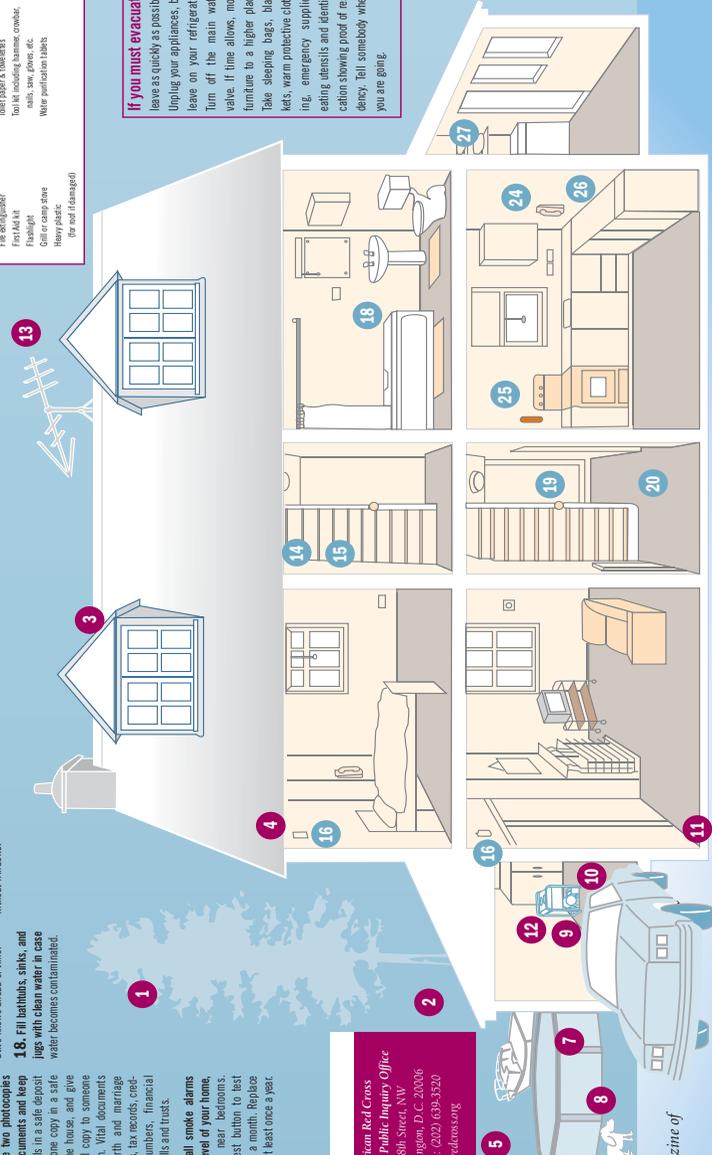
- Plan home escape routes. Find two ways out of each room.
- Check and protect objects that could cause harm during a bad storm: bookshelves, hanging pictures, gas appliances, chemicals.
- Write and videotape an inventory of your home, garage, and surrounding property. Include information such as serial numbers, make and model numbers, physical descriptions, and price of purchases (receipts, if possible). Store a copy somewhere away from home, such as in a safe deposit box.
- Teach all responsible family members how and when to turn off the water, gas, and electricity at the main switches or valves. Keep a wrench near gas and water shut-off valves.
- Turn off utilities only if you suspect a leak or damaged lines, or if you are instructed to do so by authorities.
- Keep a portable, battery-operated radio or television and extra batteries.
- Post emergency telephone numbers.
- Show adult family members where your fire extinguishers are and how they work.
- Make a plan for family members to reunite if separated (if children are at school and adults are at work). Designate an out-of-state relative or friend as a contact person and make sure every body in the family knows how to reach the person.

A Disaster Supply Kit (recommended by the American Red Cross)

Have enough disaster supplies for 2 weeks ready. Keep items in airtight plastic bags. Replace stored food and water every six months. Refresh your kit and family needs at least once a year. (Replace batteries, update clothes, etc.) Ask your physician or pharmacist about storing prescription medications.

Emergency food & drinking water
At least one change of clothes
Baby food, diapers & formula
Medicines, glasses or contact lens supplies
Medical supplies
Personal identification
Pet food
Cash & credit cards
Phone numbers of places you could go
Plastic trash bags
Radio (battery-operated or TV)
Rope (100 ft.)
Tools (shovel, pry bar & hammer)
Saw & pliers
Shovel
Shoeshoer
Shower stool
Fire extinguisher
Toilet paper & tissues
First Aid kit
Flashlight
Gill or camp stove
Heavy plastic
If not fit (stuffed)

If you must evacuate
leave as quickly as possible.
Unplug your appliances, but leave on your refrigerator.
Turn off the main water valve. If time allows, move furniture to a higher place.
Take sleeping bags, blankets, warm protective clothing, emergency supplies, eating utensils and identification showing proof of residency. Tell somebody where you are going.



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

Reprinted from Carolina Country, the monthly magazine of North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives.

WATT'S COOKING



Smothered Green Beans

Ingredients:

5 (15-oz) cans green beans, drained
1 lb. bacon
2/3 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup butter, melted
1/4 cup low-sodium soy sauce
1-1/2 tsp. garlic powder

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Pour drained green beans in an ungreased 9x13-inch pan. In a large skillet, cook bacon until almost done, but not too crispy. Remove from skillet, drain on paper towel and chop. Sprinkle cooked bacon on top of green beans. Whisk together brown sugar, melted butter, soy sauce and garlic powder. Pour over green beans. Bake for 40 minutes.

Thanks!
to

Patsy Hancock, Mitchell 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.