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Mitchell EMC

The news you need to know in 5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

Affordable Electricity Powers Quality of Life

By Tony Tucker

Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity powers quality of life

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business, and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

Typically when demand goes up, so too does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%; medical care increased 2.8%; and education increased 2.2%. But the cost of electricity only increased 1%. Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

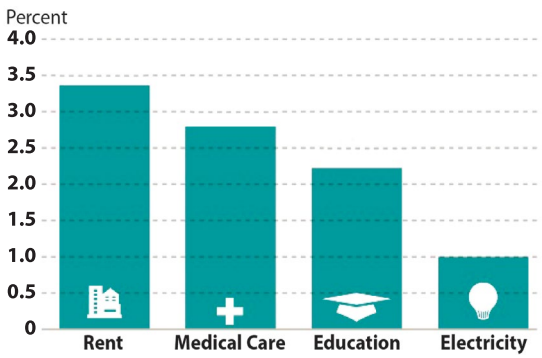
So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity—it's a necessity. That's why Mitchell EMC will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2015-2020



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index

Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

By Abby Berry

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

What's a power surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts–this can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.

Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

Mitchell EMC encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 power outages. Photo Source: Carina Hofmeister

What's a power blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, like squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme. In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, Mitchell EMC crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling 800-479-6034 or visiting www.mitchellemc.com/outage-center.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption. Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: www.energy.gov

Home Charging Options for Electric Vehicles

Electric vehicle (EV) owners have multiple options for charging their vehicle at home. There are three common EV charging levels: Level One, Level Two and DC Fast Charge.

Level One Charging

Level One is the most basic charging level. If you choose this option, your EV will typically include an adapter that plugs into a typical 120-volt outlet. This is the easiest and cheapest charging solution, but it will take much longer to charge your EV.

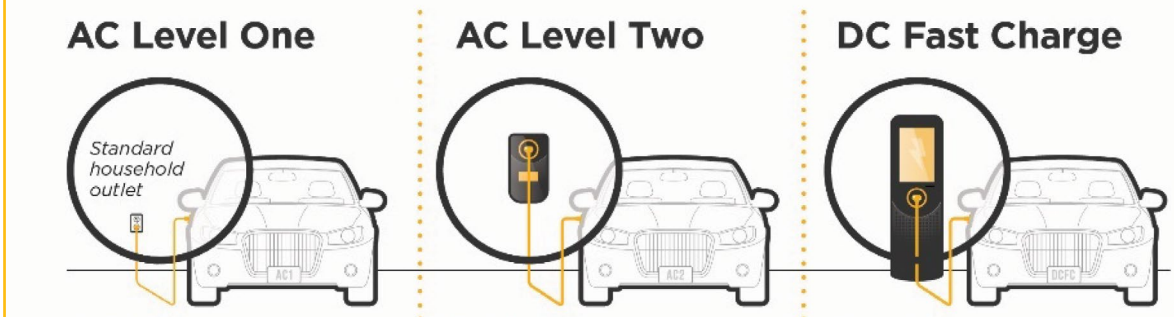
Level Two Charging

Level Two is about three to five times faster than Level One, but this level of charging often requires separate purchases and installation. The EV is plugged into a 240-volt outlet, which is used for larger appliances, like a clothes dryer. Most homes do not include a 240-volt outlet in garages, so the outlet must be installed by a licensed professional. You typically see Level Two charging stations at shopping malls, office buildings and multi-family community spaces.

DC Fast Charging

DC Fast Charge stations are typically seen near high-traffic public areas, like gas stations, rather than in homes. This is the fastest charging level, with the ability to charge an EV at 80% in under 30 minutes. As EVs continue to become more popular, you can expect to see more DC Fast Charge stations throughout Georgia.

Electric Vehicle Charging Levels



	AC Level One	AC Level Two	DC Fast Charge
VOLTAGE:	120V 1-Phase AC	208V or 240V 1-Phase AC	208V or 480V 3-Phase AC
AMPS:	12-16 Amps	12-80 Amps (typ. 32 Amps)	<100 Amps
CHARGING LOADS:	1.4 to 1.9 KW	2.5 to 19.2 kW (typ. 6.6kW)	50-350 kW
VEHICLE CHARGE TIME:	3-5 Miles per Hour	10-20 Miles per Hour *20+ for some EV models*	60-80 Miles in 20 Minutes

Sources: Advanced Energy and EPA

Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

Generac
Home Generator Program

GENERAC Home Generator Program is a partnership between Mitchell EMC and GRESCO that will help our consumers with the purchase and installation of a generator.

The GENERAC generator will provide service to an average 2500 square foot home, has a 7-year warranty from the start and Generac will offer an additional 3-year warranty.

Mitchell EMC consumers can schedule a free, no-obligation site survey by calling GRESCO Sales Assistant Luke Zech at 478-315-0800, Ext. 2123. He will set up a professional from Anderson Power Services to come survey your home to review your power needs and provide a quote for a generator unit and installation.

GRESCO

Mitchell EMC

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

Irish Potato Casserole

Ingredients:

1 (10 oz) package frozen hash brown potatoes
1 small carton sour cream
½ onion, minced
½ cup grated cheese
1 can cream of chicken soup
¼ cup water
Ritz Crackers

Directions:

Place hash browns in a greased baking dish. Sprinkle with grated cheese, onion, salt & pepper. Mix sour cream and chicken soup with ¼ cup water and pour over potato mixture. Bake in 350° oven for 30 minutes, or until potatoes are tender. Sprinkle crumbled ritz cracker on top and brown.

Submitted By: Bertha Simmons, Mitchell County

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.