



The news
you need to
know in
5 minutes!

VOL. 59 NO. 12 • DECEMBER 2022

CAMILLA, GEORGIA
www.mitchellemc.com

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

and Happy New Year



from
Mitchell EMC

Five Ways to Fight the Winter Chill & Save Energy

By Abby Berry

We all have our favorite season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all fun outdoor activities that go with it.



But there's one thing we can all agree on: high winter bills are never fun. Mitchell EMC is here to help you find ways to manage your home energy use and keep winter bills in check.

Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

- **Mind the thermostat.** This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.

- **Button up your home.** The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors is another simple, cost-effective way to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.



Photo Source: Nathan Dumlao, Unsplash

- **Use window coverings wisely.** Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air.

- **Consider your approach to appliance use.** When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look for

electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

- **Think outside the box.** If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up—beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 229-336-5221 or take advantage of our free home energy audits. Mitchell EMC's energy experts can help identify areas and other factors impacting your home energy use and recommend next steps for savings.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Visit our website at www.mitchellemc.com/energy-efficiency for additional energy-saving tips.

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% of the nation's landscape.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form. Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes and other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: energy.gov



Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption Expires Dec. 31

If you're an agricultural producer and receive the Georgia Agricultural Tax Exemption (GATE) on electricity, you must renew it beginning this October.

GATE is an agricultural sale and use tax exemption certificate issued by the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The document identifies its user as a qualified farmer or producer who is exempt from sales tax on the inputs used in the production of their commodity.

Mitchell EMC member-owners who receive a GATE certificate should send us a copy along with the account numbers that apply to the GATE certificate, so we can apply the exemption to their account. **We must receive a copy of the new certificate by December 31 for the exemption to continue.**

Producers who have never received GATE can also apply and send a certificate copy to Mitchell EMC. Visit <https://forms.agr.georgia.gov/gate/> or call 855-FARM TAX for more information, to renew or apply.



Payment Options

Mitchell EMC has several options for you to pay your bill. You can come by any Mitchell EMC office during business hours, Monday through Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. Night deposits are available at each location as well. In addition, phone payments can be made by calling (229) 336-5221 or (800) 479-6034 any time, day or night, to pay your bill by credit card.

You may also mail your payment to:
Mitchell EMC

PO Box 409

Camilla, GA 31730

The following billing options are also available for our members:

Bank Draft

Members can arrange for energy bill payments to be processed automatically each month on the due date via bank draft. A bank draft authorization form should be completed. Please include a voided check and either mail or bring it to one of our offices.

Recurring Credit Card

Arrange for payment by Visa or

Mastercard:

Complete and sign the back part from your bill stub and return to Mitchell EMC, noting the type of credit card, card number, expiration date & verification code or call our office at (800) 479-6034.



Pre-Pay

Prepaid metering is a pay-as-you-go alternative to traditional electric service with a monthly bill. Once the account is set up, you can pay as frequently as you like, as much as you like. To sign up, call our office at (800) 479-6034 or come into one of our three office locations.

Mitchell EMC Mobile App

Our mobile app is designed to give you fast, secure account access so you can easily manage your account details, view your bill and account balance, make payments

and find payment locations, schedule alerts, reminders, and receive push notifications.

CheckOut by PAYGO

A fast and convenient way to pay your Mitchell EMC bill while checking out at participating retailers near you. Get your barcode and find locations at www.mitchellemc.sedccheckout.com/Lookup.

Update Your Account

Help us Help You. By keeping your account information up to date, Mitchell EMC is better able to answer questions and serve your account. If you've

- Moved or have a new mailing address
- Married or changed your name, or
- Changed or added a phone number

We would also like to obtain your e-mail address & cell phone numbers. You can easily update your information by calling our office at 1-800-479-6034 and speaking with one of our friendly Customer Service Representatives.

Mitchell EMC Facilities Charge Adjustment

Currently, some of the fixed costs of servicing your account are recovered through what you pay for electricity. We are moving to more accurately allocate these costs, both fixed and energy, to their true sources. Effective with member billings that begin on January 1, Mitchell EMC's Facilities Charge will increase by \$3.00 per month.

The Facilities Charge partially covers the fixed costs of delivering your electric service. These fixed costs include reading your meter; maintaining the electric distribution system used in keeping your power flowing; maintaining rights of way; and performing other tasks necessary to ensure a reliable electric distribution system. The

Facilities Charge does not include the cost of the actual electricity you use. The monthly Facilities Charge is changing because the costs of servicing your account are rising. Every member benefits from these services, so the monthly Facilities Charge helps Mitchell EMC ensure that the cost are spread fairly among our membership.

We continue to offer free in-home energy audits to help Members with options to make their homes more energy efficient. Our energy efficiency program includes rebates whether you are building a home, or just upgrading your present home.

To find out more about these rebates visit mitchellemc.com/customer-service/consumer-rebates.

Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

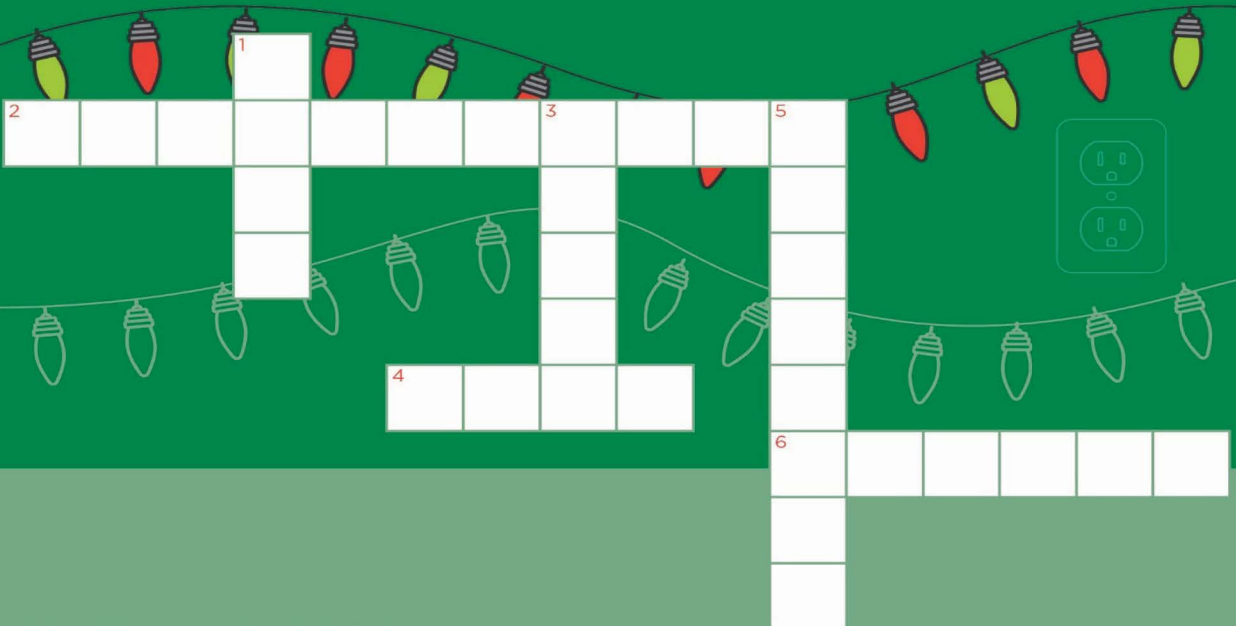
HOLIDAY EFFICIENCY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The holiday season is a fun, festive time of year! It's also a time when we use more electricity.

Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn how you and your family can be more energy efficient this holiday season.



1. **DOWN:** Decorate your _____ with energy-saving LED lights.
2. **ACROSS:** Smart or programmable _____ can help control heating costs if you're traveling during the holiday season.
3. **DOWN:** Save energy by using a _____ to turn off holiday lights at night.
4. **ACROSS:** If you have a fireplace, ask an adult to close the damper when a _____ is not burning.
5. **DOWN:** Open blinds and curtains during the day to let natural _____ in to warm your home.
6. **ACROSS:** Lower the thermostat when your family has _____ visiting during the holidays.



ANSWER KEY

1. DOWN: TREE
 2. ACROSS: THERMOSTATS
 3. DOWN: TIMER
 4. ACROSS: FIRE
 5. DOWN: SUNLIGHT
 6. ACROSS: GUESTS

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



Sugar Coated Pecans

Ingredients

- Cooking spray
- 1 egg white
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 pound pecan halves

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 250 degrees F (120 degrees C). Grease a baking sheet with cooking spray. Whisk together egg white and water in a medium bowl until frothy. Mix together sugar, salt, and cinnamon in a separate bowl. Add pecans to egg white mixture; stir to coat. Transfer pecans to sugar mixture; toss to coat. Spread pecans out on the prepared baking sheet. Bake in the preheated oven until crisp, about 1 hour; stir every 15 minutes.

Submitted by: allrecipes.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.