# **Get Smart About Home Lighting**

By Abby Berry

Gone are the days when a simple flip of the switch was the only choice for illuminating our homes. While we still have this tried-and-true option, we've entered a new era of innovative and intelligent technologies, which includes smart lighting.



Smart lighting connects to Wi-Fi and offers an array of cutting-edge functionality and convenience. Let's look at the main benefits of smart lighting options.

**Smart lighting is energy efficient.** Most smart bulbs utilize LED technology, which is much more efficient than traditional incandescent lighting. Additionally, smart lighting gives you more control over how and when you light your home, ultimately resulting in less energy used for lighting.

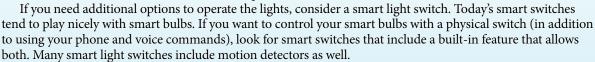
Smart lighting provides convenience and control. Most smart bulbs can be controlled from an app on your smartphone or can be paired with your voice assistant, like Amazon Alexa. You can

conveniently control lighting settings from anywhere in your home or when you're away. Whether you want to set a schedule for lighting or adjust brightness levels, these smart options offer effortless control from the comfort of, well, anywhere!

**Smart options empower you to personalize home lighting.** Bright, warm, purple, green—whatever mood you want to create, smart lighting can help. For a more traditional look, try dimmable white bulbs. If you want to create the perfect ambiance for movie night, look for bulbs that can be adjusted for a variety of vibrant colors. The possibilities are endless.

While smart lighting offers convenience and control, keep in mind your wall light switch will need to stay "on" for you to control the smart bulb from your phone or via voice command. To use a smart bulb, the wall switch it's

connected to must be "on" so the bulb receives power, which enables it to connect to a Wi-Fi network.



If you're looking to take the plunge and integrate multiple smart bulbs to your home lighting system, your best bet may be a kit, like the Philips Hue Starter Kit. Most kits include several bulbs and any additional tools you'll need to get started.

If you're new to smart home tech and looking to start small, try a smart bulb in a high-traffic area of your home. It's also worth noting that smart plugs are a great starter option and allow convenient control of lamps or other lighting fixtures that are plugged in to a wall outlet. Smart plugs are inexpensive and simply plug in to your existing outlet. Electrical items that are connected to the smart plug can be controlled from a smart phone app, just like smart bulbs.

Whether you're looking for more convenience, colorful options or better ways to manage energy use, smart lighting can provide multiple benefits. Determine which smart lighting features are most important for your needs, then start shopping!

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.



### **A Community Partner Since 1937**



Report

### REVENUE & PATRONAGE CAPITAL

| Operating Revenues   | \$69,692,762   |
|--|--|
| Operating Expenses  Cost of Power Distribution Operation Distribution Maintenance Consumer Accounts Consumer Service and Sales Information Sales Administrative and General Depreciation Taxes | 39,966,845<br>3,985,794<br>6,457,895<br>2,670,272<br>194,543<br>269,686<br>4,603,639<br>5,001,400<br>4,040,114 |
| Total Expenses   | <b>—</b> 67,190,188  |
| Operating Margins After Interest Expense   | 2,502,574  |
| Non-operating Loss   | (79,981)   |
| Generation and Transmission Patronage Capital Allocations Other Capital Credits and  | 1,116,901  |
| Patronage Capital Allocations  | 631,918  |
| Net Margins plus Patronage Capital   | \$4,171,412  |
|  |  |

### How Your Revenue Was Used in 2022



# 86th Annual Meeting of the Members

Mitchell EMC would like to thank our members for making our 86th Annual Meeting a success.

The meeting was a hit with the members. They enjoyed driving through Mitchell EMC's complex to see the new warehouse and were excited with the easy scan-and-go process we had in place for our drive-through meeting.

420 members were registered. T. Ralph Davis, Max R. "Buddy" Lewis, Jr., and Johnny Cochran ran unopposed and will serve another 3-year term.

We announced our meeting and the winners of the drawings

over their vehicle's radios. Listed below are the winners from Friday's drawing.

\$500.00 Grand prize winner was Bobby Lee Wright.

\$400.00 Grand prize winner was Randy Wallace.

\$300.00 Grand prize winner was Burnetta Calhoune Hall.

The \$100.00 winner for bringing in their registration card was Joel M. Forrester.

We also drew 20, \$100.00 credit winners.

\$100 - Grove Jackson

\$100 - Charles Anthony Hill

\$100 - Walter Anderson

\$100 - Helen J Clayton

\$100 – Kent Hudson

\$100 – Charles Allen \$100 – Joe N Vicks

\$100 – BH Williams

\$100 - Buddy & Elaine Brinkley

\$100 - Pamela Denise Hawkins

\$100 - Gloria J McNeil

\$100 - Vera Lee McDowell

\$100 - Kenneth Reese

\$100 – Keinichi Reese \$100 – Cleo Shinard, Jr.

\$100 - Colleen D Butler

\$100 - Stacy Bernard Hawkins

\$100 – Glenda F Long

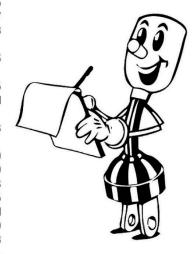
\$100 – Kennie Tyrone Robinson

\$100 – Pinkie Ree Jackson

\$100 - Bethel Baptist Church

### **MEMBERS' EQUITY AND LIABILITIES**

| Members' Equity Patronage Capital Other Equities                        | \$76,836,396<br>16,961,437 |
|---|----------------------------|
| Other Equities  |                            |
| Long-Term Liabilities —   | 93,797,833                 |
| Long-Term Debt Accumulated Provision for Post-retirement                | 69,090,795                 |
| Other Long-Term Liabilities   | 13,679,116                 |
| Other Long Term Liabilities   | 82,769,911                 |
| Current Liabilities —   |                            |
| Mortgage Notes-Current Portion Accumulated Provision for Post-retiremen | 3,946,668                  |
| Benefits Other Than Pension-Current                                     | 647,000                    |
| Short Term Loans  | 2,500,000                  |
| Accounts Payable  | 3,652,918                  |
| Consumers' Deposits   | 1,284,796                  |
| Accrued and Withheld Taxes  | 6,095,841                  |
| Other   | 3,004,460                  |
|   | 21,131,683                 |
| Total Members' Equity and Liabilities                                   | \$197,699,427              |



**ASSETS** 

| UTILITY PLANT                           |               |
|---|---------------|
| Electric Plant in Service-At Cost       | \$190,011,766 |
| Construction Work in Progress           | 3,363,653     |
| Gross Utility Plant                     | 193,375,419   |
| Accumulated Provision for Depreciation  | (42,446,838)  |
|   | 150,928,581   |
| Investments in Associated Organizations | 32,324,345    |



2,626,237 Accounts Receivable 7,165,287 Materials and Supplies 4,447,174 Other 89,357 14,328,055 118,446









\$197,699,427

### **Attention Farmers** Just a reminder...

Time Of Use (TOU) rates for irrigation systems begins on June 1. The TOU kWh cost is based on the time of day in which it is used. The rate will distinguish between ON-PEAK and OFF-PEAK usage.

\*TOU rates apply from June 1 through September 30. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 229-336-5221 or 1-800-479-6034.

## Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

# Mitchell EMC Members Help Send Local Students to College Through Operation RoundUP Scholarships

Students from across Mitchell EMC's 14-county service area received scholarships for college thanks to Operation RoundUP. Applicants were evaluated by the Community Foundation of South Georgia.



Scholarships are awarded based on "All-Around Student Performance" including academic performance, community service, volunteerism, and extracurricular activities. Financial need is

also considered. The foundation also reviewed recommendations from teachers and other adults involved in the students' lives.

Mitchell EMC members who enroll in Operation RoundUP provide 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. A maximum of ten (10) renewable scholarships are 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. Graduating children of Mitchell EMC employees receive a scholarship of \$500.

2023 Operation RoundUP Scholarship Recipients include: Rianne Almontaser, Deerfield-Windsor School; Stephanie Bass, Worth County High School; Carli Bentley, Westwood Schools; Edan Casey, Baconton Community Charter School; Jayden Keaton, Dougherty Comprehensive High School; Natalee Medders, Tift Area Academy; Georgia Odom, Southwest Georgia Academy; Silas Smith, Pelham High School; Laney Williams, Westwood Schools; and Amari Cody, Kennesaw State University.

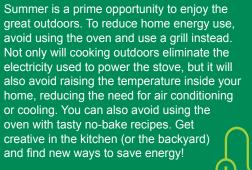
Kale Barwick, Cairo High School; Haley Dollar, Bainbridge High School; and Brooks Tucker, Westwood Schools each received a \$500 employee scholarship.





Protect your energy reliability by joining Voices for Cooperative Power, a national network of co-op advocates speaking out on issues impacting their communities. Learn more and join at voicesforcooperativepower.com. #Voices4Coops

# **Energy Efficiency**Tip of the Month

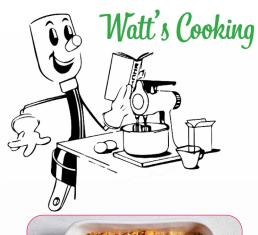


Source: Dept. of Energy

<u>Note:</u> 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





### **Pineapple Casserole**

### Ingredients

1 can pineapple chunks, drained (keep juice)3/4 cup sugar2-1/2 teaspoons flour1/2 cup shredded cheese

1 teaspoon butter 1 sleeve Ritz crackers, crushed

#### **Directions**

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Combine sugar, flour, pineapple juice. Add pineapple chunks to the mixture. Spoon mixture into a casserole dish and top with cheese. Spread cracker crumbs on top of cheese and butter. Place in the oven and cook for 30 minutes.

> Submitted by: Larry Hudson, Baker 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.