

# Mitchell EMC



The news  
you need to  
know in  
5 minutes!

CAMILLA, GEORGIA  
www.mitchellemc.com

## Electricity Provides Powerful Value

By **Tony Tucker**, *President and CEO*

If you're like me, there are aspects of your life that become sort of a daily routine. I get ready for work, get in my car and drive to the coffee shop on the way to the office. At lunchtime, I drive to the nearest fast-food location and get lunch. Once I finally end the day at home, I stream an episode or two of my favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, I began to think about my daily routine and how much value it provided me compared to the money I spent. A morning latte was costing me about \$6, a fast-food combo with a burger, fries and a drink was setting me back \$10, and my Netflix subscription is about \$16 each month. All these daily expenses totaled around \$85 a week, or about \$340 monthly. And what was the real value—short-term satisfaction and a larger waistline? Even as I started packing my own lunch, my latte was still costing me about \$120 a month. This got me thinking—is this the best value for my money?

The average daily cost of electricity is about \$4.57, and the average monthly electric bill for members of Mitchell EMC is \$195. You could power your entire home every day for the price of a medium latte. I could brew my own coffee, cook my own meals, binge a series and run on a treadmill for less than the cost of that drink. Now to me, that's real value.

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even amidst rising inflation.

As a member-owned cooperative, Mitchell EMC

does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for our members. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity—some within our control but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or

### Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That's real value.**



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured; Mitchell EMC always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.

# How to Save Money in the Laundry Room

Ah, the joys of having a washer and dryer in your home. There's no waiting for a machine, no coin slots, and no one taking out your wet load if you aren't right there when the cycle ends.

Although it's cheaper per load and much more convenient to do laundry at home, there's a somewhat hidden cost to consider, and that's the energy it takes to run your washer and dryer.

What appliances in your home use the most energy? The hot water heater is the appliance that costs the most to run. Right behind it is the washer and dryer's combined energy use. (Although not considered appliances by many, heating/cooling tops the list, followed by the hot water heater.)

A dryer requires more energy to run than a washer, but there are ways to reduce your washing costs, too (think hot water versus cold). To save money in your laundry room, consider these tips:

- When using your washing machine, select the right amount of water for the load – that is, don't select the "extra large" setting when doing a small load. In fact, consider waiting to do laundry until you have full loads to conserve water.
- Use cold water to save the money you spend heating water. Some laundry detergents are designed to tackle stains in cold water.
- Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more, according to [energy.gov](http://energy.gov).

- Use dryer balls, which help separate clothes and get more air to them, cutting drying time.
  - Utilize lower settings when you use the dryer. Even if your dryer runs longer, you'll use less energy and be less likely to over-dry your clothes.
  - Clean the lint out of your dryer between loads and scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.
  - Put like items together since lighter-weight clothes take less time to dry. Drying towels and heavier cottons take longer.
  - Use the moisture sensor option on your dryer if it has one.
  - Take a clue from your teenage boy and wear clothes more than once between laundering them (although don't wait until your jeans can stand by themselves).
  - When purchasing a dryer, consider an Energy Star version, which uses 20 percent less energy than a conventional model.
  - Energy Star-certified washers use about 25 percent less energy and 33 percent less water than regular clothes washers.
  - Thoroughly clean your dryer's vents and duct system at least twice a year.
- To learn more about how much you are spending to run your washer and dryer each year, refer to [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)'s appliance energy use calculator.
- For more information about safety around electricity, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## 10 EASY WAYS TO \$AVE

Here are 10 habits you can tweak to save energy:

1. Use cold water to wash your clothes.
2. Unplug battery chargers when not in use.
3. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
4. Unplug appliances and electronics not in use.
5. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.



6. When drying clothes, include a dry towel for the first 20 minutes.
7. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
8. Reduce the setting on your hot water heater.
9. Use smart power strips that shut off power to items not in use.
10. When buying new appliances, consider ENERGY STAR versions.

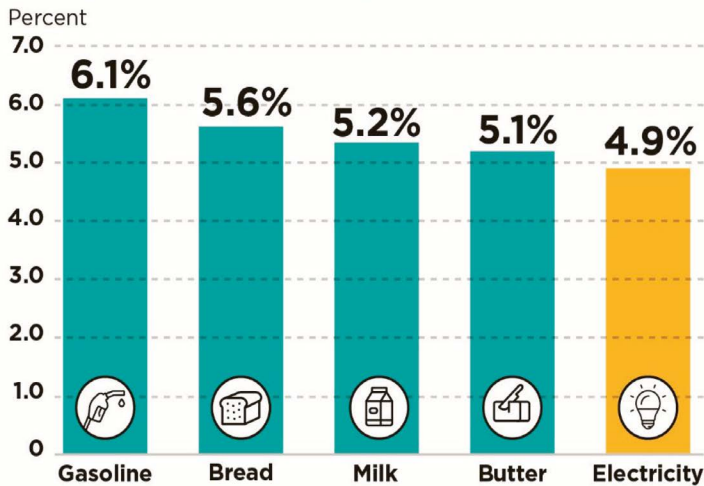
Learn more at:



## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Although inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods. Looking at price increases over the last five years, electricity remains a good value.

### Average Annual Price Increase 2018-2023



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Consumer Price Index

## 7 CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS



Every College Student Should Know

- Don't overload outlets, extension cords, or power strips. (Use power strips with over current protectors. This will shut off the power if there is too much power being drawn.)
- Only purchase and use electrical products tested for safety. Some common approved safety labels include UL, CSA, and MET.
- Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains, papers, and other flammable material.
- Make sure outlets around sinks are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) before use. If they are not, contact the resident assistant, campus housing staff, or landlord.
- Unplug small appliances when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.
- Always use microwave-safe containers. Glass, ceramic containers, and plastics labeled "microwave-safe" should always be used. Metal and aluminum foil can damage the microwave or start a fire. If the microwave is damaged in any way, do not use it.
- Never disable a smoke detector; and never ignore a fire alarm or assume it is a drill. Every time a fire alarm sounds, residents should calmly and quickly follow practiced procedures and immediately exit the building.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts. Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Attention Farmers Just a reminder...

**Time of Use (TOU) rates for irrigation systems begin 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.

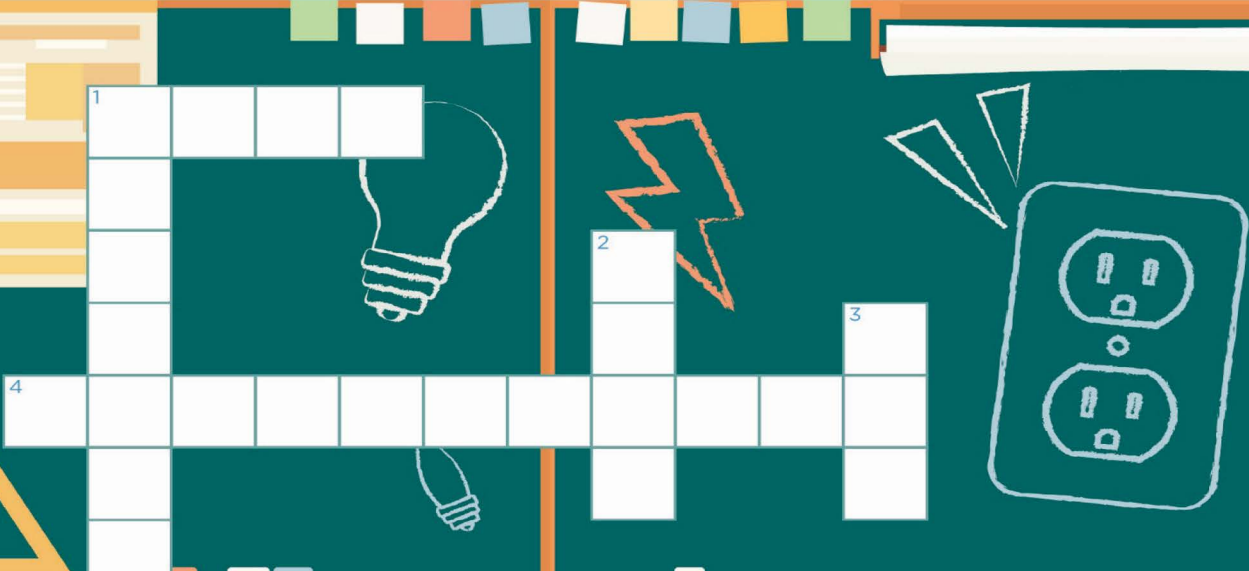


# Serving in 14 Southwest Georgia Counties...

## BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

As you gear up for a new school year, remember to practice electrical safety in the classroom *and* at home. From powering electronic devices to spending time outdoors with friends, always play it safe around electricity.

*Read the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle, then double check your answers in the key.*



### ACROSS:

1. Never insert anything other than this into an electrical outlet.
4. When outdoors, stay away from these big green boxes that lower electricity voltage.

### DOWN

1. Never play around these when you're outside; you can get hurt!
2. Don't yank on a \_\_\_\_\_ when unplugging it. Instead, grab the base and pull from there.
3. Always make sure your hands are \_\_\_\_\_ before plugging anything in.

### ANSWER KEY

1. ACROSS: PLUG  
 4. ACROSS: TRANSFORMER  
 1. DOWN: POWER LINES  
 2. DOWN: CORD  
 3. DOWN: DRY

**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



Photo Credit: <https://www.savingdessert.com/tomato-pie-recipe/>

### **Tomato Pie**

#### **Ingredients**

- 12 slices of bacon
- 3 large tomatoes
- 1 9-in deep dish pastry shell, baked
- 8 chopped green onions
- 1-1/2 cups extra sharp cheese, grated
- 1-1/2 cups mayonnaise

#### **Instructions**

Fry bacon and crumble, arrange tomato slices in pie shell. Place chopped onions and bacon on top. Add topping of grated cheese and mayonnaise mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until brown. Cool 15 minutes.

#### **Submitted by:**

**Deborah Wallace, Dougherty 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](mailto:heather.greene@mitchellemc.com).