

Mitchell EMC



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CAMILLA, GEORGIA
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Understanding Your Electric Bill

By Tony Tucker, President & CEO

August is typically one of the warmest months of the year, and that means air conditioners across our community are working overtime to keep homes comfortable. During periods of extreme heat, many members may see an increase in their electric bill and wonder what factors contribute to the cost of electricity.

At Mitchell EMC, we believe understanding your electric bill is an important part of being an informed member. While the total amount due may seem like a single number, it actually reflects several different costs associated with delivering reliable electricity to your home or business.

The largest factor is often the amount of energy you use. Electricity is measured in kilowatt-hours (kWh), and the more energy your household consumes, the higher your bill will be. During the summer, air conditioning is typically the largest driver of increased energy use. When temperatures climb into the 90s or higher, our cooling systems run longer and more frequently, consuming significantly more electricity than they do during milder weather.

Another major factor is the cost of generating or purchasing electricity. Like many cooperatives, Mitchell EMC purchases power from Oglethorpe Power Corporation. The cost of producing electricity fluctuates based on fuel prices, including natural gas, coal and other energy resources used to generate power. Changes in wholesale power costs influence the price of electricity delivered to members.

Transmission costs also play a role. Before electricity reaches your home, it must travel across a network of high-voltage transmission lines that connect power plants to local distribution systems. Transmission equipment requires ongoing maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability, especially as electricity demand continues to grow.

Closer to home, Mitchell EMC maintains the local electric distribution system—utility poles, power lines, transformers, substations and other essential equipment that safely delivers power to members.

Maintaining this equipment is covered through the monthly facilities charge. This is a flat monthly fee all members pay, regardless of how much electricity they use. This fixed fee ensures all members pay a fair share of the basic, operational costs required to keep the power grid reliable and ready to serve your home or business. Whether a member uses a little electricity or a lot, we must maintain infrastructure and have crews, equipment and resources available to provide electricity around the clock.

Summer temperatures can also influence costs in less obvious ways. When the demand for electricity

is high across a region, wholesale power prices can increase. Utilities and grid operators must ensure enough generation is available to meet peak demand, and those costs can be reflected throughout the electric system.

The good news is that simple steps to lower energy use can make a meaningful difference. Setting your

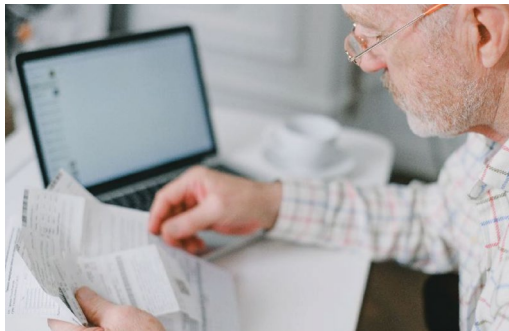
thermostat a few degrees higher when you're away, replacing dirty HVAC filters, using ceiling fans, sealing air leaks and avoiding the use of major appliances during the hottest parts of the day can help reduce energy consumption, lower your bill and reduce strain on the local grid during peak demand.

Mitchell EMC's mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity while being transparent about the factors that impact energy costs. We understand every dollar matters, and we are committed to making smart investments that keep the lights on and support the communities we serve.

If you ever have questions about your electric bill or co-op programs designed to help you save, please reach out. We're here to help you make informed decisions that work for your household.

Thank you for allowing Mitchell EMC to serve you.

NRECA is the national trade association representing nearly 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.



Exploring AI's Potential for Improved Service and Reliability

By Abby Berry

Like it or not, artificial intelligence seems inescapable. Even a quick Google search produces an AI-generated smorgasbord of results, rather than a simple list of links. AI is even shaping conversations about the future of energy.

While news headlines often focus on the rapid growth of AI, electric cooperatives are taking a measured approach to understanding how these tools might help improve service for the local communities they serve.

For Mitchell EMC, our goal is not to adopt AI technology simply because it's new. Instead, any tool or innovation must provide a clear benefit to our members, whether that's improving power reliability, increasing



operational efficiency or helping our team make better-informed decisions. As we explore AI tools, we are doing so cautiously, evaluating where it can add value while maintaining a strong focus on member needs, privacy and system reliability.

One area where AI shows promise is electricity load forecasting. Electric demand changes throughout the day and fluctuates significantly during periods of extreme weather. Advanced forecasting tools can analyze historical data, weather patterns and additional factors to help predict when electricity use is likely to increase. Better forecasts allow us to prepare for higher demand, manage resources more effectively and support reliable service during peak periods.

AI tools are also being used to identify potential problems along the local grid before they lead to power outages. By analyzing information from automated meters and other equipment across the electric system, AI-powered tools can detect unusual patterns or anomalies that might otherwise go unnoticed. These early warnings could help our crews investigate issues sooner, potentially reducing the likelihood or duration of outages.

Maintaining power lines is another critical area where AI technology may offer benefits. Trees and overgrown vegetation are one of the leading causes of power outages. Many electric utilities, including co-ops, are exploring image recognition tools that can help monitor vegetation growth near power lines more efficiently. Rather than replacing the expertise of our field crews, these tools can help identify parts of the system that need attention, allowing crews to prioritize work areas and make the best use of their time.

Beyond the electric system itself, AI could also improve day-to-day operations.

For example, AI tools can assist office employees by summarizing lengthy reports, organizing member feedback and analyzing large amounts of data. These types of tools could help our team spend less time on repetitive administrative tasks and more time focusing on members and addressing our community's energy needs.

Even with these potential benefits, we recognize that AI is not a cure-all. Human oversight remains essential, and decisions that affect our members will never rely solely on automated systems.

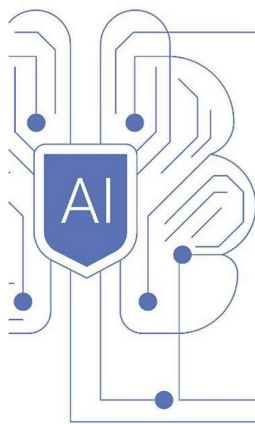
As AI tools evolve, Mitchell EMC will continue exploring their potential. But as with any new technology, adoption will be guided by a simple principle: if an AI tool helps improve reliability, efficiency or services for our members, it's worth considering. If it doesn't, we will continue exploring solutions that do.

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.

Emerging AI Tools for Better Service

Electric co-ops are already exploring AI for a variety of applications that improve service and reliability and ultimately benefit consumer-members.

- **Electricity Load Forecasting:** Prompt-based tools help predict periods of high electricity use, helping prepare for increased demand.
- **Anomaly Detection:** Scans of the local system and automated meter data can spot unusual activity early — helping identify potential issues before outages occur.
- **Vegetation Management:** Image recognition tools help crews monitor tree and vegetation growth near power lines more efficiently.
- **Office Productivity:** AI tools can help summarize safety reports, organize feedback and analyze data to better understand the services members value most.



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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...

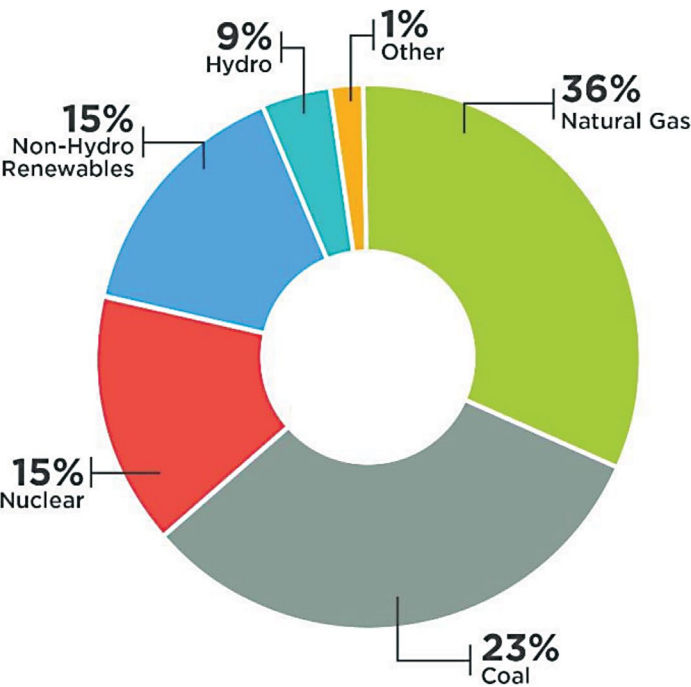


Co-op Energy Sources

Nationally, electric cooperatives use a variety of fuels to power consumer-members' homes and businesses.

This diverse fuel mix supplies co-op members with the safe, reliable and affordable power they depend on.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (2024 data)



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher, laundry machines and oven—can spike energy demand and strain the electric grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS



Scammers are increasingly using “smishing” — fake text messages designed to look like they’re from legitimate businesses, including your electric utility. These texts may claim your bill is overdue, your service will be disconnected or you’re owed a refund. They often include a link that directs you to a fake payment site or asks for personal information. Never click suspicious links or respond to unexpected texts, even if the message appears urgent. Instead, log in to your utility account through the official website or mobile app to verify any claims. We will never ask for sensitive information like passwords or banking details through text messages.



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



Watt's Cooking



Zesty Cilantro Lime Coleslaw

Ingredients

1 medium head of cabbage *shredded or chopped (about 8-10 cups or grab a large bag of pre-shredded coleslaw mix)*
1 carrot shredded
1/2 red or yellow bell pepper diced
1/4 cup finely diced pickled jalapeno peppers
1/2 cup fresh cilantro chopped
3-4 cloves of minced garlic
1/4 cup lime juice
1/2 teaspoon of sea salt
1/2 teaspoon fresh cracked pepper
1/2 teaspoon cumin
1/2 teaspoon parsley
1 teaspoon honey
1 cup mayonnaise

Directions:

Whisk the mayonnaise, lime juice, salt, pepper, honey, parsley and cumin together until blended smooth. Wash and dry fresh vegetables. Finely chop or shred cabbage, carrot, bell pepper, cilantro and pickled jalapeno. Mince fresh garlic. Add it all to a large mixing bowl and distribute evenly. Give the dressing another quick whisk and pour it over the cabbage and veggie mixture. Toss to coat well. Cover and place it in refrigerator for 2-3 hours to allow flavors to meld. Serve as a side dish with burgers, pulled pork sandwiches or use as a topping for chicken wraps, tacos or hotdogs.

Submitted By: Catherine Little, Dougherty County

Picture Credit: keviniscooking.com/cilantro-lime-slaw/

Share & Win!

Send us your favorite quick and easy dinner recipes. If your recipe is chosen for print, you can

win a \$25 credit

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Send recipes to: Heather Greene,
P.O. Box 409, Camilla, GA 31730 or email to
heather.greene@mitchellemc.com.