



P.O. Box 68, McCaysville, GA 30555
Phone: 706-492-3251

Staff

Stacy Chastain, General Manager
Lee Ensley, IT Technician
Lisa Hood, Billing Services Manager
Chris Hulsey, Human Resources Manager
David Lewis, IT Manager
Christy Setser, Finance Manager
Todd Taylor, Mapping and Staking Manager
Chuck Thomas, Operations Manager
Keith Thomas, Right of Way Manager
Brian Arp, Line Technician
Jim Callihan, Line Crew Leader
Sterling Callihan, Meter Reader
Stephanie Campbell, Senior Billing Clerk
Jason Cook, Meter Reader
Joseph Crowe, Line Technician
Kacey Davis, Cashier
Charlene Foster, Cashier
Stacy Galloway, Mapping and Staking Engineer
Thomas Graham, Truck Driver
Chad Green, Line Technician
Chris Harper, Line Technician
Nathan Heaton, Groundworker
Billy Henry, Line Technician
Chris Johnson, Truck Driver
Wesley Jones, Truck Driver
Joel Mann, Equipment Operator
William McClure, Line Technician
Jesse McKeral, Line Technician
Darrell Moore, Line Crew Leader
Chris Nelson, Mechanic
Ricky Newberry, Warehouse Manager
Dewey Oneal, Line Technician
Michael Pack, Substation/Apparatus Tech
Rodney Patterson, Line Crew Leader
Melissa Patton, Member Service Representative
Jerod Petty, Line Technician
Darren Queen, Line Technician
Susie Roberson, Account Services Representative
Angela Satterfield, Cashier
Mitzi Stewart, Cashier
Tyler Watkins, Apprentice Line Technician

Board of Directors

Jerry Pack, President
Jesse Miller, Vice President
Hugh Rogers, Secretary-Treasurer
Scott Barker
Bill Joe Postell
Jim Quintrell
Tom Stiles

Henry Tharpe, Attorney

The Tennessee Magazine
(ISSN 0492746X), Volume 65, No. 12, is published monthly by Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, 2964 Sideco Drive, Nashville TN 37204. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Tennessee Magazine*, PO Box 100912, Nashville TN 37224-0912.

Between the Lines

News from your community

Small change can change lives

The holiday season is finally here. Some call it the most wonderful season of all. That's because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

But giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right here in our community and why it's so important to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area. I'm also reminded of how wonderful our community is and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

When you are a member of Tri-State EMC, you help us spread the good throughout the year. Through our Operation Round Up program, your donations help local families and individuals in need.

When you "round up" your monthly bill from Tri-State EMC and donate to this fund, you're making a big difference in someone's life. You are helping meet an immediate, critical need, but just as importantly, you are telling this person the community cares.

Over the years, our community-focused programs and other giving projects have built community gardens, supported local schools and young people, fed hungry families, enabled families in need to keep the lights on and so much more.

Tri-State EMC also participates in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, taking our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C., for a weeklong immersion to experience democracy in action. Ultimately, the larger community



By Stacy Chastain
General Manager,
Tri-State Electric
Membership
Corporation

benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors.

You've likely heard me say that the cooperative principle "Concern for Community" is part of Tri-State EMC's DNA. It defines who we are as an organization. When we first brought electricity to this community in 1949, the quality of life improved. But other things also need to be addressed, and through the years, this co-op has been at the forefront of bringing improvements to the quality of life in this community. It's why we began Operation Round Up in our service area.

To date, with your help, we've given hundreds of thousands of dollars back to local families and individuals through this program. Across the country, more than 350 electric co-ops have an Operation Round Up program, and together we've raised millions for local communities. This shows that small donations from electric co-ops like ours can, over time, collectively make a big impact.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in this community. It's why we support local organizations. We hope you will think of Tri-State EMC as more than your energy provider but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

I hope all of our members have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright.

To learn more about Operation Round Up, visit tsemc.net.

This institution is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.

Operation Round Up turns members' cents into dollars

Headed by a seven-member volunteer board, the Tri-State EMC Operation Round Up Foundation distributes funds raised through Operation Round Up, Tri-State EMC's philanthropic program in which members round up their power bills to the next dollar.

The foundation has awarded a total of more than \$775,000 to area nonprofits and charities as well as the local school systems.

For more information on grants, visit tsemc.net and click on the Operation Round Up tab.



Mineral Springs received funding from Operation Round Up in 2022. Mineral Springs Center is a day program that serves adults with developmental disabilities. Programs offered include facility and community activities, an in-house work activity program, an out-of-facility cleaning crew and employment supports for individuals working in community jobs.

Some of the 2022 recipients:

- Community Meal
- Copper Basin Crisis Center
- Copper Basin Senior Center
- Copper Basin Elementary Snack Pack
- Copper Basin schools
- Fannin Christian Learning Center
- Fannin County Brain Injury Support Group
- Fannin County Family Connection
- Fannin County schools
- Fannin County Shop with a Cop
- First United Methodist Church Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- Highland Outdoor Ministry Inc.
- Hiwassee Dam Schools
- Mineral Springs Advocates
- Mountain Education Charter High School
- Snack in a Backpack Inc.



Kindergarten classes at Hiwassee Dam Elementary school were awarded a grant with which Legos and a Lego table were purchased for use in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) activities within the classroom.

**Tri-State EMC wishes everyone a Merry Christmas
and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!**

Tri-State EMC will be closed on the following holidays:

Friday, Dec.23, 2022 • Monday, Dec. 26, 2022 • Monday, January 2, 2023

**If you experience a power outage or require emergency service
at any time, please call 706-492-3251.**

Five ways to fight winter chill and save energy

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 and all the fun outdoor activities that go with summer.

But there's one thing on which we can all agree: High winter bills are never fun. Tri-State 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:

1. 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) at 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.

2. Button up your home. The Department of Energy estimates that air leaks account for 24 to 40 percent of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors are other simple, cost-effective ways to increase comfort and save energy. It likely needs to be sealed if you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door.

3. 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 the cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes in a thicker material; heavier window coverings can significantly block cold outdoor air.

4. 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 use them. For example, only wash full loads if running the dishwasher or clothes washer. 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.

5. 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.

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.

Tri-State EMC and TVA partner to deliver \$15,000 more in COVID-19 community assistance

Tri-State EMC is proud to announce that it has partnered with the Tennessee Valley Authority to award a total of \$15,000 to Copper Basin Crisis Center, Copper Basin Elementary Snack Pack, Copper Basin Senior Center, Fannin County Special Olympics, Hiwassee Dam Schools and Snack in a Backpack through TVA's Community Care Fund program to help our communities during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

The partnership initiative gives local power companies the opportunity to identify organizations or local initiatives for which they can seek matching funds from TVA.

TVA launched the Community Care Fund in April 2020 to help address hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The total combined

impact since the start of the community care fund totals \$17.7 million in assistance, and more than 750 nonprofit community programs have benefited from the fund. In addition to Tri-State EMC, 142 other power companies have participated in the program.

"As part of our mission of service, TVA is an active partner with local power companies to help address the challenges families and businesses are facing today," said Jeannette Mills, TVA executive vice president and chief external relations officer. "The Community Care Fund is a great demonstration of how public power benefits the people of the Tennessee Valley as we translate strong company performance into dollars for relief across the communities we serve."



Copper Basin Elementary School Snack Pack

Copper Basin Elementary School Snack Pack purchases weekly snack packs for needy students at the school. The packs are used to provide weekend food to children who might not have a means or availability of food for the weekend. Children are provided a snack pack filled with kid-friendly foods to serve as basic meals and snacks for the weekend.



Snack in a Backpack

Snack in a Backpack has been helping Fannin County children get nutritious and easy-to-prepare food they need during weekends, school breaks and summer vacation breaks. The program strives to serve the children most in need as determined by school staff who know them the best. It is a community and volunteer supported program.



HIWASSEE DAM
ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

Hiwassee Dam School Needy Fund

Hiwassee Dam Schools serve a low socioeconomic population and find that each year families struggle financially to afford the basics for their children such as food and clothing. With COVID and the impact felt from it, the need has been even greater. The needy fund will try to reach as many people in their school system as possible who have been negatively affected by COVID.

**Special
Olympics**
Fannin County
Georgia



Fannin County Special Olympics

Fannin County Special Olympics funds are used to support the activities of Special Olympics athletes in Fannin County. Funds are used for events for the athletes, including spring games, bowling tournament, golf, softball, basketball, music festival and other activities throughout the year.

The Community Care Fund is part of a broader effort by TVA and local power companies to support communities with resources, programs and assistance and reinforce the strength of public power in the Tennessee Valley.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power companies serving nearly 10 million people in

parts of seven Southeastern states. TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity. In addition to operating and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation.



Copper Basin Senior Center

Copper Basin Senior Center is a location where local seniors can go for food, entertainment and to receive some necessary health, food and hygiene items. The organization operates on funding from private donations and yard sales.



Copper Basin Crisis Center

Copper Basin Crisis Center provides food as well as personal health, hygiene and cleaning items to the needy in its service area.

Tri-State EMC Staff teaches preschoolers about electrical safety

Tri-State EMC recently visited Fannin County Preschool to talk to the students about electricity.

Tri-State EMC is all about electricity – most importantly, how to be safe around electricity. It's never too early for children to begin learning how to stay safe around electricity, so Tri-State EMC offers an electrical safety program to preschools in the co-op's service area.

Students are provided coloring books featuring Louie the Lightning Bug that include all kinds of fun pictures children can color while learning about the things inside

their homes that run on electricity. The coloring books also have information on how electricity is made and transmitted and many of the different ways electricity is used. In addition, the book stresses the importance of staying safe around electricity.

Tri-State EMC employees review the coloring book with the preschool students while also showing them many of the tools that groundmen and linemen use when working. Students get to try on linemen safety gloves and hard hats, and they get to see a bucket truck in action.



Appliances that use the most energy

By Tolu Omotoso

Have you ever received your energy bill and thought, “I wonder which appliances in my home are using the most energy?” Don’t worry — you’re not alone. A few years ago, after being away for a somewhat lengthy trip, I arrived home to a typical energy bill. I was surprised because I expected a lower bill after being away from home. This led me to an enlightening journey in search for answers.

My first set of answers came from browsing the website of the Energy Information Administration (EIA), specifically the Residential Energy Consumption Survey. According to EIA, a typical U.S. home spends more than \$2,000 annually on energy bills, and on average, more than half of household energy consumption is for just two energy end uses: space heating and air conditioning. Seeing this, I understood the importance of adjusting my thermostat while I’m away because it truly makes a difference on our monthly bills.

I also learned that water heaters tend to be the third largest energy user at 13 percent, followed by lighting, which usually accounts for about 12.5 percent of the average energy bill.

Once I understood the factors driving my energy consumption, I was able to control them and save money by using helpful devices like smart thermostats, water heater controllers and smart power strips.

Several factors, including geographic location and climate, the number of people in the home, the type of home and its physical characteristics, affect the amount of energy a household uses. The efficiency of energy-consuming devices and the amount of time they are used also impact home energy consumption.

To save energy and reduce your monthly bill, these tips can help:

1. Use Energy Star-rated appliances and devices.
2. Replace old, inefficient equipment. For example, if your air conditioner, furnace or water heater is more than 10 years old, it is likely using a lot more energy than necessary. A newer model will save you money in the long run and help you avoid an inconvenient breakdown.
3. Use appliances with efficiency in mind. Only wash full loads of clothes or dishes, and when possible, cook with smaller countertop appliances instead of the oven.
4. Set your thermostat accordingly to scale back heating or cooling when you are asleep or away. When you’re in the home and active, the Department of Energy recommends setting it to 78 degrees in the



Electricity is essential for everyday life, but when we think about all the ways we consume energy at home and actively try to be more efficient, we can lower our monthly bills. Photo source: Bruno, Pixabay user

summer and 68 degrees in the winter. Aim for settings as close to those as possible to save energy.

5. Use energy efficient LED bulbs. They use 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last 25 times longer.

6. Plug electronics into a smart power strip, which allows you to designate “always on” for devices that need to maintain network connection while cutting power to devices like speakers and TVs when they are not in use.

In addition to these steps, consider using real-time energy monitors to help identify faulty appliances or other problems like a broken water heater that runs unnoticed for extended periods of time, leading to high energy bills.

With a little extra attention to how you use energy in your home, you’ll be well on your way to a path of energy savings — and lower energy bills.

Tolu Omotoso is director of energy solutions at 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 percent of the nation’s landscape.