



Coweta-Fayette



powerlines

THE POWER OF BEING PREPARED

We never know when a storm may hit the area but the employees and staff of Coweta-Fayette EMC take steps to make sure we're prepared for any circumstance that arises.

As we approach the one-year anniversary of the midnight tornado that changed the landscape of our community, we felt it was important to share this reminder. While you may not know when a storm is coming, you can be prepared for it just like we do at the EMC.

Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods and even occasional ice storms can not only cause devastating property damage, they can also wreak havoc on Coweta-Fayette's electric system. In some cases, extensive damage can leave homes without power for an extended amount of time.

CFEMC encourages you to take a few simple steps to prepare for a severe weather event – keeping your family's safety as the top priority.

- Prepare a storm survival kit that contains batteries, flashlights, clothing, a battery-powered radio, bottled water, non-perishable food and toiletries. Visit the Red Cross website (redcross.org) for a complete list of items to include in your survival kit. A NOAA Weather Radio is also a great addition to your preparedness kit.

- In the case of an approaching storm make sure you have an adequate supply of medicine, first aid supplies and baby items.

- If you choose to evacuate, turn off your electricity at the breaker before leaving your home.

- Make sure you have alternate ways to charge your cell phone if the power is out.

- Turn off your heating/cooling unit during a power outage, and unplug major electronics such as TVs, DVRs and computers to avoid damage from power surges when electricity is restored.



- Keep a list of emergency and family contacts as well as extra cash.

- Consider games and activities for children to keep them occupied.

- You can monitor the weather and any outage situation by visiting our updated outage map located on our website (<https://outage.utility.org/>) or inside our app. You'll find county by county outage information as well as a video highlighting the restoration process. You can also report an outage here as well.

Make sure you keep your supplies in an easy-to-carry tub or bin that is easily accessible.

Once the storm has passed, take these important steps:

- Check for electrical damage (downed power lines, sparks or the smell of hot insulation). If you find damage, don't turn your power on until repairs have been made.

- Always treat downed power lines as if they are "hot". Never touch them – leave clean-up and repairs to the professionals. Call us immediately and let us know there are lines down in your area.

- Have an electrician repair damaged wiring inside your home.

Above all, keep safety at the forefront. Working with power lines and electricity requires a high degree of training. While we understand our members want their power restored as soon as possible, it's important for the public to stay away from electrical equipment.

Being prepared means being equipped. Rest assured that, no matter the extent of the damage, hard-working men and women will make getting your power back on a top priority.

770-502-0226

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5 WAYS TO SAVE ENERGY WHEN WORKING FROM HOME

Today, more Americans are working from home than ever before. More time spent at home means more energy used throughout the day.

If you're punching the clock from home, there are small steps you can take to reduce your energy use and save on electric bills. Here are five easy ways to save energy when working from home.

1. **Use a smart power strip.** Plugging in your most-used devices, like computers, monitors and routers, to a smart power strip ensures these devices aren't drawing power when they're not in use. Smart power strips also give you the option to select which devices should stay in "always on" mode.

2. **Unplug your least-used equipment.** If your home office includes equipment like printers and scanners, you're probably not using these electronics every day. In this case, go ahead and unplug your least-used electronics and devices, since many of these draw energy even when they're not being used.

3. **Choose ENERGY STAR®-certified office equipment.** If you're looking to purchase new equipment for your workspace, look for the ENERGY STAR® label to ensure you're getting the most energy-efficient features. Computers, monitors, imaging equipment and other office electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating include power management features to make saving energy easy, and most are designed to run cooler and last longer.

4. **Flip the switch and use natural light instead.** It's still chilly out there, so take advantage of natural light and additional warmth from the sun. When you're working during the day, open blinds, curtains and other window coverings to let natural light in—and don't forget to turn off the lights to reduce energy use!

5. **Lower the thermostat.** Home heating makes up a significant portion of your energy bills. Turn the thermostat down a couple degrees during the day to reduce energy use and save money. The Department of Energy recommends setting the thermostat to 68 degrees or cooler during winter months.

Working from home doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bills, and whether you're working remotely or not, these practical tips can help everyone reduce their energy use.

Contact one of our knowledgeable Customer Services Reps or a member of our Energy Services team at 770-502-0226 if you have questions about your bills or want additional information about saving energy at home.



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The President's Message

Chris Stephens
CEO

February may be the shortest month, but it's packed with special observances like Presidents' Day, Black History Month and Valentine's Day, in addition to a host of unofficial "national" days you've probably never heard of like "National Tater Tot Day." But they all have something in common. They were created to draw attention to a particular issue or theme.

Valentine's Day may seem like an observance originally created by a greeting card company, but over time, it's become a widely celebrated day generating millions of dollars spent on flowers, candy and of course, greeting cards professing our love. But Valentine's Day isn't just for the lovebirds. It's also the perfect time to let our friends, family, co-workers and other special people in our lives know we care about them—with or without a store-bought greeting card.

So, in that vein, we've created our list of top five reasons why we love serving you, the members of Coweta-Fayette EMC.

1. We love serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist. Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, affordable and safe electricity. Simply put, CFEMC exists to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1945—to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.

2. You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back. A major part of our mission is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With your assistance, we're able to help the most vulnerable members of our community through programs like Operation Round-Up that help local non-profits and families when times are tough.

3. Members of our co-op also serve on the board of directors. They provide guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in the area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

4. You help us get it right. CFEMC members are great about keeping us in the know. We do our best to avoid power outages, but Mother Nature can occasionally throw us a curveball; our members are quick to report any power disruptions and are patient as our crews work to safely restore power. We know outages are frustrating, and your support as we work through storms means so much to our employees. We also appreciate your feedback on co-op programs and services like our EV program, Drive Free For A Year. Your opinions are critical for the co-op's success, and we thank you for that.

5. You and other CFEMC members make up the community we serve—and for us, it's all about community. Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it thrive. That's why we donate to local charities and schools. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll see our employees volunteering at local schools and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We love serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want to see it continue to thrive.