

MARCH 2024

Coweta-Fayette **EMC**

POWERLINES

The Steps to Restoring Power Outages

A NEWSLETTER FROM
COWETA-FAYETTE EMC



We do our best to avoid them, but power outages occasionally happen. For most Coweta-Fayette EMC members, outages are minimal and only last a few hours. But when major storms impact our area, extended outages may occur.

So when the power goes out, how do Coweta-Fayette EMC crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been reported? We've got answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When the lights go out and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible. This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a great number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines that run between the transformer and the home are repaired.

We keep a supply of extra utility poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously working to repair damage at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring in additional crews when necessary.

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A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages; this is why you see crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights-of-way. We love trees too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, be sure to report it. Do not assume it has already been reported. You can report an outage via phone at (770) 502-0226, online on our website at <https://outage.utility.org/>, or sign up for text alerts at <https://utility.org/text-an-outage/>.

While we cannot control the weather, we can certainly prepare for it. As a member of Coweta-Fayette EMC, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible.



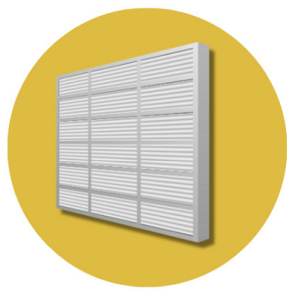
CONTACT US: ☎ 770-502-0226 🌐 WWW.UTILITY.ORG

HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH



THE IMPORTANCE OF ROUTINE HVAC SYSTEM CHECK-UPS

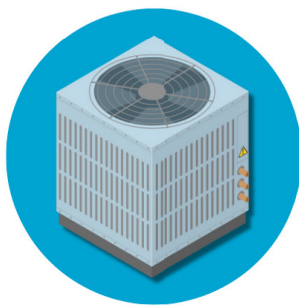


Changing your air filter regularly helps avoid high electric bills and costly repairs for your heating and cooling system, while also improving the air quality inside your home.

IF YOUR ENERGY BILLS ARE ABNORMALLY HIGH, EVEN AFTER WEATHER EXTREMES HAVE CEASED, IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO SCHEDULE A HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM CHECK-UP.

OLDER HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS BECOME LESS EFFICIENT AS THEY AGE, CAUSING INCREASED ELECTRIC BILLS OVER TIME, BUT SUDDEN INCREASES IN YOUR BILL COULD BE DUE TO EQUIPMENT FAILURE AND SHOULD BE INSPECTED.

Regularly scheduled heating and cooling system check-ups are a great way to avoid sudden surges in your energy bills during the winter and summer months.



SCHEDULED CHECK-UPS SHOULD BE PERFORMED BY A QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL TO HELP TO ENSURE YOUR SYSTEM IS WORKING PROPERLY AND EFFICIENTLY.



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The President's Message



Chris Stephens, CEO

Coweta-Fayette EMC has provided our members with safe, reliable, and competitively priced electricity to our members since 1947. Since then, we have grown from 691 members to over 90,000 meters served. We work hard to provide everyone – residential or commercial members - with dependable, economical energy.

Our mission has always been to keep operating costs as low as possible by making wise business decisions and utilizing long-term power agreements. As I have shared over the last several months, I am sure you have noticed, just as we have, how the cost of everything has skyrocketed. The same is true for the price of wholesale power as well as the materials and supplies we use.

We recently completed a cost-of-service study to determine how our rates needed to be restructured to more accurately reflect all the costs associated with supplying your home or business with electricity. Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative, the only way to recover the cost of purchasing and supplying power is through a rate adjustment.

Your bill is made of several parts: the customer service charge (cost to make electrical service available at your location), kWh charge (based on the amount of electricity you use), power cost adjustment (PCA- based on the cost of purchased fuel and budget changes), lights, other opt-in services, and taxes.

Your board of directors looked at the result of the cost-of-service study and approved a rate adjustment to match the current cost of delivering electricity. CFEMC has not adjusted rates since 2007. To distribute fixed costs fairly, we are raising the residential customer service charge from \$20.00 to \$28.00 per meter and implementing a fixed kWh charge beginning April 1, 2024.

For our residential members, I am sure you are wondering how this adjustment affects you. With the increase in the customer service charge and fixed kWh charge, your bill will be more evenly distributed over the year. The average rate increase for the remainder of this year will be less than 2.5 percent. This adjustment accounts for the cost of doing business due to inflation and Vogtle Units 3 and 4 coming online. The power cost adjustment will be set to zero (0.00). This rate adjustment will minimize the fluctuations you have noticed in the PCA, thereby stabilizing your energy rates.

For small commercial accounts, the customer service charge will increase from \$25.00 to \$35.00. Large commercial accounts will see an increase from \$45.00 to \$60.00.

We know times are tough and the staff and board of CFEMC work hard to keep costs down. We will continue to help you manage your energy use through the proactive tools on our website, through service like our energy audits designed to help you conserve energy at your homes, by sharing tips and information in Powerlines to assist you in making wise energy decisions, and to use electricity as efficiently as possible.