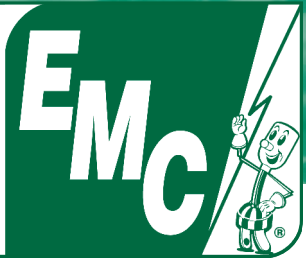


Electric News

Published for Members of the Little Ocmulgee EMC

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Reliable Power Made Simple

There are several key factors that affect electricity prices, as well as a few ways you can make a meaningful impact on home energy savings.

When you receive your monthly bill from Little Ocmulgee EMC, you're provided with a summary of how much electricity you used during the billing cycle. On our online portal, you can even see how electricity use may have spiked on certain days, such as a particularly warm or cool day, when relatives were staying with you, etc.

But you might be surprised to

learn that beyond your monthly energy consumption, there are external factors that can impact the cost of electricity.

Fuel Prices

Little Ocmulgee EMC purchases electricity from our power generation cooperatives Oglethorpe Power, Green Power EMC and Georgia Energy Cooperative at a wholesale cost, then we deliver that power to our local communities.

The cost of generating and transmitting electricity from our generation partners accounts for a

significant portion of the cost to provide electric service to local homes and businesses, and the cost of fuels that are used to generate electricity, such as natural gas and coal, fluctuate based on supply and demand. While these fluctuations can impact the cost of electricity, we work closely with these generation companies to plan ahead and help stabilize prices for our members.

Extreme Weather

While we can't control the weather, we can review weather patterns and forecasts to prepare for extreme cold or heat, when we know the demand for electricity will increase. But when temperatures become extreme and the demand for electricity spikes, the price of wholesale electricity can also increase.

Infrastructure Equipment

To cover the costs associated with providing electricity to your home or business, Little Ocmulgee EMC members pay a monthly base fee of \$20. This flat monthly fee ensures the cost of equipment, materials, labor and daily operations are covered for all members in Little Ocmulgee EMC's service territory.

To ensure reliability, we must maintain the local grid, including power lines, substations and other essential equipment, and restore that equipment when it is damaged.

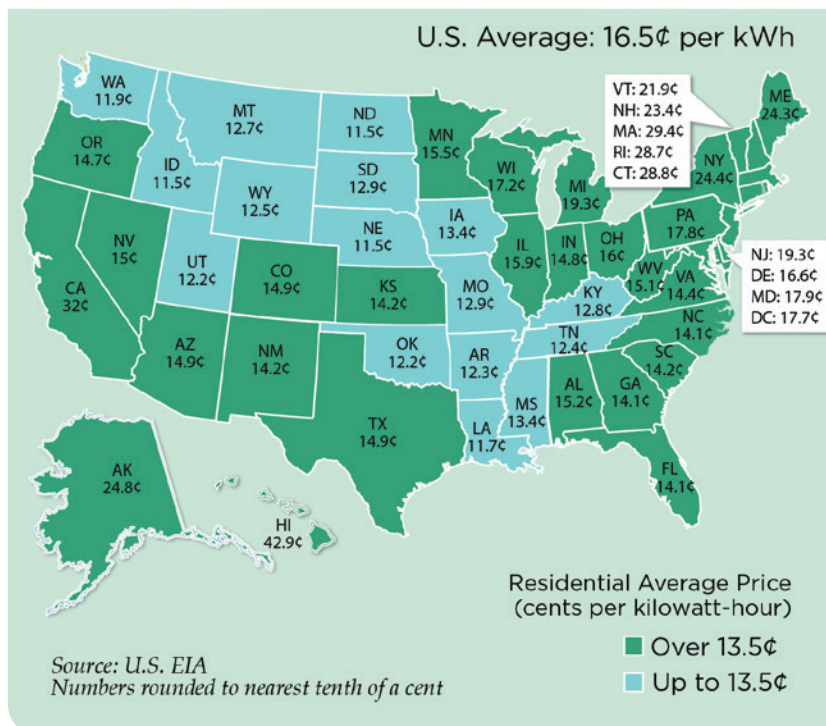
Energy Policy and Regulations

Federal energy policies and regulations can have a profound impact on electricity costs. As energy generation shifts to the use of more

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Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2024 figures, in cents per kWh



Little Ocmulgee EMC rates fall below the state and national average at 12.75 cents.

Preparing Your Home for Storms: Power Outage Survival Tips

Spring and summer's unpredictable weather—high winds, heavy rain and even tornadoes—can cause power outages. Preparing your home in advance can help you stay safe and comfortable during these events.

Here are tips to help get your household storm ready:

- **Stock up on emergency supplies in a waterproof, accessible container.** Include flashlights, batteries, nonperishable food, water, a first-aid kit, hygiene items and a battery radio.

- **Plan ahead.** Have an alternate plan for those who depend on medical equipment or medications that require electricity.

- **Protect your electronics.** Power surges caused by storms can damage your devices, so use surge protectors and unplug nonessential electronics during severe weather.



For critical equipment, consider a backup generator.

- **Maintain backup power sources.** Generators and power banks keep essential devices running but always follow safety guidelines to prevent hazards.

- **Secure your home's exterior.** High winds can turn loose objects into projectiles, potentially damaging power lines or your home. Before a storm, inspect your yard and secure

or store items, such as patio furniture, grills, toys or garden tools.

- **Stay informed!** This is crucial during storm season. Sign up for local weather alerts and monitor updates from trusted weather sources, such as local meteorologists.

Storms and potential power outages require proactive planning. As unpredictable as weather can be, a little preparation goes a long way to ensure peace of mind.

Reliable Power Made Simple, *Continued from page 14A*

renewable sources and stricter regulations for traditional, always available fuel sources, such as natural gas and coal plants, costly upgrades and technologies must be constructed and deployed. These additional costs are ultimately passed on to consumers.

U.S. power consumption is expected to double by 2050. Across the country, electric cooperatives, with the help of our state and national associations, are working with members of Congress to advocate for smart energy policies that reliably power our local communities and bolster the long-term reliability of the nation's grid.

Control What You Can

While many of these external factors that impact electricity costs are out of our control, we all have the power to manage our energy use at home. The most effective way to lower use is thermostat management. Since heating and cooling account for a major portion of home energy use, adjusting the thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting can help you save energy and money. Remember to service your heating and cooling system annually and replace filters as needed.

You can also reduce energy use by taking advantage of off-peak periods, when the demand for

electricity is lower. Reserve energy-intensive chores for off-peak times, such as early in the morning or late in the evening to save energy. Additionally, be sure to seal air leaks around windows, doors and other areas where gaps are possible. This will help your heating and cooling system work less and improve the overall comfort of your home.

Little Ocmulgee EMC is your trusted local energy adviser, and we're here to help. As always, we will continue working diligently to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable power.

Little Ocmulgee EMC to Celebrate 88 Years of Service to Members

The 88th Little Ocmulgee EMC Annual Meeting of Members will be held Nov. 11, 2026, in the Wheeler County High School gymnasium in Alamo. Doors will open promptly at 12:30 p.m. for member registration.

Prior to the business session, which begins at 2 p.m., there will be a health fair, vendor booths and gospel entertainment. Door prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the meeting.

Little Ocmulgee EMC Annual Meeting of Members

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2026

**Wheeler County High School Gymnasium
50 Snowhill Road
Alamo, GA 30411**



Pursuant to Little Ocmulgee EMC Bylaws, a committee to nominate members for directorship has been appointed. The following members will serve:

- **Laurens County (District 1):**
Jerrett Alligood, Betty Barrow, Eric Phillips
- **Telfair/Dodge counties (District 2):**
Marty Kinnett, Carey Knowles, Mattie White
- **Wheeler/Montgomery counties (District 3):**
Carey Clark, Tommy Clark, Jamie Nobles

If you have comments or suggestions concerning nominations or persons who wish to be considered for director nomination, please contact the above-named committee members.

The Nominating Committee will meet Aug. 25, 2026, to make director nominations. One director from each district is elected each year and will serve staggered three-year terms.

Directors seeking reelection for another three-year term are:

- **Laurens County (District 1):** Chris Milton
- **Telfair/Dodge counties (District 2):** Jim Knight
- **Wheeler/Montgomery counties (District 3):** Jimmy Grimes

Nominations for directors can also be made by petition, which must be signed by 15 or more Little Ocmulgee EMC members and submitted to the co-op no later than Sept. 11, 2026, at 5 p.m. Nominations are not allowed from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*



August heat can put your air conditioner to the test, making it a great time to check your system's air filter. A dirty, clogged filter restricts airflow, forcing your cooling system to work harder than necessary to keep your home comfortable. That extra strain can reduce efficiency, increase energy use and contribute to unnecessary wear and tear on equipment. Inspect your filter monthly during periods of heavy air conditioner use and replace it if it appears dirty. A clean filter supports efficient operation and can even enhance indoor air quality—helping you stay cool and comfortable during the hottest days of summer.



Clearing the Path to Reliability

Trees are majestic, beautiful and good for the soul. But we also know that our members depend on us to deliver reliable power to their homes and businesses. That's why Little Ocmulgee EMC strives to balance maintaining the beautiful surroundings we all cherish with ensuring reliable electricity. You might not realize it, but there are several benefits to regular tree trimming.

Keeping power lines clear of overgrown vegetation improves service reliability. After all, we've seen the whims of Mother Nature during severe weather events with fallen tree limbs taking down power lines and utility poles. While many factors can impact power disruptions, about half of all outages can be attributed to overgrown vegetation. This is why you sometimes see Little Ocmulgee EMC crews or contractors out in the community trimming trees near power lines. Our trimming crews have been trained and certified based on the latest industry standards.

In fact, all U.S. electric utilities are required to trim trees that grow too close to power lines. Scheduled trimming throughout the year keeps lines clear from overgrown or dead limbs that are likely to fall, and we are better able to prepare for severe weather events. Plus, we all know it's more cost-effective to undertake preventative maintenance than it is to make repairs later.

Working near power lines can be dangerous, and we care about your safety and that of our lineworkers. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose a grave danger to families. If children can reach those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor such as a tree.

As a co-op, Little Ocmulgee EMC always strives to keep costs down for our members. If trees and other vegetation are left unchecked, they can become overgrown and expensive to correct. A strategic vegetation management program helps keep costs

down for everyone.

When it comes to vegetation management, there are ways you can help, too. When planting new trees, make sure they're planted a safe distance from overhead power lines. Medium-height trees (40 feet or smaller) should be planted at least 25 feet from power lines. Taller trees (over 40 feet) should be planted at least 50 feet from power lines. You can also practice safe planting near pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 feet from the transformer door and 4 feet from the sides. If your neighborhood has underground lines, remember to contact 811 before you begin any project that requires digging.

If you spot an overgrown tree or branch that's dangerously close to overhead lines, please contact Little Ocmulgee EMC at (800) 342-1290.

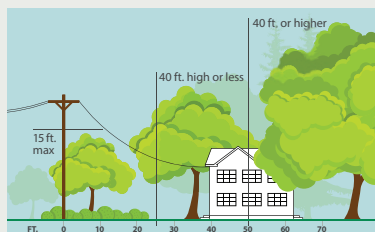
We have deep roots in our community, and we love our beautiful surroundings. It takes a balanced approach, and our vegetation management program is a crucial tool in ensuring service reliability.

3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

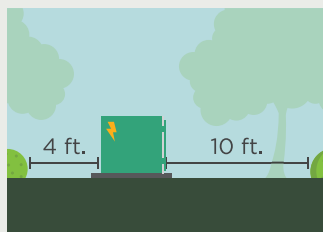
Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them.

Here's how you can help:

1. Plant trees in the right place. Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



3. Report dangerous branches.

If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



Trimming improves safety for all.

Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.