

BEACON



Amicalola Electric
Membership Corporation

"Owned By Those We Serve"

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Comments from the CEO

Easy steps to greater efficiency

Do you want to save money and electricity but have limited time, money and patience? According to the Department of Energy, a "typical American family" spends nearly \$2,000 per year on their home energy bills. Much of that money, however, is wasted through leaky windows or ducts, old appliances or inefficient heating and cooling systems.

Fortunately, there are several relatively easy ways to save energy without a substantial commitment of time and money. These efforts will help you save whether you own or rent an older or newly constructed home. And you won't have to hire a specialist or call in a favor from someone who is handy with tools to help you.



Where to start

According to *Money Magazine*, "improving the envelope" of your home is a good place to start. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind vibrations can loosen up even a tight home, increasing air leakage. Doors and windows may not close tightly, and ductwork can spring leaks, wasting cooled and heated air. By placing weather stripping and caulk around windows and doors, you can keep cool air inside during warm months and prevent chilly air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and creates greater efficiency. Apply weather stripping around overlooked spaces like your attic hatch or pull-down stairs.



Todd Payne
President/CEO
Amicalola EMC

Replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in your home's lighting efficiency and is one of the fastest ways to slightly reduce your energy bill. Known for their longevity and efficiency, LED bulbs have an estimated operational life span of typically 10,000 to 20,000 hours compared to 1,000 hours of a typical incandescent. According to the Department of Energy, by replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR rating, you can save \$75 each year.

Given that a large portion of your monthly energy bill goes toward heating and cooling your home, it makes sense to ensure your home's heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system is performing at an optimal level. Checking, changing or cleaning your filter extends the life of your HVAC system and saves you money.

Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Otherwise, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including: reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent

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Gilmer High student earns \$500 scholarship and competes at state level

Gilmer High student Chandler Morris won first place and a \$500 scholarship during the EMC/FFA Agricultural Education Career Development Event (CDE) held at Amicalola EMC in Jasper during November. Morris also proved himself to be one of the best in the state by placing sixth in the State EMC/FFA Agricultural Education Career Development Event (CDE) held in January.

The FFA and electric membership corporations (EMCs) in Georgia, including Amicalola EMC, offer the scholarships to area and state winners to reward and encourage student participation. The comprehensive, hands-on program has been teaching high school students the safe, efficient use of electricity for more than 40 years. The program is designed to teach



Chandler Morris of Gilmer High competed in the State EMC/FFA Agricultural Education Career Development Event (CDE) held in January.

career skills and helps students develop the ability to think critically, communicate clearly and perform effectively.

In addition to the practical wiring exercise, contestants must

complete a multiple choice written exam and give a presentation in which they describe the steps necessary to complete a particular electrical wiring task.

The FFA is a national organization of more than 500,000 student members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture. An integral part of the agricultural education program in public schools, FFA's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Amicalola EMC is a proud supporter of the FFA/EMC wiring contest program. We congratulate Morris on his success!



The North Region Area I EMC/FFA career development event was held on Nov. 15, 2016, at Amicalola EMC in Jasper. Students from 10 north Georgia high schools participated.

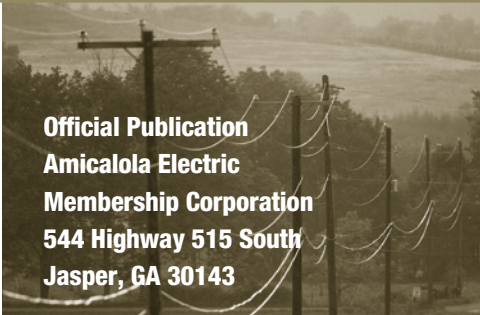
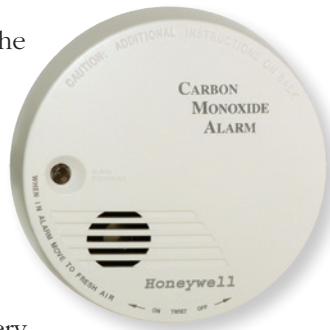
Check carbon monoxide alarm during heating season

Heating season is a good time to make sure the carbon monoxide detectors in your house are working properly. If you don't have any, it's time to install them.

Carbon monoxide is a potential byproduct of burning fossil fuels like gas and oil. It's colorless and odorless, but potentially toxic, and can cause everything from dizziness to death.

Stay safe this winter with a few precautions:

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm outside every bedroom.
- Replace batteries in the alarm at least twice a year. While you're at it, change the batteries in your smoke alarms, too.
- If you notice any warning signs that carbon monoxide is at harmful levels in your home—the air is stuffy and stale; condensation appears on windows; burner flames turn yellow; pilot lights flicker or extinguish—turn the appliance off and open the windows. Call a natural gas contractor to inspect the equipment.
- Properly maintain your furnace, boiler vents and chimneys.



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 706-864-0359

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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Don't forget to spring forward on **March 12!** Set your clocks ahead by one hour.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill! Caulk around the fireplace hearth and keep the damper closed when a fire is not burning.

—Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Easy steps to greater efficiency, *Continued from page 26A*

higher operating costs; lowered system efficiency; and costly duct cleaning or replacement. Many HVAC professionals recommend cleaning the system filters monthly. A simple task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently, keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

Take control of your energy savings

Take a look at your programmable thermostat. When was the last time you checked to make sure it was programmed for the current season and family schedule? This is one of the best energy-saving tools at your fingertips. It enables you to fine tune the temperature during particular hours of the day. Many



models allow you to differentiate between weekday and weekend schedules, and internet-connected thermostats can learn your schedule and make adjustments automatically. Most models come with an override option, so you can make

manual adjustments without losing overall programming. You can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

Want to improve your home's efficiency even more? Take advantage of the HomeEnergySuite, an interactive tool that provides useful details about your **estimated** use, seasonal factors and cost-saving recommendations. It's on our website, www.amicalolaemc.com, and it's free, simple to use and gives you fast results. For more detailed information, schedule a free energy audit for your home or business. Give us a call today to maximize your energy efficiency.

Process for electing directors

Members of Amicalola Electric Membership Corp. are reminded that nominations for the AEMC Board of Directors will be posted July 9, 2017. The Nominating Committee's recommendations for the board will be posted on the bulletin board at the main office in Jasper and on the AEMC website.

The Amicalola EMC Bylaws state "that the committee on nominations shall make at least one nomination for each post for director to be voted on at the annual meeting. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative at least ninety (90) days (July 9, 2017) before the meeting, a list of

nominations for directors, but any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures no less than sixty (60) days (Aug. 8, 2017) prior to the meeting, and the secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted."

Are we holding your money?

Six months left to claim capital credit refunds

Aug. 31, 2017, marks the deadline to claim capital credit refunds from the year 1990. If you had electric service with Amicalola EMC during 1990, we may have a refund waiting for you. The list of names can be found at www.amicalolaemc.com or in person at any local Amicalola EMC office.

After Aug. 31, 2017, unclaimed funds will be distributed for charitable purposes in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 44-12-236 of the Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act.

