



COLQUITT EMC NEWSLINE

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MARCH 2023

COLQUITT EMC SCHOLARSHIP AND BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT APPLICATIONS COMING SOON!

Colquitt EMC Scholarship Applications Available April 1 – June 15! Applicants must:

- Reside in the household of a Colquitt EMC Member
- Be enrolled in a college or technical college with campus locations/degree offerings within Colquitt EMC's service area.
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.5
- Submit a complete application with two letters of recommendation, proof of enrollment and transcript.



Undergraduate and graduate students may apply. Previous scholarship recipients are not eligible. Applications will be available at colquitemc.com April 1 and due by June 15, 2023.

The Bright Ideas Grant Application date is moving to June 1 – August 1! Bright Ideas awards teachers money for innovative lessons and projects to energize students learning abilities. The Bright Ideas Program will award grants of up to \$1,000 to winning teachers. Public and private school teachers teaching grade K-12 in any subject area are eligible to apply. Schools in the areas that Colquitt EMC serves may submit more than one application. However, teachers are eligible to submit only one application per school year. The grants are not for professional development. Bright Ideas Grant Applications will be available at colquitemc.com June 1 and are due by August 1, 2023.



If you have any questions regarding the Colquitt EMC Scholarship or Bright Ideas Grant, please contact Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- How Electricity Reaches You
- What to Expect After Installing Rooftop Solar
- Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



PLAY IT SAFE: 10 DO'S AND DON'TS WHEN USING PORTABLE GENERATORS

Storm season is upon us, which means greater potential for power outages. If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, Colquitt EMC reminds you to play it safe.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.

Here are 10 do's and don'ts to keep in mind when using portable generators:

- **DO:** Install backup CO alarms.
- **DO:** Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.
- **DO:** Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.
- **DO:** Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.
- **DO:** Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or other damage before use.
- **DON'T:** Operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially-enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly.
- **DON'T:** Open windows or doors while the generator is running.
- **DON'T:** Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.
- **DON'T:** Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.
- **DON'T:** Connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous—even deadly—if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

If you have questions about proper use of portable generators, we're here to help. Give us a call at 229-985-3620 or contact us at customerservice@colquittemc.com.



Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

Photo Source: Honda.

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

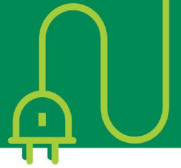
In compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 44-12-236 of "The Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act" of Georgia, Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation is attempting to locate former members and heirs whose capital credit checks were issued December 1, 2017 for electrical service received in 1996, but which have been returned by the U.S. Post Office as "undeliverable" or have been otherwise unclaimed.

A current list of these members, with their last known address, is available at www.colquitemc.com. Please call your local office if you are listed. The last possible date to claim these funds is June 30, 2023. All funds not claimed by this date will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. section 44-12-236 of "The Disposition of Unclaimed Capital Property Act" of Georgia.

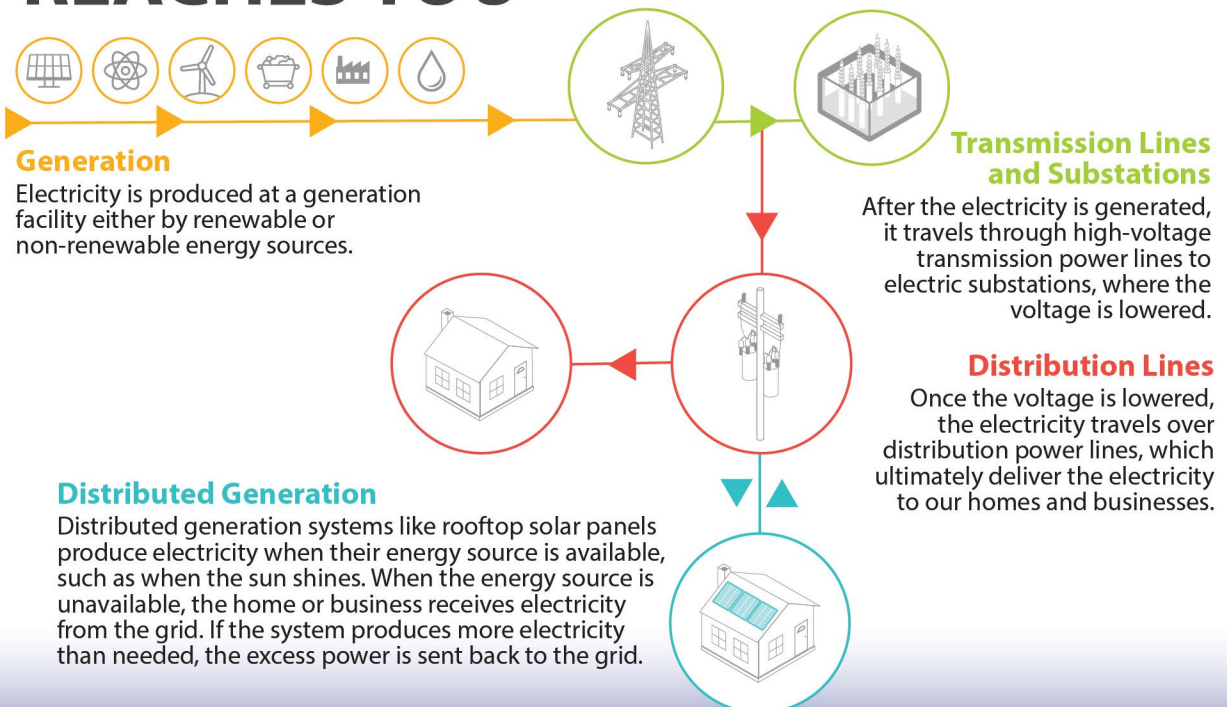
Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Washing windows and screens is a great way to practice energy efficiency during spring cleaning. Clean windows and screens make your home brighter by allowing more sunlight in, reducing the need for lamps and fixtures. Clean screens also allow more fresh air in the home when the windows are open to recycle indoor air. Natural light and clean air are energy savers, and they enhance overall health and productivity.

Source: energy.gov



HOW ELECTRICITY REACHES YOU



WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER INSTALLING ROOFTOP SOLAR



With energy prices rising, interest in adding solar panels to a home has never been higher. In our service area, some solar marketers are building on this interest by indicating that installing rooftop solar panels will:

- Reduce your monthly utility electricity bill by 75% or more.
- Earn net credits on your utility bill. (Your total monthly power bill is a credit.)
- Generate monthly net savings for your electricity cost. (New power bill payment + monthly solar payment is less than the power bill without solar).

Unfortunately, many members who have installed rooftop solar have contacted us concerned about the absence of immediate savings on their power bills. Please consider the following information with this in mind:

To lower your total power bill by adding solar panels, your new (post-solar) power bill plus your monthly solar payment must be less than your old (pre-solar) power bill.

Immediate savings after installing solar is seldomly the case because:

- The fixed portion of a power bill does not change (\$19.04).
- Electricity use occurs 24 hours a day. Solar Electricity production is limited to 5 to 6 hours per day.
- Extra Solar Electricity produced and unused can not be banked (go toward future purchases); it is returned to the grid with a credit well below the cost to make it.

Example: Mr. Save A. Lot (actual event)

Mr. Save A. Lot's current power use is 1791 kWh producing a bill of \$241.31. He installs rooftop solar panels that produce 473 kWh per month. He can only use 115 kWh a month while the solar power is being generated and is returning 358 kWh to the grid earning him a credit of \$13.60. After accounting for the reduced power use and the credit for returning power to the grid, his utility power bill is \$173.01.

His monthly payment for the solar panels is \$148.39 per month.

His current TOTAL power bill consists of his utility bill (reduced by his solar panels to \$173.02) plus his monthly payment for his solar panels (\$148.39), equaling \$321.40.

\$80.09 higher than his TOTAL power cost without solar.

Recipe OF THE MONTH



Easy Beef Enchiladas

INGREDIENTS

1 lb. ground beef
½ cup chopped onion
1 (20oz) can enchilada sauce
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
8 flour tortillas

DIRECTIONS

Brown meat and onions in large skillet. Add 1 cup enchilada sauce and 1 cup cheese and mix well. Put filling along center of each tortilla. Roll up and place seam side down in a greased 9x13 pan. Pour remaining sauce over the top and sprinkle remaining cheese over. Bake at 350F degrees for about 30 minutes or until cheese is bubbly. Top with any desired toppings and enjoy!

Church of the Month



Northside Baptist Church

200 Park Ave., Valdosta, GA 31602
Pastor: Robby Foster

Service Schedule

Sunday Morning	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening	6:00 PM
Wednesdays	6:15 PM

To nominate your church for Church of the Month, please contact Shelby Cloud at 229-985-3620 ext. 1246 with your church's information. Please include service schedule, address and pastor's name.

Bible Verse of the Month

Let my teaching fall like rain and my words
descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like
abundant rain on tender plants.

-Deuteronomy 32:2