



## Colquitt EMC Accepting Applications for Washington Youth Tour



Colquitt EMC is accepting applications from area high school juniors to select students to represent the co-op for the Washington Youth Tour. We are excited to announce that beginning in 2020, Colquitt EMC is sponsoring three delegates to participate in this week-long leadership trip. Delegates will experience U.S. government and U.S. history first-hand while having fun, making new friends, and developing leadership skills.

Colquitt EMC's delegates will join 115 teens from other EMCs across Georgia to represent the state during the 2020 Washington Youth Tour to be held June 18-25.

The fast-paced, high-energy program is designed to give students a taste of democracy in action, expose them to the nation's rich history through visits to national monuments and museums, and encourage students to become politically aware citizens.

The Washington Youth Tour gives students the opportunity to make connections with other high-achieving peers while participating in an unforgettable week-long journey in the nation's capital that includes face-to-face meetings with state and national leaders, leadership training, and discussions on important issues with students from other states. "It gives you the ability to meet with your senators and also gives you the ability to learn what happens behind

the scenes," said Gage Nichols, 2019 WYT Delegate.

The tour begins in Georgia where students get to know each other before boarding an airplane and flying to Washington, D.C. where they connect with more than 1,800 students from across the country. Plans are in the works to cruise down the Potomac River, lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington Cemetery, meet with Georgia's U.S. senators and representatives, take photos outside the White House and tour the U.S. Supreme Court, the United States Capitol, Mount Vernon and the National Cathedral.

Students will visit memorials honoring Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington. They will also visit the Martin Luther King Jr., World War II, Korean and Vietnam Veterans memorials. Plus, they will have the opportunity to see the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon perform at the Marine Memorial (Iwo Jima statue) as well as spend time at the Smithsonian and Holocaust Museums.

"The (application) process for the tour is actually an easy procedure," said Madison Newell, 2019 WYT Delegate. Applications are available at any of our Colquitt EMC offices or [www.colquitemc.com](http://www.colquitemc.com).

**The deadline to apply is March 1, 2020.**



**Madison Newell and Gage Nichols**  
Colquitt EMC 2019 Washington Youth Tour Delegates



# Colquitt EMC's Outage Reporting & Payment Number

# 1-855-293-1804

Save this  
number!

Have account number ready & follow the prompts.

## Colquitt EMC is currently accepting applications for the Walter Harrison Scholarship *A program sponsored by Georgia's electric cooperatives*



The \$1,000 scholarship can be applied to academic expenses at any accredited two- or four-year college or university in Georgia, including technical colleges. Factors for consideration include grade point average, SAT/ COMPASS scores, academic standing, scholastic honors and financial need. Students applying for the scholarship must be accepted or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate degree program, complete an application, and write a biographical sketch which provides a preview of his or her future plans. Applications are available at any Colquitt EMC office or visit [www.colquittemc.com](http://www.colquittemc.com).

Completed applications are due by February 1, 2020.

## BURN WITH CARE... AVOID TROUBLE.

**ATTENTION:** Use firebreaks around any utility poles on land that will be burned under controlled conditions. By using a firebreak to protect utility poles, you can help Colquitt EMC save thousands of dollars in repair costs. Also, you can avoid potential safety problems resulting from burned poles.

*-Thank you in advance for your cooperation.*



# Residential Renewable Energy Tax Credit Update for 2020

Effective January 1, 2020, the Federal tax credit for installing renewable energy equipment is changing. Here are the details for members who may be considering renewable energy equipment for their homes.

- The tax credit for 2020 is 26 percent of purchase and installation costs. This applies to property placed in service after December 31, 2019, and before January 1, 2021.
- There's no limit on the price of the solar system installation you choose.
- If you can't use all of the credit in one year, you can carry it over into later years.
- Qualified solar systems that meet IRS guidelines, produce electricity and heat water are covered.
- The entire bill for a qualified system, minus the sales tax, qualify.
- The installation of a solar system must be at the primary or secondary home of the taxpayer. The second house must meet minimum annual owner-occupancy guidelines.
- Systems purchased outright or with a loan qualify—leased equipment does not.
- Solar roof tiles qualify.
- New construction does not qualify.
- Solar swimming pool or hot tub heaters do not qualify.



Renewable energy systems installed in 2019 may be eligible for a 30% tax credit. Colquitt EMC currently pays 4¢ per kilowatt-hour for power sold back to our grid from an approved renewable energy installation (this amount is subject to change and could be reduced).

If you have plans to install a renewable energy system on your property, please contact our engineering department before installation.



# Local. Dependable. Serving YOU.

## Three DIY Efficiency Projects to Tackle This Year

By Abby Berry

**A** New Year brings new opportunities to save energy—and money. You may think energy efficiency upgrades require a great deal of time and expense, but that's not always the case.

If you're interested in making your home more efficient but don't want to break the bank, there are several DIY projects you can tackle to increase energy savings. Let's take a look at three inexpensive efficiency upgrades that can help you save energy throughout the year.

### Trim Dryer Vent

**Level of difficulty:** easy. **Supplies needed:** tin snips, gloves, measuring tape and masking tape. **Estimated Cost:** about \$25 depending on the supplies you already have.

If your dryer vent hose is too long, your dryer is working harder than it has to, using more energy than necessary. The vent hose should be long enough for you to pull the dryer out a couple feet from the wall, but the shape of the hose should form a line—it should not have a lot of slack, with twists and curves. A shorter, unobstructed vent hose increases the efficiency of your dryer, dries clothing faster and reduces lint buildup, which can create potential fire hazards.

Simply measure, mark and trim the hose to the desired length, then reattach the hose to your dryer and exterior vent. If you're unsure about the hose length, check out YouTube.com for a quick video tutorial.

### Seal Air Leaks

**Level of difficulty:** moderate. **Supplies needed:** caulk and caulk gun, weather stripping, gloves, putty knife, paper towels. **Estimated Cost:** \$25 to \$50 depending on the materials you purchase.

Sealing air leaks in your home can help you save 10% to 20% on heating and cooling bills. Apply caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing to seal in conditioned air. You should also weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Types of caulking and weather stripping materials vary, but ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need. For more information, the Department of Energy provides step-by-step instructions for caulking and weather stripping: <https://bit.ly/2Kesu6W>

### Insulate Attic Stairs Opening

**Level of difficulty:** moderate. **Supplies needed** (if you build the box yourself): rigid foam board, faced blanket insulation, tape for foam board, measuring tape, utility knife, caulk and caulk gun, plywood. **Estimated Cost:** \$50 to \$100.

A properly insulated attic is one of the best ways to optimize energy savings and comfort in your home, but many homeowners don't consider insulating the attic stairs, or the opening to your attic space. Even a well-insulated attic can leak air through the stair opening, but luckily, there's an easy fix.

An insulated cover box can seal and insulate the attic stairs opening. You can build your own insulated cover box or purchase a pre-built box or kit from a home improvement store for about \$60. If you decide to build your own, check out these step-by-step instructions from the Department of Energy: <https://bit.ly/36YNCYQ>. It should also be noted, if your attic opening is located in a garage that you do not heat and cool, this upgrade will not be as effective.

Saving energy doesn't have to be hard. With a little time and effort, you can maximize energy savings and increase the comfort of your home. To learn about more ways to save, visit [www.colquittemc.com](http://www.colquittemc.com).

*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.*



Image Credit: Alyson Hurt

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## Recipes of the Month



### **Black Eyed Pea Cornbread**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

*Serves: 8*

1 lb ground beef  
1 cup canned black-eyed peas, drained  
1 cup onion, chopped  
3/4 cup cream-style corn  
1 cup cornmeal  
1/2 cup flour  
1 cup buttermilk  
1/4 cup cooking oil  
2 eggs, slightly beaten  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
2 jalapeno peppers, chopped  
1 cup cheddar cheese, grated

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Preheat oven to 350. Brown meat and drain. Break into small pieces. Add other ingredients and mix well. Place in 13x9x2 inch pan that has been well greased. Cook for 45 minutes.



### **New Year's Day Chili**

#### **INGREDIENTS**

*Serves: 4-6*

1 lb sage pork sausage  
2 (15 ounce) cans crushed tomatoes  
2 (15 ounce) cans black-eyed peas (drained and rinsed)  
1 medium yellow onion, diced  
1 green pepper, diced  
1 bay leaf  
3 teaspoons garlic powder  
2 teaspoons chili powder  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste  
hot sauce, to taste

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Brown sausage in skillet. Drain and set aside. In sausage drippings, lightly brown onion and green pepper. Combine sausage, onion and pepper, tomatoes, black-eyed peas, and seasonings in crock pot. Cook in crock pot on low for 6-8 hours or high for 3-4.

(Cut Here) ✂