



COLQUITT EMC NEWSLINE

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THE GOOD KIND OF AUDIT

Colder weather typically results in higher energy bills, and with winter in full swing, we'd like to remind you about a free co-op service that can help you boost efficiency and save money.

As your trusted energy partner, we believe savings and efficiency are within reach

Four Ways an Energy Audit Can Benefit You

A home energy audit can determine the overall efficiency of your home or business and ways to improve it. Here are the main benefits of conducting an energy audit.

- \$ An audit will identify where most of your energy use is going and ways to use energy more efficiently to save money.
- \$ It can determine if appliances and heating/cooling equipment are properly sized for the home or business.

\$ An audit can identify potential safety issues with home wiring and ventilation.

\$ Making changes based on the audit recommendations will raise your property value.



for everyone, and we want to help you get there. That's why Colquitt EMC offers free home energy audits.

An energy audit provides a holistic view of your home's efficiency. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to adjust energy consumption, improve problem areas and ultimately keep more money in your wallet. An energy audit can also identify potential safety issues surrounding electrical wiring and HVAC systems, making your home safer. You could say this is a *good* kind of audit.

So how does it work? First, request the energy audit by completing the form on

our website at colquitemc.com/energy-audits or by contacting your local office. The audit is conducted at your home by one of our trained and certified energy advisors.

What to expect during the audit

The audit is comprised of three parts:

evaluation, energy testing and recommendations.

First, our energy advisor conducts a walk-through of your home, examining energy use and identifying problem areas. The advisor will look at specific elements of your home impacting energy use such as doors, windows and insulation levels. The advisor will also examine major appliances including your heating and cooling system and conduct a room-by-room assessment. During the assessment, the advisor will ask questions

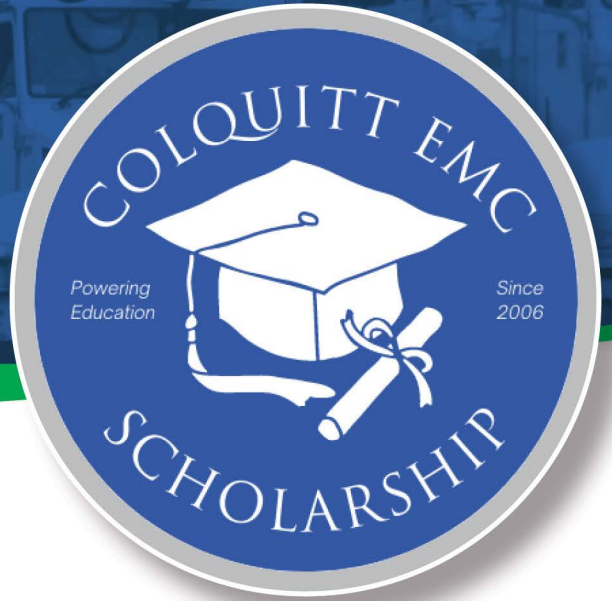
about your energy use habits and review past energy bills.

In the testing phase, the advisor will evaluate the seal of your home by conducting a blower door test to identify the source of any air leaks or drafts. The advisor will also conduct thermal imaging of the home to detect heat loss that is invisible to the naked eye. Thermal imaging

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COMING SOON!

COLQUITT EMC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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 will be due June 15.

If you have any questions regarding the Colquitt EMC Scholarship, please contact Sonya Aldridge at 229-985-3620 ext. 1225.



POWER OUTAGE?

How to report a power outage:

- Know your Colquitt EMC Account Number
 - Save the Outage Reporting Number: 1-855-293-1804
 - Download the FREE Colquitt EMC Mobile App
 - Log into your Colquitt EMC Account Portal

You can also check out the Outage Map on our website or in the mobile app!



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, 2018, for electrical service received in 1997, 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 to view at colquitemc.com/about-us/capital-credits. Please call your local office if you are listed. The last possible date to claim these funds is June 30, 2024. All funds not claimed by this date will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by Georgia Law (OCGA Section 44-12-236).

THE GOOD KIND OF AUDIT (Continued from Front)

can reveal inadequate insulation levels, HVAC airflow, radiant heat malfunction and additional key factors.

The power to save is in your hands

Finally, the advisor will provide you with a detailed evaluation. This is a written report with recommendations regarding energy consumption and steps you can take to improve efficiency and save money.

One of the greatest values of an energy audit is helping you understand how you use electricity and more importantly, identifying ways to use it more efficiently.

Additionally, making improvements and upgrades based on the evaluation can increase your property value—all the more reason to schedule an audit for your home.

Free energy audits are just one of the many perks of your co-op membership, so we hope you’ll take advantage of this valuable service.



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 from burned poles.

-Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

TAX BREAKS AND EFFICIENCY GAINS: HOW THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT CAN LOWER THE COST OF MAKING ENERGY IMPROVEMENTS

If you've invested in energy efficiency improvements, you can leverage the Inflation Reduction Act to enhance your financial benefits. Here's how to maximize advantages:

1. Understand Eligibility Criteria: Ensure your energy efficiency improvements qualify for tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act. Eligible upgrades often include insulation, energy-efficient windows, and advanced heating and cooling systems.



2. Document Expenses and Upgrades: Keep thorough records of all expenses related to energy-efficient improvements. Proper documentation will be crucial when claiming tax credits, providing evidence of the qualifying upgrades you've made.

3. Explore Additional Incentives: Beyond the general tax credits, investigate specific incentives related to your improvements. For instance, the Act is offering up to 30% credit for advanced energy projects.

4. Review IRS Guidelines: Stay informed about IRS guidelines regarding credits and deductions under the Inflation Reduction Act. The IRS provides detailed information on how different improvements may impact your tax liabilities.

5. Consult a Tax Professional: To ensure you maximize your benefits, consider consulting a tax professional. They can provide personalized advice based on your specific situation, helping you navigate the complexities of the Inflation Reduction Act.

By taking these steps, homeowners can ensure they make the most of the Inflation Reduction Act's tax credits and incentives, turning their commitment to energy efficiency into tangible financial gains.

Contact the Energy Advisors at Colquitt EMC or visit these websites for more information:

<https://www.irs.gov/credits-and-deductions-under-the-inflation-reduction-act-of-2022>

https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits

Recipe OF THE MONTH



Red Velvet Brownies (White Chocolate Icing)

INGREDIENTS

½ cup butter, at room temperature
1 ½ cups sugar
2 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 ¼ teaspoon salt
3 tablespoons cocoa powder
2 tablespoons red food coloring

Frosting

½ cup butter at room temperature
2 ½ cups powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
4 ounces white chocolate
1-2 tablespoons milk

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spray 8x8 pan or lightly grease and flour it. In a small bowl, mix cocoa powder, food coloring and 1 teaspoon of the vanilla to form a paste. Set aside. With an electric mixer, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, and then add second teaspoon of vanilla. With mixer on medium, beat in cocoa paste. Add flour and salt and mix until just combined. Spread in pan and bake 25-30 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool before frosting. Frosting: Melt the white chocolate according to instructions on your package and set it aside. Cream butter with mixer until fluffy. Add vanilla. Slowly mix in powdered sugar, then white chocolate. Add enough milk to reach desired consistency. Frost the top of the brownies.

Church of the Month



Greenwood Baptist Church

1645 E. Park Ave. • Valdosta, GA
Pastor Mike Nelligan

Service Schedule

Sunday School	9:45 AM
Sunday Morning Worship Service	11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	6:30 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

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly,
since love covers a multitude of sins.

~ 1 Peter 4:8