



# COLQUITT EMC NEWSLINE

VOLUME 52, NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2022

## A Message...

### FROM OUR PRESIDENT/CEO

My Fellow Members,

Last month, I wrote to you about the economic uncertainty that we have been experiencing over the past 18 months. Specifically, I described how our costs at the EMC have increased in the same way costs have increased to each of us personally. The largest and most impactful increase has been in the cost of power that your EMC delivers to all of its members. The fuel that powers our generation has seen dramatic and unpredictable increases that affect your EMC every day.

Unfortunately, this increase in the cost of our wholesale power is only part of the economic impact we see at the EMC. We have experienced increases in our diesel and unleaded fuel costs, much in the same way we have all experienced at our local gas stations. The cost of all the materials we purchase to provide service to our members has increased in a similarly dramatic fashion. In addition to the higher prices, all utilities have had difficulties obtaining materials. In many cases, materials simply are not available in a timely manner. We have intentionally increased our inventory of materials. I believe one of the worst things that could happen to Colquitt EMC is not having the necessary materials to provide service for our members.

With all of the pressures of cost increases, it requires all utilities (*or any business for that matter*) to look at their revenue to be sure all these costs of doing business can be paid accordingly. For Colquitt EMC, we must examine these costs to be certain we can meet all the financial goals that are required by our lending institutions as well as meet other contractual obligations we have with other entities. One of our main goals at Colquitt EMC is to make sufficient margins above all of our costs to do business. The good thing about a cooperative is that any margins we make are returned to our members as Capital Credits or as a credit on their EMC bills.

With the rapid increase in costs, we must consider the idea of a rate increase for our membership. The last rate increases we have had were in 1991 and then in 2012. We do not begin discussions about rate increases without a lot of thought. We have been monitoring this situation closely. Many businesses have already raised their prices to cover costs. Recently, the investor-owned utility in Georgia announced it would be seeking a 12% rate increase. At this time, we haven't finalized our numbers; but they are not close to that 12% number.

I hope our members recognize that we do not wish to have rate increases. I am a member, as well as 75% of our employees. We also enjoy the low rates that Colquitt EMC provides. I believe that even with the possibility of a rate increase, Colquitt EMC will still have some of the lowest rates in the state. We ask for your support and understanding as we work through these difficult times.

**Danny Nichols**  
President/CEO



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Account Number Awareness Month
- Recipe of the Month—Roasted Veggies
- Dealing with Higher Energy Prices





## COLQUITT EMC MOURNS PASSING OF LONGTIME FORMER DIRECTOR

Jimmy Griner passed away at the age of 84 on Tuesday, July 5, 2022. He served Colquitt EMC District 3 Berrien County with honor and distinction for 29 years. We extend our deepest condolences to the Griner family.

*\*\*\*Save The Date\*\*\**

**NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

**COLQUITT EMC'S 86<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
*Drive-Thru* MEETING OF MEMBERS  
SPENCE FIELD, MOULTRIE**

**ELECTION RESULTS • FINANCIAL REPORT • YEARLY UPDATES**



## STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Colquitt Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities. The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is Doug Loftis, Chief Corporate Officer (CCO). Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

**Danny Nichols, P. E., President/CEO**







## DEALING WITH HIGHER ENERGY PRICES

Inflationary pressures have raised energy prices to new highs. With new challenges also come new opportunities. Utilize these tips to aid with rising energy prices:

- **Keep Your A/C Unit well-maintained.**

Did you know that heating/cooling your home makes up 43% of your yearly energy cost?

*(Source: Energy Star)*

For example:

- Change your air filters regularly
- Cut back vegetation from your outdoor air conditioning unit
- Rinse outdoor coils regularly with a garden hose.

- **Use energy management tools to stay "energy-aware."**

You can visit [colquitemc.com](http://colquitemc.com) to set up "High Energy Use Alerts". High Energy Use Alerts will automatically notify you when your daily energy cost exceeds your target bill amount.

- **Re-evaluate upgrading old low-efficiency appliances.**

Higher energy prices make appliance upgrades more attractive. When replacing equipment, look at life cycle cost, not just the first cost. Though initially more expensive, a higher efficiency appliance will save you more money than the cheaper option over the life of the appliance.

- **Assess the thermal efficiency of your home.**

When energy prices are low, improvements to thermal efficiency like adding ceiling insulation are difficult to justify. Higher energy prices can change the economics of thermal enhancements and may be worth a second look.

- **Optimize air conditioning run times.**

"Set it and Forget it" is not the most energy-efficient method of operating your air conditioner. Raising the temperature setting on your thermostat as much as possible will reduce cooling costs. A smart thermostat can take the guesswork out of thermostat settings and optimize cooling energy use.

- **Sign up for a free, in-home energy audit.**

Being a Colquitt EMC member entitles you to a free in-home energy audit. Contact your local office or visit our website to schedule one today.

# Recipe OF THE MONTH



## **Roasted Veggies**

### **INGREDIENTS**

*Serves: 6-8*

3 carrots, peeled and cut into about 2-inch pieces (*if you can, purchase thick carrots for this*)  
2 big onions (*cut into 6 wedges*)  
1 large red bell pepper, seeded and cut into thick strips  
1 large green bell pepper, seeded and cut into thick strips  
1 yellow squash, cut into quarters lengthwise  
1 -2 large zucchini, cut into quarters, lengthwise  
1/4 cup olive oil (*or to taste*)  
1-2 tablespoon minced garlic (*optional*)  
salt and pepper

### **Lemon Mustard Dressing**

1/4 cup olive oil  
2 tablespoons water  
2 teaspoons red wine vinegar  
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice  
2 teaspoons Dijon mustard  
minced shallot (*minced garlic may be substituted for the shallots*)  
salt and pepper  
fresh herbs (*optional*)

### **DIRECTIONS**

Set oven to 400°F. Grease a large baking sheet/pan. Mix all the veggies with olive oil and garlic (if using) to coat well. Season with salt and pepper. Place on the baking pan. Roast in oven for about 30-35 minutes, or until tender. To make the lemon-mustard vinaigrette: whisk all ingredients together while the veggies are roasting. Place the roasted veggies in a serving bowl and pour the vinaigrette over the warm veggies, then serve. Garnish with fresh herbs if desired and enjoy!

(Cut Here) ✂