



Preparing for the Worst to Serve You Best

The snow and ice that covered our service territory (and nearly the whole state) in January demonstrated just how powerful Mother Nature can be. Icy roads made travel extremely hazardous for several days, and a multitude of vehicle accidents on city, state and interstate roadways made commuting and conducting normal business operations nearly impossible for many of our Members.

Overall, your cooperative distribution system was not significantly impacted, and no major or widespread damages occurred – we were extremely fortunate from that perspective. Sometimes, just a few degrees Fahrenheit can mean the difference between a problematic, but manageable, winter event like the one we experienced and a disastrous ice storm causing distribution system damage costing millions of dollars.

A significant ice storm can sometimes disrupt service so severely it takes weeks to repair problems. The few outages your EMC experienced during this winter storm were primarily due to vehicles striking power poles, and those damages were quickly fixed.

Prior to the onset of winter weather, we engaged several contractor crews and had them on site in Newnan just in case the worst occurred. Some of the crews were from as far away as Maryland. They were ready and willing to respond... but we were very pleased not to need them. The contract crews were released after a few days as we determined our system was not impacted. Being prepared in advance and having adequate resources

available is just considered “business as usual” for our employees.

Your EMC Management Staff have an annually-

updated ERP (Emergency Response Plan) in place to allow us to contend with every imaginable crisis scenario. This working, living document is continually refined and updated – we practice and document training exercises each year so we are prepared to meet any potential challenges presented by ice/snow storms, hurricanes, tornados, communications failures, terrorist acts, etc.

Our ERP is extremely detailed, and every employee’s responsibilities are clearly defined. Excellent planning and precise,

pre-established communication channels – coupled with knowledgeable and experienced personnel – provides our Members with a winning team. Auburn University’s football players are National Champions this year, but I think your Coweta-Fayette team members are National Cooperative Champions!

I am extremely proud of our employees’ winter storm planning and execution this January. They did a spectacular job preparing for the worst to serve you best!

For the Team,

Anthony H. Sinclair “Tony”
Anthony H. Sinclair “Tony”



Plan to make your home more ene

0% Interest Loans for Your Home Improvements

Smart homeowners want to get the most value from their energy dollar. One way to increase the comfort of your home while potentially saving money is to make energy efficiency improvements.

To make this process easier, Coweta-Fayette EMC has partnered with Georgia EMC Federal Credit Union to develop the HomePlus Loan Program, a fast and economical way to finance your energy efficient upgrades.

Borrow
\$1,000 - \$5,500
0% Annual
Percentage
Rate*
for
36 months

Rate is fixed for the life of the loan. Closing cost is a flat \$65, payable at loan closing. Please speak to your GEMC FCU loan representative for available term options. See loan disclosure for complete loan details and terms.
*Interest Rate reflects an interest rate buy-down program made available through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program and Georgia Environmental Finance Authority in conjunction with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

How do I get started improving my home?

Call Coweta-Fayette EMC today for your energy audit to determine the best way to make your home energy efficient. Then complete a simple HomePlus Loan application and submit it to GEMC FCU. All work must be done by an approved EMC contractor, and be Energy-Star compliant, where applicable.



How long does it take to process my loan application?

Once the credit union receives your completed application, they generally process it in 24-48 hours. Please do not proceed with your home improvements until you have received confirmation from GEMC FCU.

What improvements can I finance through GEMC FCU?

You may finance all EMC approved energy upgrades including Energy Star rated heat pumps, water heaters, and double pane windows, plus weather stripping, attic and floor insulation, caulking, duct insulation and sealing.

How and when are my contractors paid?

Coweta-Fayette EMC will verify the completion of your home improvements. You will then sign your loan documents and the check will be made payable to you and the contractor.

How will I make my loan payment?

Your monthly loan payment will appear on your Coweta-Fayette EMC bill and will be applied to your HomePlus Loan.



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Your EM counts.

In an effort to conserve and protect the environment, Coweta-Fayette EMC members. If you are a member of your present l

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Looking for the house?

These include replacing heating and cooling systems and window modifications. marketing de

All heat pumps have an energy rating. equipment re

- \$300 for
- \$200 for
- \$150 for
- \$1,000 for
- \$1,000 for
- \$250 for



Leaky Ducts and Dirty Filters Cost Money

Brrrr... It's cold this winter. So chilly, in fact, we even had snow on Christmas Day and a deep freeze in January! The frigid weather likely means your heating system is working hard to keep you comfortable and warm.

Did you know that your home's duct system could be losing as much as 20 percent of its air or that clogged filters make heaters work harder? Here are some tips from Coweta-Fayette EMC that can help your heating and cooling systems operate more efficiently-and save you money.

A leaky duct system wastes energy, which in turn increases your utility bill. It makes sense to find and eliminate those leaks: according to Touchstone Energy's power-saving website www.togetherwesave.com, sealing the air ducts in your home can save up to \$177 a year.



Saving money is one good reason to seal your ducts, but there are other benefits, too. A leaky duct system affects your quality of life. It makes the rooms in your home stuffy and less comfortable - not cool enough in the summer or warm enough in the winter. As insulation particles, dust and pollen also enter your leaky system, they may affect your home's indoor air quality.

The first step toward fixing a duct problem is to find the biggest air leaks in your home. In the attic, for example, they are typically found where the walls meet the attic floor, above drop ceilings and overhangs and behind attic walls. Look for insulation that is dirty or discolored, indicating air has been moving through it. In the basement, ducts are often located along the top of the wall; duct runs that go through the ceiling to the floors above can be sources of leaks.

energy efficient in 2011!

Touchstone Energy Home Program

Your EMC knows that in this economy, every cent counts.

In an effort to encourage money-saving energy conservation and the installation of energy-efficient equipment, Coweta-Fayette is offering incentives to our members. If you are building a new home or just upgrading your present home, contact us first for more details.

Existing Homes

Looking to make energy-efficiency changes around the house?

These incentives can assist those of you looking to replace heating and air equipment, water heaters, insulation and windows. If you need help determining what modifications to make in your home, please call our marketing department at 770-502-0226 for assistance.

All heat pumps must have a 14 SEER or higher energy rating. These rebates are only available for equipment replaced since January 1, 2010.

- ♦ \$300 for gas to electric heat pumps
- ♦ \$200 for gas to dual fuel heat pumps
- ♦ \$150 for heat pump replacements
- ♦ \$1,000 for geothermal
- ♦ \$1,000 for electric/gas to solar water heaters
- ♦ \$250 for gas to electric water heaters

- ♦ \$150 for R-11 to R-38 attic insulation; \$90 for R-19 to R-38
- ♦ \$150 for R-13 floor insulation
- ♦ \$50 per window for double-pane or storm windows (up to \$500)
- ♦ \$25 per programmable thermostat (maximum \$50 per home)

New Homes

Building a new home? Get more bang for your buck by meeting the latest energy efficiency standards.

To qualify for the Touchstone New Home certification, certain energy features must be included in the dwelling. Therefore, please contact our marketing department at 770-502-0226 for more information before you begin. If all requirements are met, the following incentives will be paid.

- ♦ \$1,000 for homes using electric heat pumps or geothermal systems and a Marathon water heater
- ♦ \$2,500 for homes using electric heat pumps or geothermal systems and a solar water heater
- ♦ \$750 for homes using dual fuel (piggyback) heating and cooling systems and a Marathon water heater
- ♦ \$2,250 for homes using dual fuel (piggyback) heating and cooling systems and a solar water heater



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Now that you've identified the leaks in your home's duct system, it's time to fix them and start saving money! To start sealing, you'll need mastic sealant or metal tape. Experts advise against using duct tape, which can dry out and disintegrate when used on ductwork.

In addition to sealing leaks, check connections at vents and registers. They should be well-sealed where they meet the floors, walls and ceiling.

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It's very important to insulate your duct system. As air travels through your ducts, it should stay cool during the summer and warm in the winter. Ductwork located in areas with little or no insulation – crawlspaces, attics or garages – will need to be insulated to ensure the air running through the ducts isn't affected by temperature extremes.

Also critical to a properly-functioning heating/cooling system is changing your air filter regularly. It only takes a couple of minutes to replace - it's simple and easy! As www.togetherwesave.com has shown, changing your filter every month can save you \$82 a year.

But that's not all you can save – a dirty air filter makes your system work harder to keep you warm, which wastes energy. Changing your air filter regularly helps to ensure efficient operation and keep your electricity bill in check. What's more, a dirty air filter allows dust and dirt to build up in your system. Changing filters frequently can reduce the need for costly maintenance and prevent damage to your system.

For other tips on saving energy-and money-visit www.utility.org, or call the energy experts at Coweta-Fayette EMC.



Winter Storm Safety

Snow and ice storms are an inevitable part of the winter season, and they often lead to downed power lines and outages. Remember the following tips to stay safe and warm should you find yourself in the dark after a severe winter event:

- ❄️ Never touch a fallen power line, and assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call Coweta-Fayette to report it immediately.
- ❄️ In the event of an outage, an alternate heating source—such as a fireplace, propane space heater or wood stove—may be used with caution; never leave the heat source unattended.
- ❄️ Fuel- and wood-burning heating sources should be vented.
- ❄️ Make sure carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors are working properly.
- ❄️ Do not use a gas oven for heating; it could lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- ❄️ Never use gas/charcoal grills indoors or charcoal briquettes in the fireplace.
- ❄️ When using a portable generator, always follow manufacturer directions. Be sure the generator is located outside for proper ventilation (even attached garages are unsafe). Never connect your generator directly to home wiring without consulting your EMC – the reverse flow of electricity could electrocute unsuspecting utility personnel if the generator is not installed properly.
- ❄️ Take special care not to overload a generator. Use appropriately-sized extension cords to carry the electric load. Make sure the cords have a grounded, three-pronged plug and are in good condition.

Ideally, your family will stay warm until the power comes back on, but keep an eye on the elderly and young children for signs of hypothermia. Be sure to keep at least one telephone in the house that does not depend on electricity in case of emergency.

Take a Bite out of Your Electric Bill

When you go to the grocery store, you often carry a list. Otherwise, you might forget something, right?

The same goes for the hardware store when you want to complete household projects. You may think, "What materials do I need?" or if the work involves weatherization, "Will it really help save money on my electric bill?"

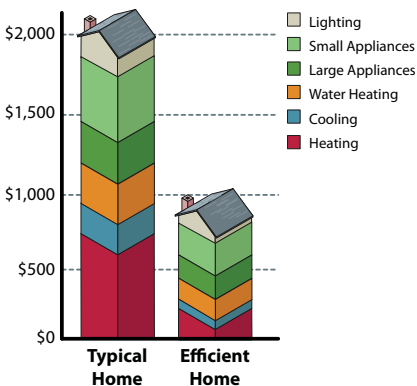
Generally, the answer to that last question is a resounding "yes!" Even small energy efficiency measures save money. For as little as \$2, you can begin to drastically improve the comfort level around your residence.

What areas should you focus on? Start with the basics: applying weather stripping and caulk around doors and windows; replacing traditional incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs); and insulating your water heater. Then look at bigger expenditures: adding attic insulation; installing a programmable thermostat; and sealing duct work.

We at Coweta-Fayette EMC are committed to doing everything possible to help keep your electric bills affordable, and we're controlling costs through innovation – our energy efficiency programs are just one way we can help you manage energy use.

For more information about these projects and other energy efficiency programs, visit the EMC at www.utility.org or call 770-502-0226.

Annual Energy Bill for a Typical versus an Efficient Home



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book. Savings are DOE Home Energy Saver estimates.

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www.utility.org

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

A Season of Giving: EMC Employees Celebrate Christmas with Charitable Community Projects

At Coweta-Fayette, we know it's far better to give than receive. And with that spirit in mind, our personnel have been helping make holiday wishes come true in our community over the past 14 years.

This Christmas, due to a continued shortage of provisions in local food pantries, employees again decided to contribute by helping stock the shelves and donate funding for two area charitable organizations.

The cooperative-wide project began before Thanksgiving, with the EMC's Employee Benevolent Committee calling for toiletry and food donations to benefit Newnan's One Roof Ecumenical Alliance Outreach – a coalition of churches bringing spiritual and financial aid to those in need. By the beginning of December, over 1,700 items had been counted, sorted, boxed and delivered by EMC volunteers!

Although the atmosphere was festive while employees unloaded donations at One Roof, the reality of falling on hard times, homelessness and



poverty definitely hit home for many participants.

"You really don't understand how blessed we are until you realize there are people in our community whose basic needs aren't met," said project organizer Marsha McDaniel. "To stop and think over the holidays about those among us who don't have food, soap or a toothbrush – much less a roof over their heads or Christmas gifts – is truly humbling and eye-opening."

In addition to helping One Roof, the Benevolent Committee also donated \$1,500 (matched by another \$1,500 from the EMC) to Coweta's Meals on Wheels program.