



# newsletter

Serving the Members of Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation

## Ocmulgee EMC's 'green certification'

**G**reen Power EMC, formed in 2001, is Georgia's oldest and largest renewable-energy utility. Ocmulgee EMC is proud to be a part of Green Power EMC and continues to offer renewable alternatives at the lowest available price.

Green Power EMC strives to be on the leading edge of new technologies as they develop and become cost effective to consumers in Georgia. At biomass plants around the state, methane gas is removed from the earth and used to run electric generators that supply the statewide electric grid.

If you are interested in purchasing 150 kilowatt-hour blocks of green energy, please contact the Member Services Department at Ocmulgee EMC, (478) 374-7001.

### PROSPECTIVE CONTENT LABEL

The product is sold in blocks of 150 kilowatt-hours (kWh). The product will be made up of the following renewable resources:

Green-e Energy Certified New <sup>3</sup> Renewables in Ocmulgee EMC Green Power Program			Generation Location
	2011	2012	
Biomass	100%	100%	Georgia
Geothermal	0%	0%	
Eligible hydroelectric <sup>4</sup>	0%	0%	
Solar	0%	0%	
Wind	0%	0%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

1. The 2011 figures reflect the resources that were supplied for the year ending Dec. 31, 2011.
  2. The 2012 figures are prospective and reflect the power that we have contracted to provide. Actual figures may vary according to resource availability. We will annually report to you the actual resource mix of the electricity you purchased during the preceding year.
  3. New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation on or after January 1, 1997.
  4. Eligible hydroelectric facilities are defined in the Green-e Energy National Standard ([www.green-e.org/getcert\\_re\\_stan.shtml](http://www.green-e.org/getcert_re_stan.shtml)) and include facilities certified by the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) ([www.lowimpacthydro.org](http://www.lowimpacthydro.org)); facilities that are run-of-the-river hydropower facilities with a total rated nameplate capacity equal to or less than 5 MW; and facilities composed of a turbine in a pipeline or a turbine in an irrigation canal.
- For comparison, the current average mix of resources supplying Ocmulgee EMC includes: Coal (47%), nuclear (24%), oil (0%), natural gas (24%), hydroelectric (5%) and other (0%). The average home in the United States uses 900 kWh per month. [Source: U.S. EPA]  
For specific information about this electricity product, please contact Ocmulgee EMC, (800) 342-5509, [www.ocmulgeemc.com/green\\_power.html](http://www.ocmulgeemc.com/green_power.html).



**Energy**  
CERTIFIED

Green-e Energy certifies that Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation Green Power Program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements, call 888-63-GREEN or log on to [www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org).

## Co-ops work to curb copper theft

BY MAURICE MARTIN

Look at a piece of copper, and you can see why it's been popular with artists for 10,000 years. Its reddish-orange luster enhances jewelry and other decorative art. Ancient weapon makers also found it useful—axes with copper heads date back at least 5,000 years. More recently, engineers discovered that copper is an excellent conductor of electrical current.

In the past few years, copper's popularity has seen an uptick among another group: criminals. Whether it's the tough economy or methamphetamine users needing money for their next fix, the relatively high price of the metal has led to a wave of copper theft. The Electric Safety Foundation International (ESFI) estimates there are more than 50,000 copper thefts from electrical utilities each year.

### Substation grounding

Copper is swiped from many places, including construction sites, warehouses and abandoned homes. In some areas, crooks drag away entire air-conditioning units so they can remove the copper tubing at their leisure.

But copper theft from utility poles and substations creates a concern. Copper energizes current-carrying conductors (wires) as well as playing a key role in grounding.

Substations—which contain expensive equipment for controlling the flow of electricity from high-voltage transmission lines to your home—must be grounded to prevent damage from lightning strikes and fault currents. When your co-op grounds equipment in a substation, it makes an electrical connection to a buried network of wires, called a ground grid, that dissipates the excess charge safely over a wide area.

But burying wires causes them to corrode. “[Buried] aluminum undergoes galvanic corrosion and can turn to dust in two years,” explains Emory Barber, director of cable and systems engineering at Southwire Co., one of the nation's largest manufacturers of transmission lines. “Given the same conditions, copper can last 60 years or more.”

Despite the extreme danger that comes with entering a substation, the copper wire inside makes for an attractive target—all a thief has to do is make a couple of cuts and get out. For the relatively small value of the stolen copper, crooks leave a mess that can be very

expensive to clean up.

ESFI estimates the value of copper stolen from utilities each year—whether grounding wire substations, grounding wires off poles or even power lines themselves—to be about \$20 million. But the financial impact can run three times that amount. When copper bandits strike, not-for-profit co-ops have no choice but to pass the replacement costs on to their members.

A substation or pole that's left ungrounded becomes a dangerous place. Sometimes the thieves touch or cut the wrong conductors, exposing themselves to lethally high voltages. Errant currents can damage electrical equipment, taking the substation or line “down” and interrupting power to consumers. The electricity can even endanger co-op employees, causing injury or death. ESFI estimates about 35 Americans die each year because of copper or other metal theft.

### Foiling thieves

To prevent theft before it happens, co-ops have embarked on multipronged initiatives. In Georgia, there is a \$3,000 reward for information that leads directly to the arrest and conviction of someone involved in copper theft from any electric utility's property. If you see suspicious activity around an electric substation, pole or other utility facility, call the designated hotline: (877) 732-8717.

Many co-ops have launched intensive public relations campaigns about the issue; others have partnered with local Crime Solvers chapters and posted rewards. Some co-ops are replacing much of the purloined wire with copper-clad steel. Copper-clad steel, which has been around since 1915, boasts the electricity-carrying properties of copper but contains very little scrap value. Although bendable, it can't be cut and removed with normal tools—even hydraulic bolt cutters.

Also, keep in mind that no one should be in an electric co-op substation except trained employees. Report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement and your electric cooperative. Your diligence can help stop criminals and may even save a life.

*Maurice Martin is a senior program manager for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.*



**In Georgia, there is a \$3,000 reward for information that leads directly to the arrest and conviction of someone involved in copper theft from any electric utility's property.**

## Emphasize electrical safety to children

From game consoles to computers to cellphones, electricity is an increasing presence in our modern lives. More electricity use means more potential electrical hazards. As our reliance on electricity grows, so does the importance of electrical safety awareness for the entire family. You are never too young to start learning to use electricity safely.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) works continuously to promote the importance of electrical safety and educate audiences about the steps that can be taken to prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities in the home and the workplace.

An estimated 53,000 electrical fires occur in homes each year, claiming more than 450 lives and injuring more than 1,400 people. According to the U.S. Fire Administration, children are one of the highest-risk groups for deaths in residential fires. Most of these can be avoided by taking simple safety precautions.

“Using electricity has become such a part of our children’s daily lives that we may tend to take the safety of their electrical toys and appliances for granted,” says ESFI President Brett Brenner. “By teaching our children how electricity works and where it is found, we can each do our part in educating our children to prevent electrical accidents.”

Help keep your children safe from indoor and outdoor electrical dangers by making sure they are familiar with these important electrical and fire safety tips:

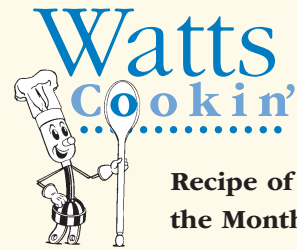
- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as TVs, video-game consoles and computers. Liquids could spill and cause dangerous shocks or fires.



Willie Wiredhand knows to fly a kite away from power lines.

- Never play with electrical cords, light sockets or electrical outlets.
- Do not overload outlets with too many plugs.
- Never yank on the cord to unplug an appliance. Hold on to the plug itself.
- If you see a broken electrical cord in your house, have an adult replace the cord. Never try to repair it.
- If you drop an appliance in water, do not try to retrieve it. Have an adult shut off the power supply to your home before retrieving the item.
- Never play near substations or power transformers.
- Do not play or fly kites near power lines. If your kite gets caught in a power line, let go of the kite.
- When there is lightning, stay away from trees and get inside.
- Have smoke alarms on every level of your home and inside each bedroom.
- Try to have at least two ways out of each room.
- Have a family escape plan for what to do in case there is a fire.

For more information about ESFI and National Electrical Safety Month, visit [esfi.org](http://esfi.org).



Recipe of the Month

### Egg Salad Boats

Courtesy of the Georgia Egg Commission

- 12 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
- 1 teaspoon dill weed
- 3/4 teaspoon celery salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 5 tablespoons sweet pickle relish
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons sour cream
- 2 tablespoons spicy mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon hot sauce
- 4 tablespoons olives, chopped
- 6 kaiser rolls

Combine eggs, dill weed, celery salt, pepper, relish, mayonnaise, sour cream, spicy mustard, hot sauce and olives; mix well. Set aside.

Cut out a circle in the middle of each kaiser roll. Keep the center of the roll to serve with the egg salad boat.

Fill each roll with the egg salad mixture and place the center of the roll on the side. Serves 6.

For more recipes from the Georgia Egg Commission, visit [www.georgiaeggs.org](http://www.georgiaeggs.org).

## Employee Recognition

### Donna Hardy

Accounting — 20 years

### David Hawkins

Operations — 24 years

### Cody Sheffield

Operations — 7 years

### Chet Jones

Operations — 4 years

Thanks for your hard work and continued dedication!

## Ocmulgee EMC Tax Report

People often assume, or hear others state, that their electric cooperative does not pay taxes. That statement is absolutely not true. Ocmulgee EMC pays every tax that any other business pays, except for income tax.

We have included a summary of taxes paid, by county, for your consideration. As you examine these figures, you will notice that Ocmulgee EMC is a significant taxpayer in most of its five-county service area.

### SCHEDULE OF TAXES PAID—2011

#### Sales taxes collected and remitted to the state of Georgia on the sale of electricity in the year 2011

COUNTY	4% GA SALES	1% SPLOST	1% LOST	1% EDUC	TOTALS
BLECKLEY	\$ 205,160.23	\$ 51,290.06	\$ 51,290.06	\$ 51,290.06	\$ 359,030.41
DODGE	\$ 458,525.46	\$ 115,604.92	\$ 115,604.92	\$ 115,604.92	\$ 805,340.22
LAURENS	\$ 3,202.00	\$ 800.50	\$ 800.50	\$ 800.50	\$ 5,603.50
PULASKI	\$ 66,028.16	\$ 16,507.04	\$ 16,507.04	\$ 16,507.04	\$ 115,549.28
TELFAIR	\$ 4,465.19	\$ 1,116.30	\$ 1,116.30	\$ 1,116.30	\$ 7,814.09
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 737,381.04</b>	<b>\$ 185,318.82</b>	<b>\$ 185,318.82</b>	<b>\$ 185,318.82</b>	<b>\$ 1,293,337.50</b>

#### Dodge county sales taxes on purchases of materials, equipment, vehicles, and supplies @ 7% (4% GA sales, 1% SPLOST, 1% LOST & 1% EDUC)

DODGE	\$ 38,120.33	\$ 9,530.08	\$ 9,530.08	\$ 9,530.08	\$ 66,710.57
-------	--------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	--------------

#### Taxes paid directly to the counties/cities on the assessed value of Ocmulgee EMC lines, property, plant & equipment, and inventories for 2011.

	PROPERTY	FRANCHISE	TOTALS
BLECKLEY	\$ 54,962.14	\$ 2,739.05	\$ 57,701.19
DODGE	\$ 145,782.45	\$ 33,765.90	\$ 179,548.35
LAURENS	\$ 815.23	\$ 815.23	
PULASKI	\$ 21,867.55	\$ 21,867.55	
TELFAIR	\$ 979.85	\$ 2,131.61	\$ 3,111.46
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 224,407.22</b>	<b>\$ 38,636.56</b>	<b>\$ 263,043.78</b>

#### 2011 vehicle ad valorem taxes (paid in the county where registered)

DODGE	\$ 10,513.35	\$ 10,513.35
-------	--------------	--------------

#### Total of all sales, property, and ad valorem taxes paid for the year 2011

\$1,633,605.20

### Unclaimed property

Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation has unclaimed property that must be turned over to the state Department of Revenue if it is not claimed. The names of people having unclaimed property with Ocmulgee EMC will be listed by May 1 on our website at [www.ocmulgeemc.com](http://www.ocmulgeemc.com) and displayed at our office located at 5722 Eastman St., Eastman, Ga. 31023. If you know any of the people listed, or their heirs, please ask them to contact our office during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at (478) 374-7001 or (800) 342-5509.



The offices of Ocmulgee EMC will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2012, in observance of Memorial Day. We will reopen at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 29, 2012. In case of power outage or emergency, call (478) 374-7001 or (800) 342-5509.