



P.O. Box 68, McCaysville, GA 30555
Phone: 706-492-3251

Staff

Stacy Chastain, General Manager
Lee Ensley, IT Technician
Lisa Hood, Billing Services Manager
Chris Hulsey, Human Resources Manager
David Lewis, IT Manager
Christy Setser, Finance Manager
Todd Taylor, Mapping and Staking Manager
Chuck Thomas, Operations Manager
Keith Thomas, Right of Way Manager
Brian Arp, Line Technician
Jim Callihan, Line Crew Leader
Sterling Callihan, Meter Reader
Stephanie Campbell, Senior Billing Clerk
Jason Cook, Meter Reader
Joseph Crowe, Line Technician
Kacey Davis, Cashier
Drew Earley, Groundworker
Charlene Foster, Cashier
Nic Fowler, Groundworker
Stacy Galloway, Chief Records and Staking Engineer
Thomas Graham, Truck Driver
Chris Harper, Line Technician
Nathan Heaton, Truck Operator
Chris Johnson, Truck Driver
Wesley Jones, Truck Driver
Jason Loudermilk, Mechanic Helper
Joel Mann, Equipment Operator
William McClure, Line Technician
Jesse McKeral, Line Technician
Darrell Moore, Line Crew Leader
Chris Nelson, Mechanic
Ricky Newberry, Warehouse Manager
Dewey Oneal, Line Technician
Michael Pack, Substation/Apparatus Tech
Rodney Patterson, Line Crew Leader
Jerod Petty, Line Technician
Darren Queen, Line Technician
Susie Roberson, Account Services Representative
Angela Satterfield, Cashier
Travis Sisson, Line Technician
Mitzi Stewart, Cashier
Tyler Watkins, Apprentice Line Technician
Jackson Weeks, Groundworker
Zach Wehunt, Line Technician

Board of Directors

Jerry Pack, President
Jesse Miller, Vice President
Jim Quintrell, Secretary-Treasurer
Scott Barker
Lisa Fields
Bill Joe Postell

Henry Tharpe, Attorney

The Tennessee Magazine
(ISSN 0492746X), Volume 66, No. 12, is published monthly by Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, 2964 Sideo Drive, Nashville TN 37204. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Tennessee Magazine*, PO Box 100912, Nashville TN 37224-0912.

Between the Lines

News from your community

Reliable power for today — and tomorrow

Ring in a new year sparks a sense of renewed hope and optimism about the future. As general manager of Tri-State EMC, it's a time to reflect on where we are and where we're going. At the heart of this reflection, I think about ways we can better serve you, the members of the cooperative.

Our team at Tri-State EMC is always looking ahead, exploring ways to innovate and utilize new technologies to improve our services. As our nation increasingly relies on electricity to power the economy, keeping the lights on has never been more important. We're committed to powering — and empowering — our community at a cost local families and businesses can afford.

One critical component of reliable power is the mix of energy resources used to generate the electricity that keeps the lights on across Tri-State EMC. You might not realize it, but Tri-State EMC doesn't generate electricity. Instead, we purchase it from the Tennessee Valley Authority, and from there, we distribute it to homes and businesses throughout our community.

We're increasingly using more electricity generated from renewable energy sources, but we still depend on a diverse energy mix to ensure reliable power that's available to our members whenever they need it.

In addition to managing a reliable energy mix, Tri-State EMC is using technology to enhance our local grid, limit service disruptions and improve outage response times.

Advanced metering technology, also known as AMI, enables two-way

communication between the co-op and consumers. In the event of a power outage, AMI helps pinpoint the exact location of the outage and can even analyze damaged or tampered meters. AMI helps Tri-State EMC save money with real-time data, ultimately improving power reliability for our entire community.

Proactive tree trimming is another way we limit service disruptions. Scheduled trimming keeps power lines clear from overgrown limbs that are likely to fall. As technological advancements become more accessible, we anticipate using advanced mapping software to better maintain the environment while providing more reliable service.

One of the best methods for improving our service to you is monitoring trends and leading practices from other electric co-ops near us and across the country. Learning from other co-ops is one of the many benefits of the cooperative business model because for us, it's about cooperation, not competition.

As we turn our focus to 2024, Tri-State EMC will continue working to provide the reliable, affordable electricity you expect and deserve — for today and tomorrow.



By Stacy Chastain

General Manager,
Tri-State Electric
Membership
Corporation

This institution is an equal-opportunity provider and employer.

Operation Round Up year in review

Operation Round Up turns members' cents into dollars. Headed by a seven-member volunteer board, the foundation distributes funds raised through Operation Round Up, Tri-State EMC's philanthropic program in which members round up their power bills to the next dollar.



Copper Basin Senior Center and Fannin County School System Children's fund are just two of the organizations that benefited from Operation Round Up grants in 2023.



Tri-State EMC Operation Round UP Foundation has awarded a total of \$850,000 to local non-profits, charities and the local school systems.

For more information on grants, visit tsemc.net and click on the Operation Round Up tab.

Some of the 2023 recipients:

- American Legion Post 248
- Copper Basin Crisis Center
- Copper Basin Elementary Snack Pack
- Copper Basin Senior Center
- Faith Presbyterian Church
- Families 4 Families
- Fannin Christian Learning Center
- Fannin County Brain Injury Support Group
- Fannin County Family Connection
- Fannin County School System Children's Fund
- First United Methodist Church Pastor's Discretionary Fund
- Harbor Ministries
- Highland Outdoor Ministries
- Mine City Baptist Church
- Mineral Springs Advocates
- Morganton Baptist Church Food and Clothing Ministry
- NGAF Inc.
- Snack in a Backpack

Why waste energy?

The biggest mistakes homeowners make when it comes to energy efficiency, according to Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories are:

1. Buying oversized heating and cooling appliances. Too many homes have furnaces and air conditioners that are way too big. HVAC sales reps often try to sell big units because they cost more. But an oversized unit wastes energy and will cost you more, in the long run, on heating and cooling bills, than a smaller one that is properly sized for your home and your family's lifestyle.

2. Ignoring leaks. When you replace your heating and air conditioning system, get your ducts checked for leaks. Even the most efficient, most expensive system

won't perform at peak if heated or air-conditioned air is escaping through the ducts.

3. Neglecting to insulate. Heat rises, so it makes sense to insulate your home's attic. But it's equally important to insulate floors over a basement or crawl space as well as your walls and windows. Conditioned air can leak out of your home from almost any uninsulated space.

4. Skipping fans. Ceiling fans and portable fans can help circulate heated or conditioned air, which gives your home's HVAC system a break — and allows you to turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer. Fans use little electricity, but they can make a big difference in how comfortable you feel in the room where one is running.

Tri-State board visits Blue Ridge substation

Tri-State EMC board members recently visited the new Blue Ridge substation to check progress and learn more about how it will benefit Tri-State EMC customers. Tri-State EMC Substation/Apparatus Technician Michael Pack showed the board members

around and explained how the equipment works. The main purpose of a substation is to convert electricity into different voltages so the electricity can be transmitted throughout the area and into our homes and businesses.



Tri-State EMC wishes everyone
a Merry Christmas and a Happy
and Prosperous New Year!

Tri-State EMC will be closed
on these holidays:

Monday, Dec.25, 2023

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023

Monday, Jan. 1, 2024.

If you experience a power outage
or require emergency service
at any time, please call
706-492-3251.

Tri-State EMC, TVA partner to deliver \$8,250 more in COVID-19 community assistance

Tri-State EMC is proud to announce that it has partnered with the Tennessee Valley Authority to award a total of \$8,250 to Copper Basin Crisis Center, Fannin County Family Connection and Hiwassee Dam Schools through TVA's Community Care Fund program to help the community during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

The partnership initiative gives local power companies the opportunity to identify organizations or local initiatives for which they can seek matching funds from TVA.

TVA launched the Community Care Fund in April 2020 to help address hardships created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As part of our mission of service, TVA is an active partner with local power companies to help address the challenges families and businesses are facing today," said Jeannette Mills, TVA executive vice president and chief external relations officer. "The Community Care Fund is a great demonstration of how public power benefits the people of the Tennessee Valley as we translate strong company performance into dollars for relief across the communities we serve."

The Community Care Fund is part of a broader effort by TVA and local power companies to support communities with resources, programs and assistance and reinforce the strength of public power in the Tennessee Valley.

The Tennessee Valley Authority is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power companies serving nearly 10 million people in parts of seven Southeastern states. TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity. In addition to operating and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation.



Copper Basin Crisis Center

Copper Basin Crisis Center provides food as well as personal health, hygiene and cleaning items to the needy in its service area.

Fannin County Family Connection

Fannin County Family Connection is a local organization that has a food pantry and place to shelter as



well as a with free clothing closet and library, internet and job search services, and quarterly health services.

Hiwassee Dam Schools

Hiwassee Dam Schools serve a low socioeconomic population and find that each year, families struggle financially to afford the basics for their children such as food and clothing. The Hiwassee Dam needy fund tries to reach as many people in their school system as possible.



Tri-State EMC staff teaches preschoolers about electrical safety

Tri-State EMC recently visited Fannin County preschool classes to talk to the students about electricity.

Tri-State EMC is all about electricity — most importantly, how to be safe around electricity. It's never too early for children to begin learning how to stay safe around electricity, so Tri-State EMC offers an electrical safety program to preschools in the co-op's service area.

Students are provided coloring books featuring Louie the Lightning Bug. The books include all kinds of fun pictures to color that describe what runs on electricity

inside a home. They also have information on how electricity is made and transmitted and many of the different ways in which electricity is used. In addition, the coloring books stress the importance of staying safe around electricity.

Tri-State EMC employees review the coloring book with the preschool students while also showing them many of the tools that groundmen and linemen use when working. Students get to try on safety gloves and hard hats, and they get to see a bucket truck in action.



Deck the halls — with energy efficiency

Before you climb on the roof in your quest to have the most outdoor holiday lights in your neighborhood and before you string any bulbs on your tree, take a moment to consider how energy efficient your Christmas decorations are.

Here are five ways to save money on electricity without giving up the holiday glitter this season:

1. Switch to LED lights. If your strands are so old that the bulbs are incandescent, toss them. New holiday lights are made from LEDs — and they're way better than the old-fashioned kind. They shine brighter and last longer, and they're cool to the touch, so they're safer. A bonus: Prices of LED light strands are way lower than they were even a few years ago.

2. Connect your lights to timers. Set the timers to turn the lights on when the sun sets and off at bedtime. There's no need to leave them on all night.

3. Invest in a few good power strips. Plug all of your indoor and outdoor strands and lighted decorations into power strips rather than directly into wall sockets. That way, you can turn everything on and off with the flick of a single switch.



4. Turn off unneeded lights. If the outside of your home is laden with so many lights it looks like daytime after dark, don't turn on the porch lights. Same goes for indoors. In rooms where you have Christmas trees or other lighted decorations, turn off some of the lamps.

5. Go old-school. Instead of decorating your indoor rooms and your tree with lights this year, how about dusting off some family ornaments or organizing an ornament-making evening with your children? Don't skimp on the glitter; along with some tinsel on the tree, your home can sparkle and shine without using any extra electricity at all.

Heat for the holidays

Did you skip your annual HVAC maintenance this fall? Are you sure you want to risk a breakdown during a time when it will be hard to find a contractor who's available during the holidays?

It's not too late for a fall checkup. When you call to schedule it, choose a reliable contractor.

Here are five ways to find a good HVAC contractor:

1. Do your homework. Know which kinds of licenses and insurance the state requires for the specialists you need to hire. Also, learn about your HVAC system; the more you know, the more you can tell potential contractors.

2. Ask your friends. If someone you trust trusts a certain contractor, you might, too.

3. Check them out. Always call the contractor's references. If the tech can't provide any, find a different tech.

4. Take your time. Don't rush your decision when hiring. And then don't rush the contractors when they come over to give you an estimate. To make a fair evaluation, an HVAC contractor needs to spend some time inspecting the system you already have, checking out your ducts, windows and insulation and asking you questions about your family's needs.

5. Get it in writing. Ask for written, itemized estimates. Then, compare each contractor's bid for cost, energy efficiency and warranties. The lowest price isn't always the best deal. Before any work starts or money changes hands, sign the contract, and insist that the contractor sign it, too.

HOLIDAY EFFICIENCY WORD SEARCH

The holidays are a fun, festive time of year! We typically use more electricity during the holiday season.

Read the holiday efficiency tips below, then find and circle the **bolded** words in the puzzle.



W G W P D K S S J J W S U M M
V Y F K F N E Z Z H T T F C B
T J L P C W V E B H V P V W J
P I G I L Z V L G W K K Z G R
I U M D M W W I H C N J N K O
G F X E R A L S D N E I R F G
J K H W R D F P X G V L F B O
C A T H E R M O S T A T I D E
F E V L Y C H U O Y O T R T O
U I O K C S N X G Q V J E C T
J C A J G L X M Y A W A P Q V
N O D R I A S U E D K S L B D
P C H G S Q X P X H C U A V A
Q V H E A L X O S D U E C V G
O T R N F Z H Q G V V S E H V

- Decorate your tree with energy-saving **LED lights**.
- Control home heating costs with a smart or programmable **thermostat**.
- Save energy by using a **timer** to turn off holiday lights when you're sleeping.
- If you have a **fireplace**, ask an adult to close the damper when a fire is not burning.
- Open blinds and curtains during the day to let **sunlight** in to warm your home.
- Lower the thermostat when you invite **friends** and **family** over.
(The extra people in your home create additional warmth.)