

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Jackson Office

1307 College Avenue
P.O. Box 398
Jackson, AL 36545
251-246-9081

Chatom Office

P. O. Box 453
Chatom, AL 36518
251-847-2302

Toll Free Number

1-800-323-9081

Office Hours

7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday-Friday
(Drive-thru Hours)

www.cwemc.com

Payment Methods

Payments can be made at our Chatom and Jackson offices with cash, checks, debit or credit cards

Our Customer Service Representatives can accept payments over the phone using a credit card or debit card

Local Pages Editor

Anna Wright



No Substitute for a Strong Maintenance Plan

The week between Christmas and New Year's Day is a prime time to reflect on the past year and its blessings, then look to the new year and wonder about what possibilities it holds for the future.

Throughout 2008 Clarke-Washington EMC has highlighted the importance of our maintenance program. This program is crucial to the operations of our cooperative because it sustains our ability to supply our members with electricity at an affordable price.

It also helps us reduce our outage time and keep our employees safe while working near your homes.

A thorough maintenance report on pages 6 and 7 breaks down the work that has been completed throughout the service area this year.

- About 1,500 miles of right of way was maintained
- Upgrades were made on the Four Points and Dry Fork substations
- Over 3,400 poles were inspected and treated by Os-mose crews
- Right-of-way crews cut more than 2,000 dead trees across the area in 2008
- And other routine jobs that are ongoing throughout the year

A responsible owner of an automobile keeps it serviced to maintain its dependability and the life of the vehicle — it's the same idea with power equipment. By taking the initiative to do the small, but important tasks on our power system, we are able to keep it in good working condition now and for the future.

There is no substitute for a strong

maintenance program.

PROPERTY TAXES:

Clarke-Washington paid its property taxes to Clarke, Monroe, Washington and Wilcox counties in November. We paid a total of \$264,127.90 in property taxes for 2008.

COLD WEATHER ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS:

We have already experienced some cold weather in the months of November and December. Each month our magazine provides tips to be more resourceful with the energy you use in your home. Our Web site also has a lot of information for energy usage — www.cwemc.com

It is tempting to turn the thermostat up as the outdoor temperature goes down. Experts say in winter months, it is ideal to keep the thermostat on 68 degrees. Constantly moving the thermostat up or down will cause your HVAC unit to work harder and longer, resulting in more power usage.

Clarke-Washington EMC hopes to have another great year for 2009 and we wish our members the same.

Thank you.



Stan Wilson

CEO/Manager of
Clarke-Washington
Electric
Membership
Corporation

Saving Energy is Simple

The following tips can make saving energy very simple.

1. **Fill up your refrigerator and freezer.** Your refrigerator operates more efficiently when it's full because it can recover more quickly from the cold lost when the door is opened. Fill in empty spaces with water bottles or bags of ice. Leave just enough room between items for the air to circulate freely.
2. **Turn down the heat** – on your water. Many water heaters are set to 140 degrees, which is hotter than necessary for showers and clothes washing. Water that hot also poses a scalding hazard for children and senior adults. Reduce the temperature by 10 degrees and you'll save up to 5 percent on your energy costs.
3. **Vacuum your refrigerator coils** twice a year. If your refrigerator's coils are exposed (look on the back of the unit), they can get dirty or dusty and force your fridge to work inefficiently. If you have a newer model, remove the kick plate or grill to access the coils.
4. **Set your thermostat back** when you leave for work. For every degree you turn down the heat for at least eight hours, you can save as much as 1 percent a year on your heating bills.
5. **Shut down your computer** if it won't be in use for more than two hours. When you're finished using your computer, turn it off. Keeping it on is like leaving lights on in an empty room.

At 55 Degrees, Your Pipes Will Survive

Think twice before you shut the heat off in a vacation home or even your own home's attic or guest rooms. You might be trying to save money and conserve energy, but you could be setting yourself up for the wet mess caused by a burst plumbing pipe or sprinkler system.

When the water inside your pipes freezes, it puts great pressure on its container – including metal and plastic pipes. When that happens, the pipes can leak or explode and cause flooding and plenty of property damage.

To keep your pipes from freezing, don't expose them to freezing temperatures. Keep the thermostat at 55 degrees or higher in all areas of your home and vacation home. In parts of your house without heat, like exterior walls and attics, add insulation around pipes to keep them warm all winter long.

Double up on window panes to lock in heat

If your home still has single-pane windows, stand next to one to feel how much precious heat you're losing through it.

Installing storm windows or double-pane windows can make your home feel more comfortable while reducing your energy costs.

Adding storm windows won't increase the insulation of your existing windows, but can help reduce air movement. They come in glass, plastic or plastic sheets and should seal tightly against the existing window.

Interior storm windows are more convenient than exterior ones and often are more efficient.

If you can afford to add storm windows — especially more expensive exterior ones — you may also be able to afford to upgrade to more energy-efficient windows.

New windows with double or triple panes also have special coatings or gas fillings that prevent heat loss. Replacing single-pane windows with high-efficiency windows can save you more than \$400 by keeping your heated and air-conditioned air from leaking out — and from keeping the weather from seeping in.

Consider these factors when considering window upgrades:

- You can choose from aluminum, metal, fiberglass, composite, vinyl and wood window frames. Each offers different benefits depending on the climate and use of the window.
- Windows come with any number of energy-efficient coatings, glazing, fills and glass. Some coatings are designed to trap heat in winter, while others are more reflective to keep out summertime sun. The direction your window faces can help you decide which features are right for you.

Visit the Efficient Windows Collaborative Web site, a partnership of window manufacturers, at www.efficientwindows.org. You'll find a tool to help you select the best windows for your home.



Maintenance—to preserve,

*Clarke-Washington EMC's maintenance plan is a
our members with reliable service*

Having a working maintenance plan is vital to the success of Clarke-Washington EMC. Our employees work hard throughout the year to complete jobs that sustain our power system. In a nutshell, a good maintenance plan prevents possible power outages while keeping our members safe and reducing the expense of replacing parts of the systems.

Maintenance work has been completed all over our service area. Although we are highlighting the accomplishments of 2008, maintenance is a continuous priority for Clarke-Washington EMC.

RIGHT OF WAY: *A strip of land underneath and around power lines. By keeping this area clear of debris it reduces outages and makes it easier for our employees to work safely near the power lines.*

Bush Hogged – 208 miles

Side Trimmed – *cutting the limbs along the side of the right of way; 301.54 miles*

- Areas worked Coffeeville, Boleatown, Tattlersville, Union Chapel, Salipta, Tallahatta Springs, Bashi, Midway, Choctaw Corner, Roundhill, Pleasant Hill, Dickinson,

Fulton, Lower Peachtree, Packers Bend and Chance

Spraying herbicide - *on the vegetation under the power lines; 940 miles*

- Hawthorn, Double Gates, Sunflower, Wagarville, Leroy, Carson, Prestwick, St. Stephens, Bigbee, Peaveys Landing, Jackson, Stave Creek, McVay, Salipta, Tallahatta Springs, Bashi, Midway, Choctaw Corner, Carlton, Rockville, Oven Bluff, Lady Landing, Jackson, and down Highway 43 from Thomasville to McIntosh

OSMOSE POLE INSPECTION &

TREATMENT: *Inspection and treatment of power poles by Osmose extends the life of the pole and identifies poles that need to be replaced. Inspected 3,417 poles*

- All poles on the Millry Substation were inspected from August to November

UPGRADES: *Contractors worked to complete upgrades on the power systems to improve service and reliability. This includes new poles and larger conductors to carry and balance loads of electricity.*





uphold, protect & safeguard

hardworking, year round effort aimed at providing

- Upgrade from Four Points to Fruitdale, affecting the communities of Vinegar Bend, Escatawpa and Fruitdale
- Upgrade on Dry Forks Substation that serves the area of Possum Bend

INFRARED SCANNING: *Photos of our power system were taken with an infrared camera to show temperature variations. This process pinpoints where maintenance work needs to be done to prevent possible outages.*

- Areas of CWEMC system throughout the service area was infrared scanned in September and those areas that needed maintenance work, is being completed.

DEAD TREES: *Cut more than 2,000 dead trees across the area in 2008. With such heavy timber areas, cutting down trees that could fall into a power line is a priority.*

REPLACED OIL CIRCUIT RECLOSERS (OCR) and LIGHTNING ARRESTERS: *OCRs are devices that protect electric lines by momentarily interrupting service when a fault occurs, then restoring*

power automatically when the fault is cleared. This keeps outages from occurring when temporary problems happen, like branches touching a line.

- Carlton, Walker Springs, Hellwestern, Allen, Scyrene, Fulton, Round Hill, Barlow Bend, McIntosh, Coffeeville, Salipta, Tattlersville and Union Chapel

POLE REPLACEMENTS: *Replaced weathered power poles*

- Replaced poles in the communities served by the Four Points substation and by the Millry substation

OTHER MAINTENANCE WORK: *Maintenance work is a daily task for our employees. Year-round work is being done in any area of our service territory to make sure we are continually providing consistent service at an affordable rate.*

- Installing yellow guy markers
- Tightening and pulling guy wires
- Replacing old transformers
- Changing out copper wire to Aluminum Core Steele Reinforced (ACSR) which holds up better than the copper and is easier to work with.



McIntosh Elementary holds Culture Fest to Promote Education

As part of the Title VII Indian Education Department at McIntosh Elementary School, students participated in Culture Fest, Friday, Nov. 7, 2008.

Culture Fest is the highlight of the Indian education program at the elementary school, according to Indian Education Coordinator Samantha Williams.

"The month of November is set aside as Native American Heritage Month, and during the month we do a lot of Native American activities, beginning with Culture Fest," Williams said. "During physical education classes throughout the month, students will be able to make posters of famous Native Americans as part of Heritage Month."

During Culture Fest, students participated in several types of dancing, drumming and chanting.

"In the Choctaw Social Dances, we have dancers who do the stealing partners dance, wedding dance, the walk dance and the jump dance, just to name a few," Williams said. "In the powwow style, the ladies perform the cloth dance and the northern shawl dance and the boys perform the traditional, fancy and grass dances."

Students in grades kindergarten through the 5th grade watched the Culture Fest at the school.

Source for article and photograph: Jillian Pope, Washington County News



McIntosh Elementary School hosted a Culture Fest on Friday, Nov. 7, 2008. There were northern shawl dancers, traditional dancers and more. Allie Maharrey performed in the northern shawl dance during the Culture Fest.

Scholarship Opportunity for Graduating Seniors

Are you a high school senior who is graduating this spring? Are you a dependent of a member of Clarke-Washington EMC?

If so, you are eligible to apply for a scholarship from the Electric Cooperative Foundation.

Clarke-Washington EMC has joined other cooperatives throughout the state of Alabama to create the Electric Cooperative Foundation. This spring the foundation will be awarding scholarships across Alabama for students to continue their education at post-secondary and vocational schools.

For more details about these scholarships, obtain a copy of an Electric Cooperative scholarship application from your high school guidance counselor or call:

Anna Wright
Clarke-Washington EMC
1-800-323-9081

Don't wait. Applications must be received no later than March 13, 2009.



CWEMC Pays Property Taxes

Clarke-Washington EMC paid a total of \$264,127.90 in property taxes for 2008: Clarke County-\$133,089.40, Monroe County-\$11,460.40, Washington County-\$98,226.50 and Wilcox County-\$21,351.60.

Steve Sheffield of CWEMC pays property taxes to Clarke County Revenue Commissioner Chris Beverly with Janice Malone



Art Deas with CWEMC pays Monroe County property taxes to Monroe County Revenue Commissioner Monte Felton



Junior Carpenter of CWEMC pays property taxes to Washington County Revenue Commissioner Lara Lee Taylor



Wayne McCart pays CWEMC's property taxes to Janice R. Johns of the Wilcox County Revenue Office.

