



Nominations for OREMC Board Director

The following bylaw pertains to the nomination of directors:

The following bylaw pertains to the nomination of directors: Article IV, Section 4.05. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a Committee on Nominations, consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members of the Cooperative who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for director, who are not close relatives (as hereinafter defined) or members of the same household thereof, and who are so selected as to give equitable representation thereon to the areas served by the Cooperative. The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least one hundred fifty (150) days before the meeting a list of nominations for directors to be elected. The Committee may include as many nominees for any director to be elected, as it deems desirable. Any fifty (50) or more members of the Cooperative, acting together, may make additional nominations in writing over their signatures, not less than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the meeting, and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the Committee is posted. The Secretary shall mail to the members with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting, a statement of the names and addresses of all nominees, showing clearly those nominated by the Committee and those nominated by petition, if any. At the member meeting, no nominations may be made from the floor except that such nominations may be made and shall be allowed for any directorate to be filled for which there would not otherwise be any eligible nominee. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of directors.

Nominations and Election of OREMC Directors

Directors are nominated and elected from three of OREMC's districts each year at the annual meeting of the members to serve for a term of three years. Terms expiring this year are:

- District 1 - Baker County
- District 4 - Middle Brantley County
- District 5 - West Brantley County and Ware County

Okefenokee REMC's Board of Directors, in accordance with Bylaw Article IV, Section 4.05, has appointed the following members to the 2024 Nominating Committee:

Jerri F. Canaday
6066 Harry Rewis Rd.
Macclenny, FL 32063

Dorothy Ruis
4967 Bailey Haddock Ln
Hilliard, FL 32046-6317

Robert Edward Lee, Jr.
127 Bluffs Landing
Waverly, GA 31565-2979

David Moody
1601 Saddle Club Rd.
Hoboken, GA 31542

James Everett Griffin
857 Russton Dr.
Waycross, GA 31503

Timothy V. Cheek
211 GA Hickory Bluff Rd.
Waverly, GA 31565-2606

Donald R. Morrison
130 Morrison Ln.
Folkston, GA 31537

Judie Woodcock
110 Denmarks Crossing
Brunswick, GA 31525

Jacob R. Paulk
133 Paulk Place
Woodbine, GA 31569

If you live in one of the three districts noted above that are up for election this year and wish to be considered for nomination to represent your district, you may contact a committee member. Nominations by petition will also be accepted (see bylaws, Article IV, Section 4.05 for details).

According to OREMC bylaws, if any nominations are made by petition, petitions must be received in the Law Office of J. Patrick Brooks, P.C. at 3773 2nd Street S, Suite 102, Folkston, GA 31537, no later than Friday, May 17, 2024, at 5 p.m. (See By-law Section 4.05 for details concerning nominations by petition).

OREMC bylaws are available at any OREMC office and online at oremc.com/about. For suggested forms for nomination by petition contact Patrick Brooks at 912-496-3231.

Results of the Nominating Committee meeting and, if applicable, a listing of nominations made by petition, will be reported in OREMC's July/August 2024 member newsletter. Procedures for voting in the election will also be included in that newsletter.

A tentative date of Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. has been set for the Nominating Committee to meet. The tentative location of the meeting is OREMC's headquarters office in Nahunta, GA. For confirmation of meeting date, time and location, you may contact Kimi Harris at 800-262-5131 ext. 1111.



Notice of Rate Change April 1 Understanding the Cost of Service Q & A

OREMC has announced a base rate increase effective April 1. While the co-op issued wholesale power cost adjustments (increases in 2022 and a decrease in 2023), this will be the first base rate increase in over three years.

How much is the rate increase?

Residential rates will increase by 3.11% resulting in a \$5-\$6 increase on your monthly electric bill depending on your usage.

What are the key components of OREMC's rates?

The price you pay for residential power is broken down into four main components:

- **Basic facilities charge:** this is a flat fee that covers the cost of maintaining our electric distribution system and service facilities so that when you flip the switch, electricity is available on demand. This is charged whether or not you

have any kWh usage billed. Active accounts will be assessed a daily charge.

- **Energy charge:** this recovers the cooperative's budgeted wholesale power costs, as well as the costs to operate our distribution system and invest in system improvements that continually build system capacity, resiliency and reliability.

- **Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment:** used to true-up actual cost of wholesale power to budgeted costs. This adjustment may be a credit or a debit.

- **Equity Management Adjustment:** used to true-up the difference between the actual and budgeted costs of capital expenditures with the goal of maintaining the cooperative's equity at a target rate of 38%. This adjustment may be a debit or a credit.

Rate Component	Current	Effective April 1
Basic Facilities Charge (monthly)	\$35*	\$40*
Energy Charge	\$.08920 per kWh	\$.10650 per kWh
Wholesale Power Cost	\$.012416 per kWh	\$ (.00446) per kWh
Equity Management	\$0.00 per kWh	\$0.00 kWh
TOTAL	\$.101616 per kWh	\$.10204 per kWh

*Based on 30 days billed at a rate of \$1.15 versus \$1.33 daily.

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Michele Hutchins, Editor

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Jamie Giddens

Joe Loomis

Clyde Mizell

Craig Morgan

"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

Hosea 6:3

King James Version

³ Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

“The sun just touched the morning; The morning, happy thing, supposed that he had come to dwell, and life would be all spring.”

—Emily Dickinson



Foundation Kicks Off 2024 with \$26,500 in Grant Awards

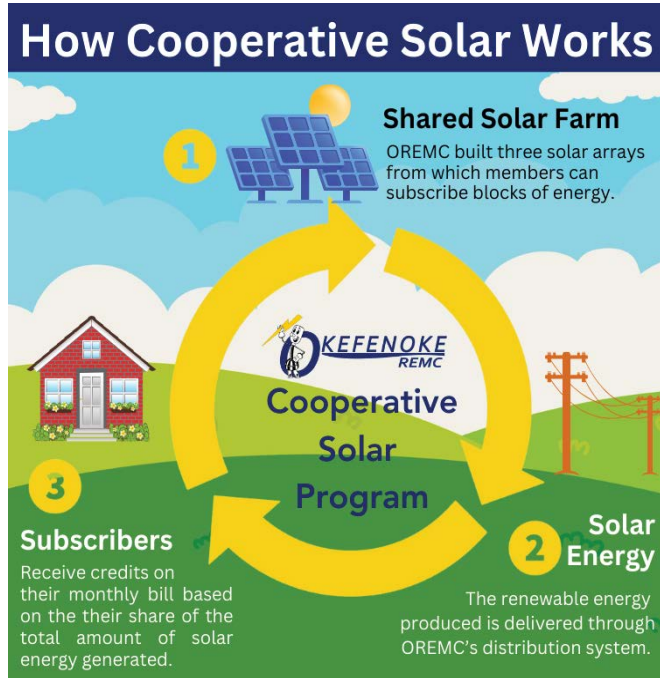
Kicking off its third year of supporting community needs, healthcare, education and economic/cultural development, the Okefenoke Rural Electric Membership Corporation (OREMC) Foundation has awarded seven grants totaling \$26,500 in 2024's first quarter. You can read more about the recipients and how to apply at oremc.com/news. The next OREMC Foundation grant application deadline is **Friday, July 12, 2024**. Qualified organizations can apply for grants on a quarterly basis that support programs and initiatives approved by the OREMC Foundation trustees in accordance with the Foundation's charter. Applications available online at oremc.com/foundation.

The Buzz About Community Solar

There is a lot of talk about solar these days, and for good reason—it is a renewable energy source. But not everyone wants, is permitted to have, or can afford rooftop solar. That's why OREMC's community solar program, **Cooperative Solar**, makes solar an option for all members.

- Simply subscribe to blocks of energy generated by OREMC's Cooperative Solar farm. Each month, your share of the total energy generated is credited to your account.
- All homes are eligible whether you own, rent or live in an apartment or condo.
- No long-term contract. Just \$20 a month for each block of energy you subscribe to.
- No rooftop solar installation, maintenance or insurance necessary.

Learn more and subscribe at oremc.com/cooperative-solar.



TIME TO TEE UP & CHIP IN! Annual Golf Tournament is April 27

Just six short months after our 2023 set a record \$25,000 in funds raised to benefit the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc., we are at it again with the 2024 tournament on April 27, presented by Oglethorpe Power/Georgia Transmission/Georgia System Operations. We are moving back to spring and ready to swing in action helping support local cancer patients. Limit is 28 foursomes. You can register and pay online at oremc.com/golf.

presented by:



Whatever It Takes: The Life of a Lineworker

Lineworkers are ranked as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the country. Our OREMC lineworkers work rain or shine, in often challenging conditions to ensure you have reliable power. To honor our heroes in hardhats, we're celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 18. You can learn more about the dangers they face, the physical demands, the sacrifices and what makes the job worthwhile at oremc.com/news.

Remember, OREMC and its employees are members of this community. If your lights are off, there is a good chance ours are off too. So, you can trust that we are doing our very best to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible—so you can get back to normal life. [#ThankALineworker](https://twitter.com/ThankALineworker)



Church of the Month

Sterling Baptist Church

7071 New Jesup Hwy. • Brunswick, GA 31523
Pastor Rick Williams 912-617-4656

Sunday 11:00 a.m.
 Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

sterlingbaptistchurch.com

To nominate your church, contact Dewayne Johns at 1-800-262-5131 Ext. 1143 or email dewayne.johns@oremc.com

Notice of Rate Change April 1

Are OREMC rates the same all year long?

No, OREMC has summer rates and winter rates. Cost per kWh as of April 1 will be:

Summer rates are in effect from May 1 - September 30
 0 - 1,000 kWh 10.65 cents per kWh
 Over 1,000 kWh 13.30 cents per kWh

Winter rates are in effect from October 1 - April 30
 All kWh 10.65 cents per kWh

Why the two-tier rate structure during the summer?

The overall demand for electricity is higher during the hot summer months. The two-tier structure was established to encourage energy conservation during peak demand times. A higher than usual demand for electricity during the summer months can result in higher energy bills year-round.

Why is a wholesale power cost adjustment necessary?

OREMC's retail electric rates are designed to recover all operating costs, the largest of which is the cost of purchased power. The cost of purchased power can vary significantly from budget due to fluctuations in the costs of fuels used to generate electricity. Significant variances from budgeted purchased power costs will produce under/over recovery of actual costs. Natural gas, used to generate most of the energy we purchase, is particularly susceptible to price volatility due to storage and transportation constraints. The wholesale power cost adjustment may be a credit or debit and is merely a true-up mechanism for significant variances from budgeted costs.

What makes an equity management adjustment necessary?

As a not-for-profit, consumer-member owned cooperative, OREMC does not have shareholders. The entire distribution system is collectively owned by our members, and the cost of building and maintaining that system is paid for by you. Equity refers to the amount of money collected and reinvested directly into the system to ensure system capacity, redundancy, and reliability. Equity offsets debt, meaning more equity in the system means less debt. The Board of Directors has determined 38% equity is the optimal rate of investment. The equity management adjustment allows for rate adjustments based on maintaining 38% equity without having to formally change rates.

Continued From Front

What is driving the rate increase?

There are three main drivers behind the rate increase:

- **Materials and labor costs:** With system growth, development and improvement comes the need for more plant and materials—poles, wires, transformers, reclosers, etc. Availability of materials, long-lead times and labor shortages in manufacturing have resulted in large cost increases for many components of our electrical system. Some components such as transformers have tripled in price over the past three years. These higher costs are passed through/recovered by our rates.
- **System growth and improvements:** Technology and new services account for much of OREMC's system improvement and expansion. New technologies have been invested in and implemented across our system to improve reliability so that when an outage does occur, it impacts the fewest number of members for the shortest amount of time. There has also been a significant real estate boom across our system since COVID. This results in the need for new line construction and/or increased capacity on existing lines.

• **Cost of power:** You may be saying, "I thought that is what the wholesale power cost adjustment is for?" The answer is yes and no. When we issued the wholesale power cost adjustment increases in 2022 and the decrease in 2023, it was all related to a significant and unforeseen increase in the price of natural gas. But natural gas is not OREMC's only source of power supply. We have a mix of fuels in our power supply including renewables, coal and nuclear—much like everything else, the cost of production has increased over the past three years.

Why now?

Why now is tied to the fact that OREMC schedules a rate study every two to three years. The study's purpose is to evaluate changes in costs and revenue, determine if rates are under-collecting, over-collecting or neutral, and adjust accordingly. Our last base rate increase was in November 2020. Since then, the overall inflation rate has increased 18% and impacted the overall cost of goods and services—groceries, fuel, dining out, clothing, vehicles, housing—including the utility industry.

Have billing concerns or usage questions?

If you have questions or concerns about your OREMC bill, please contact OREMC Member Services at 800-262-5131. They can review your bill with you, explain your usage and discuss billing/payment options.