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Okefenokee Rural Electric
Membership Corporation
Nahunta, Georgia 31553

Michele Hutchins, Editor

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Speak to a Customer Service Representative by
phone Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CO-OP BUSINESS NUMBER

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“OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE”

OREMC Rates Q & A

OREMC’s announced a wholesale power cost rate adjustment that went into effect July 1. In an effort to help you better understand the price you pay for power, and how and why it changes from time to time, we developed the following list of commonly asked questions.

What are the key components of OREMC’s rates?

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

- Monthly basic facilities charge: this is a flat fee that covers the cost for maintaining our electric distribution system and service facilities so that when you flip the switch, electricity is available on demand.

- Energy charge: the portion of your kWh rate to operate our distribution system and invest in system improvements that continually build system capacity, resiliency and reliability. These are charges we set based on operational needs.

- Wholesale power cost: the per kWh cost of generating the power OREMC needs to buy to meet the electricity demands of all our consumer-members. Because OREMC does not generate its own power, this is a cost component we do not control.

How much is OREMC’s basic facilities charge?

Currently OREMC’s basic facilities charge is \$35 a month.

Are OREMC rates the same all year long?

No, OREMC has summer rates and winter rates. OREMC’s current rates are:

Summer rates are in effect from May 1 - Sept. 30

0 - 1,000 kWh	8.92 cents per kWh
Over 1,000 kWh	11.58 cents per kWh

Winter rates are in effect from Oct. 1 - April 30

All kWh	8.92 cents per kWh
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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-around.

Why is a wholesale power cost adjustment necessary?

As mentioned above, OREMC does not generate its own power, we buy it. Like supply and demand of any product, the price of power can go up or down based on market prices. If there are significant cost increases OREMC adjusts for those by increasing the wholesale power cost. If the cost of power decreases significantly, OREMC adjusts the wholesale power cost down.

What is driving the current increase to the wholesale power cost?

As you know from filling your gas tank at the pump, the cost of fuel has increased significantly over the past few months. The unprecedented increase in the cost of natural gas is what is driving up power generation costs—they have nearly tripled over the past year. As reported in the news, several factors are contributing to the increased natural gas prices: inflation, supply chain issues, workforce shortages and the war in Ukraine. Since OREMC is a consumer-member owned cooperative and doesn’t have stockholders, we don’t mark up these costs for a profit. The cost is simply passed through to members via the power cost adjustment.

How much will the power cost adjustment affect my OREMC bill?

The wholesale power cost adjustment effective July 1 is less than one penny or \$.00781 per kWh. Based on 1,000 kWh per month, for example, your OREMC will increase by \$7.81.

Will it go back down?

Hard to say for sure, but hopefully yes. If and when natural gas prices go back down, OREMC will make the appropriate power cost adjustment decrease.

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.



Annual Meeting 2022: A Return to In-Person

Despite the pandemic still being a backdrop to our daily lives, “living with it” has become the norm and the motivation for OREMC to once again return to an in-person annual meeting, with a few adjustments based on lessons learned from our drive-in meetings the past two years.

The 2022 OREMC Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, September 10, at the Brantley County High School, Highway 82 West, Nahunta.**

- Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will be drive-thru with access through the Middle School gate.
- Please bring the preprinted registration card you will receive with your official annual meeting notification letter to register and receive your attendance gift.
- Attendance gifts will be presented to members at registration. **Please note:** Just as there is only one vote per member regardless of how many accounts are in your name, there will also **only be one attendance gift per member.** As the name suggests, it is a thank you gift presented to those members who choose to attend the Annual Meeting.
 - Proceed forward to the refreshment stop where you will be offered donuts and choice of water and Coke® products. Additional beverages and coffee will be available at the refreshment counter located just outside the gym in the high school.
 - You will be directed to follow the road around toward the high school for parking.
 - Musical entertainment will be provided 8:30 -10 a.m. Activities will be available for the kids throughout the morning.
 - Official business meeting will start at 10 a.m.

During the business meeting, members will hear reports from OREMC’s Board President and General Manager. Elections will be finalized for three members of OREMC’s Board of Directors to serve for three-year terms representing: District 2 - Nassau County (Florida), District 6 - Northwest Camden County (Georgia), District 8 - Glynn County (Georgia).

Raffle prizes, superlative prizes and a grand prize will be awarded to those in attendance at the conclusion of the business meeting—you must be present to win.

Please contact us about any special needs or requirements for your participation in the Annual Meeting by calling our office at (800) 262-5131 or emailing us at member.services@oremc.com prior to September 10, or by contacting one of our employees at the meeting.



Deuteronomy 20:4

King James Version

⁴ For the Lord your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.

“It’s not whether you get knocked down,
it’s whether you get up.”

—Vince Lombardi



The OREM Foundation ~ supporting education, community health and economic development. 48 grants and counting!

OREMC Foundation Celebrates First Anniversary

The OREM Foundation is a community development initiative of Okefenoke REMC supporting education, community health and economic development in the six Georgia and two Florida counties the co-op serves. Since its inception in August 2021, the OREM Foundation has awarded over \$171,000 to 48 organizations in OREM's service area. The most recent grant awards were presented to:

- American Red Cross*
- Angel House of Georgia*
- Blue Fire Theatre*
- Called to Care, Inc.*
- DCDT Food Ministry*
- Eagles's Wings Judah Worship Center*
- Food Ministry*
- Ferst Readers of Brantley County*
- Hospice of the Golden Isles, Inc.*

- James M Dye Foundation, Inc.*
- Keep Nassau Beautiful, Inc.*
- MASA, Take by Force Ministries, Inc.*
- Okefenokee Alliance for the Homeless*
- Seaside Summer Enrichment*
- St. Simons African American Heritage Coalitions*
- Take Stock in Children of Nassau County, Inc.*
- The Hanger 912, Inc.*
- The Hope Center of Baker County, Inc.*

"From food banks, arts education and reading programs to historical preservation, public safety and meeting community health/safety needs, the OREM Foundation Trustees continue to be humbled by the people behind the organizations doing so much good for our local communities," explains OREM Communications/Marketing Coordinator Michele Hutchins.

For more information about the OREM Foundation please review the guidelines available at oremc.com/foundation. You can also email questions to foundation@oremc.com or call 800-262-5131 ext. 1103.

Member Benefit: Capital Credits Assigned for 2021

One of the benefits of being a consumer-member of a not-for-profit electric cooperative is you are an owner who has a stake in the financial success of Okefenoke REMC through capital credits. Capital credits are calculated by taking OREM's previous year's annual margins (revenue minus expenses) and allocated to each member of record based on their total billing that year.

Capital credits are retained by OREM for operating capital before being retired and paid back to our consumer-members. The money is used instead of borrowing capital, which reduces the co-op's interest expense, ultimately saving you money.

Margins are also assigned to OREM by other cooperatives we are a member of, such as our power suppliers. These margins are also assigned as capital credits to members based on their total annual billing.

OREM's margins for 2021 totaled \$5,843,203.69, plus an additional \$888,729.49 in margins from our power suppliers resulting in a total annual margin of \$6,731,933.18. To calculate your capital credit assignment for 2021, multiply the total amount you were billed in 2021, minus taxes, by .09105 percent. For example:

Total 2021 billing (less taxes)	Multiplied by percentage	Equals your capital credit assignment
\$750	.09105	\$68.28



Tee Time: 31st Annual Golf Tournament Sept. 24

Planning is well underway for Okefenoke REMC's Annual Golf Tournament benefitting the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc., to be held on Saturday, September 24. Presented by Oglethorpe Power/Georgia Trans-mission/Georgia System Operations. The tournament will once again be held at The Lakes Course at Laura S. Walker State Park in Waycross. You can register your team and/or be a sponsor by visiting oremc.com/golf.

"The tournament committee has been working on enhancements to this year's tournament to elevate the golfer experience and sponsors' exposure," says Michele Hutchins, OREM Member

Communications/Marketing Coordinator. "The tournament has grown significantly in the past couple of years and the proceeds enable us to support the Southeast Cancer Unit in their mission to help ease the financial burden on cancer patients undergoing treatment. It is a noble mission that benefits many in our community, including several of our own employees and their families."

Registration closes September 1 OR when the foursomes are sold out. Tournament is limited to 28 foursomes.



Youth Tour Returns to Washington, D.C.

Three OREM Youth Tour delegates were among the 70 from Georgia to attend the National Washington Youth Tour Leadership Experience in June. It was the first time in two years delegates convened in our nation's capital for a week of monuments, museums, memorials and mentorship. Representing OREM were Emma Dyal, Pierce County; Julianna Pittman, Brantley County; and Joash Wollitz, Nassau County.



Church of the Month Zion Sisters Baptist Church

- Sunday School 10 a.m.
- Morning Worship 11:15 a.m.
- Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study 7 p.m.

504 Spring Hill Rd. S. • Kingsland, GA 31548
Reverend James H. Payne 912-729-6670
To nominate your church, contact Dewayne Johns at 1-800-262-5131 Ext. 1143 or email dewayne.johns@oremc.com