HART ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

ALONG THESE LINES

AUGUST 2025 | VOLUME 76, NO. 8

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Clues for High Bills

As summer reaches its peak and temperatures soar, many of us notice a rise in our electric bills as air conditioners work overtime, increasing home energy consumption. It's normal for energy use in a home to fluctuate. Weather plays a significant role in energy consumption, making it the first factor to examine when trying to understand why your electric bill may be higher during certain months.

Hart EMC offers a fantastic tool to help you compare your home's energy use with the weather. Visit *www.hartemc.com* and select "Pay Online" to access information about your account, use history and more.

However, sometimes a higher bill may not be solely due to weather conditions. Here are some areas to investigate for clues:



Heating and Cooling (HVAC) System

This is the largest energy consumer in most homes. While weather greatly impacts your HVAC system's energy use, a malfunctioning unit can significantly affect your bill.

Check for low refrigerant levels to see if the emergency heat is accidentally activated, clogged filters, obstructed or closed vents, inadequate duct insulation, disconnected ducts, obstructed outdoor unit coils, worn-out equipment or poor home weatherization.

Water Heater

The water heater is a major energy user, second only to the HVAC system.

Check for leaking hot water faucets or pipes, a leaking water heater, a burned-out heating element, a malfunctioning thermostat, a thermostat that is set too high or unnecessary hot water use.



Well Pump

Check for a waterlogged pump, leaky pipes, or broken lawn or garden irrigation.

Swimming Pool or Hot Tub

Check to make sure the pump isn't running longer than necessary, and whether the heater is activated or the hot tub is left uncovered.

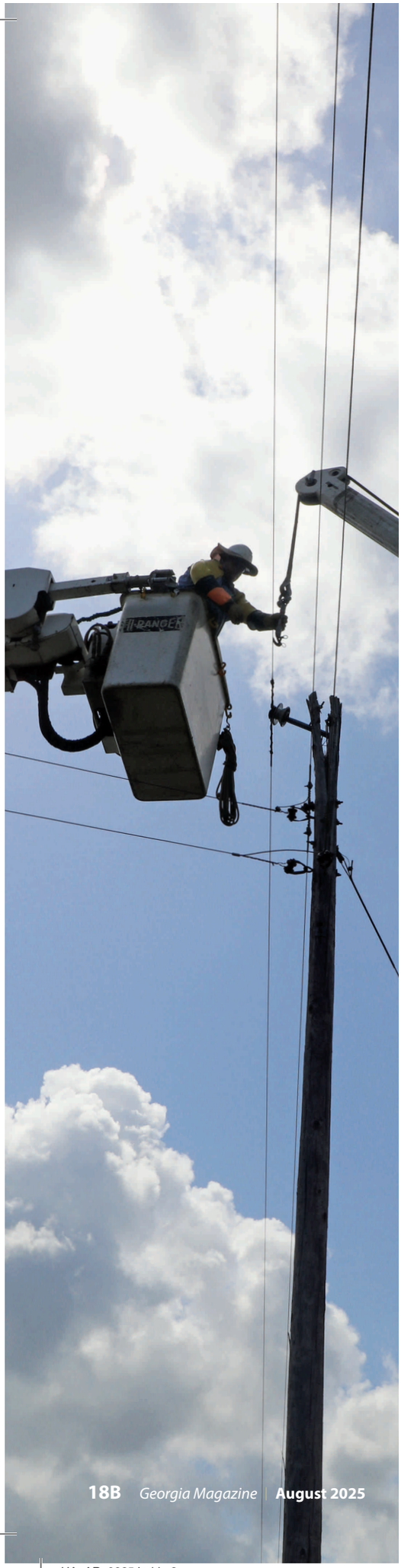
Appliances

Check for a clogged dryer filter or vent, whether gaming consoles are left on, an extra refrigerator that is running in a hot location, if the refrigerator or freezer is low on refrigerant, or increased cooking or washing activities.

Did you notice that lighting didn't make the list? Thanks to the advent of LEDs, lighting now comprises of a smaller portion of most residential energy bills—but it's still wise to turn off lights when they're not in use.

Remember: Small, combined actions can lead to a significant reduction in summer energy consumption.

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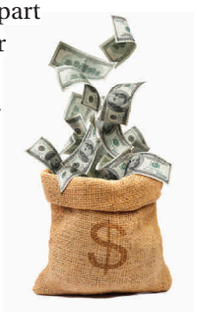


HART ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORP.

Statement of Operations for Years Ended March 31

Revenue	2025	2024
Operating Revenue	$ 87,164,494	$ 77,152,578
Nonoperating and Associated Organizations Income	5,954,616	4,951,250
Total Revenue	**$ 93,119,110**	**$ 82,103,828**
Expenses		
Cost of Purchased Power	$ 52,295,258	$ 47,381,421
Operations and Maintenance	12,270,278	10,426,111
Consumer Accounts	2,931,884	2,742,480
Consumer Assistance and Information	999,282	1,001,235
Administrative and General	4,628,858	3,690,005
Depreciation	6,662,784	6,386,266
Interest on Long-Term Debt	2,912,711	2,418,973
Total Expenses	**$ 82,701,055**	**$ 74,046,491**
Balance		
Patron's Capital and Margins	$ 10,418,055	$ 8,057,337
Total Expenses and Margins	**$ 93,119,110**	**$ 82,103,828**

You May Have Unclaimed Capital Credits



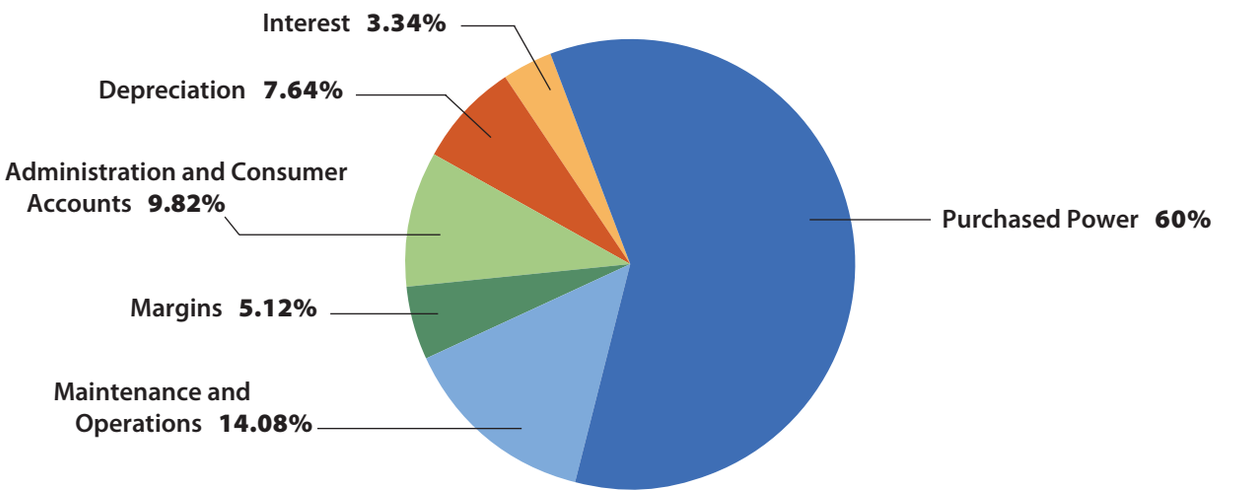
As a member of Hart EMC, you're more than just a customer, you're part of the ownership, holding a piece of Hart EMC. When you pay your monthly electric bills, you're investing in Hart EMC, and we return a portion of that investment to you as capital credits when financial conditions permit. Capital credits are just one of the many advantages of being a Hart EMC member, so feel free to enjoy your share!

If you were previously a member of Hart EMC and we don't have your current mailing address, you may have unclaimed capital credits. To find out if your name or someone you know is on our list, please visit *www.hartemc.com/capitalcredits/* and click on the 2019 list. If your name appears, give us a call at (800) 241-4109.

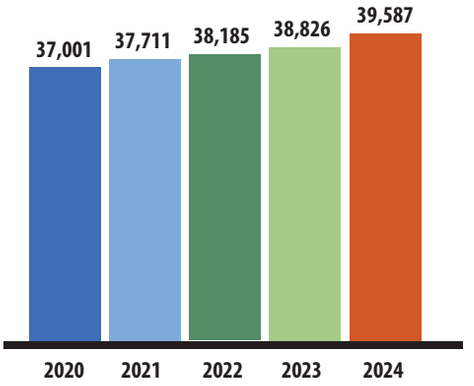
Please note that the final date to claim these funds is Sept. 30, 2025, at 4 p.m. Any unclaimed funds after this date will be donated for charitable purposes as allowed by O.C.G.A. 44-12-23.

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Operating Revenue Use

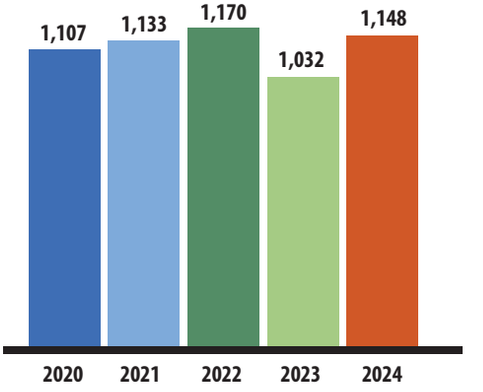


Average Total Consumers Served

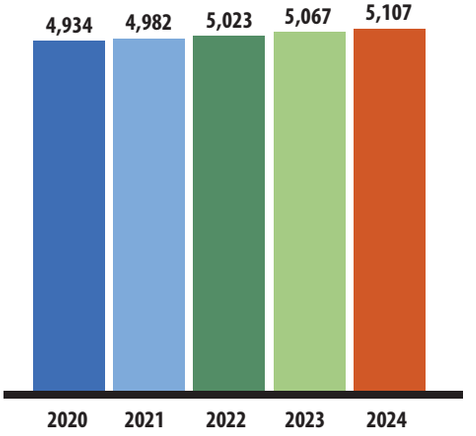


Average Residential Use

kWh per Month

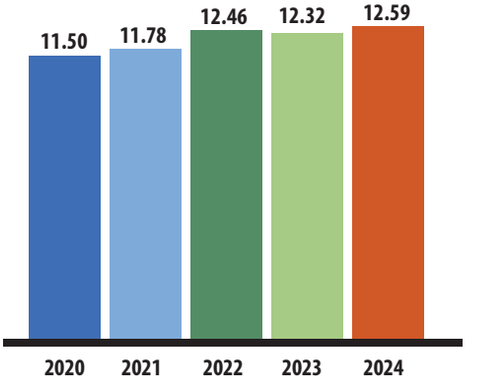


Total Miles of Line



Cost of Electric Service

Per kWh Sold (Cents)



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Hart EMC
'owned by those we serve'
ALONG THESE LINES

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Published Monthly
For all Members and Consumers

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Hart Electric Membership Corporation is a member-owned electric cooperative serving more than 37,000 meters in Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Stephens, Madison and Banks counties.

Hart EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Hart Recipe of the Month

Orange Jello Creamsicle Pie



Ingredients

- 3 cups shortbread cookies (about 24 cookies)
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- 1 orange, peeled and sliced
- 2 tablespoons orange zest
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 12 ounces cream cheese, softened, cubed and divided
- 1 box orange Jell-O (3 ounces)
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk (14 ounces)
- 12 ounces Cool Whip, divided

Directions

Spray a deep pie dish with nonstick cooking spray. Pulse the shortbread cookies in a food processor until you have a sand-like consistency. If you don't have a food processor, you can place the cookies in a plastic baggy and crush them with a rolling pin.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the cookie crumbs with melted butter. Stir until the crumbs are fully coated and the mixture starts to clump together. Press the cookie mixture into the bottom and up the sides of a pie dish. Place the crust in the freezer.

In a food processor or blender, add orange slices, orange zest, vanilla extract and orange juice. Blend until smooth.

In a large bowl and using a hand mixer, beat 8 ounces of softened cream cheese and the orange Jell-O together until smooth. Add the sweetened condensed milk and beat again until smooth. Gently fold 8 ounces of Cool Whip into the cream cheese mixture. Fold in orange slices mixture until everything is fully combined. Pour into chilled pie crust.

Refrigerate the pie for 3-4 hours.

Once the pie is chilled, whip 4 ounces of cream cheese and 4 ounces of Cool Whip until smooth. Top pie with mixture and, if desired, add fresh orange slices for decoration.

Application Deadline

BRIGHT IDEAS

Applications for all Bright Ideas grants are due by Wednesday, Aug. 27. For more information, visit *www.hartemc.com/community-involvement/hart-emc-foundation/bright-ideas*.

Planned Maintenance

August 2025

Tree Trimming and Bush Hogging: Airline and Dewy Rose