



April/May 2025

UPCO news

Lineworkers are wired for service

WIRED FOR SERVICE.

We thank electrical
lineworkers for their
commitment to
powering our local
communities.

**LINEWORKER
APPRECIATION DAY**

APRIL 14, 2025

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights

on, our homes comfortable and our communities connected.

Upson EMC crews travel across our seven-county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational and emergency services remain accessible—a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

Upson EMC's lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation Among Cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible—lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.

Consider a co-op career

Are you a high school or college student wondering about your next step after graduation? Or perhaps you're already established in your career but are seeking a change? Consider exploring job opportunities with one of the nation's not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives.

Electric membership corporations (EMCs) serve 42 million people across 48 states and provide a variety of fulfilling job opportunities in high-demand areas such as power line restoration, engineering and staking, accounting, strategic planning, information technology, community and economic development, human resources and communications. Georgia's 41 EMCs are also frequently on the lookout for customer service representatives and bilingual employees.

Upson EMC, in particular, anticipates openings in areas like communications, engineering, information technology and line work.

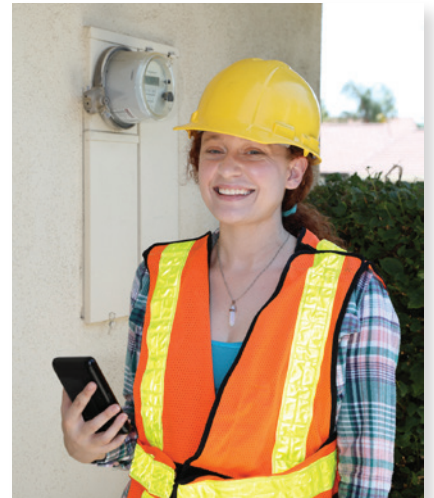
For students still exploring career paths, many cooperatives hire high school or college students. These student workers learn the basics about the cooperative business model while serving in meaningful roles.

"Working as a student at Upson



EMC allowed me to learn a great deal about the cooperative and its various roles within the community. It not only opened the door to a full-time position but also allowed me to grow and advance, ultimately leading me to my current position," says Brooke Parrott, Executive Administrator at Upson EMC.

EMCs are great places to work because they focus on providing exceptional service to their member-owners rather than on making profits. They are also ideal for people who want to make a positive impact, as they support their



local communities in ways beyond simply providing power.

In addition to meaningful work, electric cooperatives offer great employee benefits and competitive retirement plans. To learn more about career opportunities with electric co-ops, visit the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's website at electric.coop/our-organization/co-op-careers and Georgia EMC's career page at georgiaemc.com/networking.



Operation Round Up awards \$59,482 in grants to 501(c)(3) organizations

The Upson EMC Foundation is excited to announce the recipients of its 2024 Operation Round Up (ORU) grants, totaling \$59,482. These grants support essential community programs and initiatives. The following organizations received funding:



- **Billy Ds Community Fitness Center:** \$10,000 to purchase karate fitness equipment. This includes several FocusMaster units, which will significantly enhance instructors' ability to conduct karate classes.
- **New Mercies Biblical Counseling:** \$9,982.21 to support biblical counseling for individuals, couples and families facing challenges. This funding helped purchase office furniture, books, booklets, a computer and a road sign for their office.
- **Special Olympics Georgia:** \$4,500 to help cover costs for athletes participating in state games.
- **Chester Community Food Bank:** \$5,000 to fund a concrete slab foundation and plumbing for their new facility.
- **United In Pink Inc.:** \$5,000 to support their Pink Pack program, which provides essential resources to individuals recently diagnosed with and undergoing breast cancer treatments. Items in their Pink Packs may include customized care items, wigs, bras, caps, books and/or scarves.
- **Camp Lighthouse Ministry Inc:** \$5,000 to cover the costs for 30 underserved youth to attend a Christian summer camp.
- **R.U.S.H. Ministries Inc.:** \$10,000 to purchase 400-amp panels for bunkhouses, assisting with the camp and retreat center.
- **Pine Mountain Regional Library:** \$10,000 to enhance early literacy by purchasing Wonderbooks and leveled reader books for children.

Upson EMC is committed to supporting programs that make a real difference in our community. Through the generous contributions of our members via Operation Round Up, we are able to fund impactful initiatives like those listed above.

Special Olympics Georgia



*In Grateful Appreciation to
UPSON EMC
for your longtime friendship and dedication to the athletes.
2024*



From left: Brooke Parrott, Upson EMC; Doug Riddick, Upson EMC Foundation Director; Jennifer Domenech, Pine Mountain Regional Library System; Tony Watkins, Upson EMC Foundation Director.



Back row, from left: Tony Watkins, Upson EMC Foundation Board Chairman and Wille McDowell, owner of Billy Ds Community Fitness Center, along with his students in the front row.

Upson EMC Green Power Program

Upson EMC offers members environmentally friendly green power through Green Power EMC, which is comprised of Upson EMC and 38 other electric cooperatives in Georgia. Upson EMC's Green Power Program is certified by Green-e Energy.

BIOMASS PRODUCT CONTENT LABEL

The product is sold in blocks of 150 kilowatt-hours (kWh). The product will be made up of the following renewable resources:

Green-e Energy Certified New ³ Renewables in Upson EMC Green Power Program			Generation Location
	2024 ¹ Historical	2025 ² Prospective	
Biomass	100%	100%	Georgia
Geothermal	0%	0%	
Eligible hydroelectric	0%	0%	
Solar	0%	0%	
Wind	0%	0%	
TOTAL	100%	100%	

1. The 2024 figures reflect the resources that were supplied for the year ending December 31, 2024.
2. The 2025 figures are prospective and reflect the power that we have contracted to provide. Actual figures may vary according to resource availability. We will annually report to you before August 1 of next year in the form of a Historic Product Content Label the actual resource mix of the electricity you purchased.
3. New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation within the past 15 years. This product includes generation from a facility that is approved for extended use by Green-e Energy.

For comparison, the 2024 average mix of resources supplying Upson EMC includes: coal (12.45%), nuclear (36.32%), natural gas (32.6%), hydroelectric (4.25%), solar (8.44%) and other (5.94%).

The average home in the United States uses 893 kWh per month. [Source: U.S. EIA, 2020]

For specific information about this electricity product, please contact Upson Electric Membership Corporation at (706) 647-5475 or visit www.upsonemc.com.



Green-e Energy certifies that Upson Electric Membership Corporation Green Power Program meets the environmental and consumer protection standards established by the nonprofit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements log on to www.green-e.org.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.



Good Friday closing

Upson EMC's office will be closed on Friday, April 18, in observance of Good Friday.

