

continued from page 1

tricity usage by 125% to get a rough estimate of your monthly baseload. Then multiply this monthly baseload by 12 to estimate your annual baseload in kilowatt-hours.

To compute cooling electricity, subtract your average monthly baseload from the kilowatt-hours used for each summer month. For heating electricity, subtract the monthly baseload from the kilowatt-hours used each winter month.

The table below shows typical yearly electric consumption for 1600 square-foot homes; in the northern homes, mostly heating, and in the southern homes, mostly cooling. If your home is much larger or smaller than 1600 square feet, the column labeled kWh/ft<sup>2</sup> will help you rate your home on a per-square-foot basis by multiplying the kWh/ft<sup>2</sup> times your floor area to arrive at typical consumption for baseload heating and cooling.

Type of Use	Northern climates			Southern climates		
	Annual kWh	%	kWh/ft <sup>2</sup>	Annual kWh	%	kWh/ft <sup>2</sup>
Baseload	11,000	57%	6.9	9,650	63%	6.0
Heating	7,335	38%	4.6	3,370	22%	2.1
Air Conditioning	965	5%	0.6	2,300	15%	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,300</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>15,320</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>9.5</b>

kWh - kilowatt hours • From the Energy Information Administration

If your baseload electricity consumption is above the average in this table, you should think about some energy saving measures. Your baseload electricity consumption can be affected by older inefficient appliances, a high demand for hot water or unusual loads such as a swimming pool.

If your heating consumption or cooling consumption is above the kWh in this table, you should think about some energy saving measures. Your electrical heating consumption depends on insulation levels, air leakage and heating efficiency. Your air-conditioning electricity usage is determined by window shading, attic insulation, air leakage and air-conditioning efficiency.

Once you understand how your home uses energy, you can go to work installing energy efficiency measures. ■

Source: John Krigger, Saturn Resource Management, www.srmi.biz

## Prepare Your Central Air Conditioner for Summer

Spring is a good time for maintaining your air conditioner. If you keep the coils of your air conditioner clean, it will improve your comfort and reduce your electricity costs this summer.

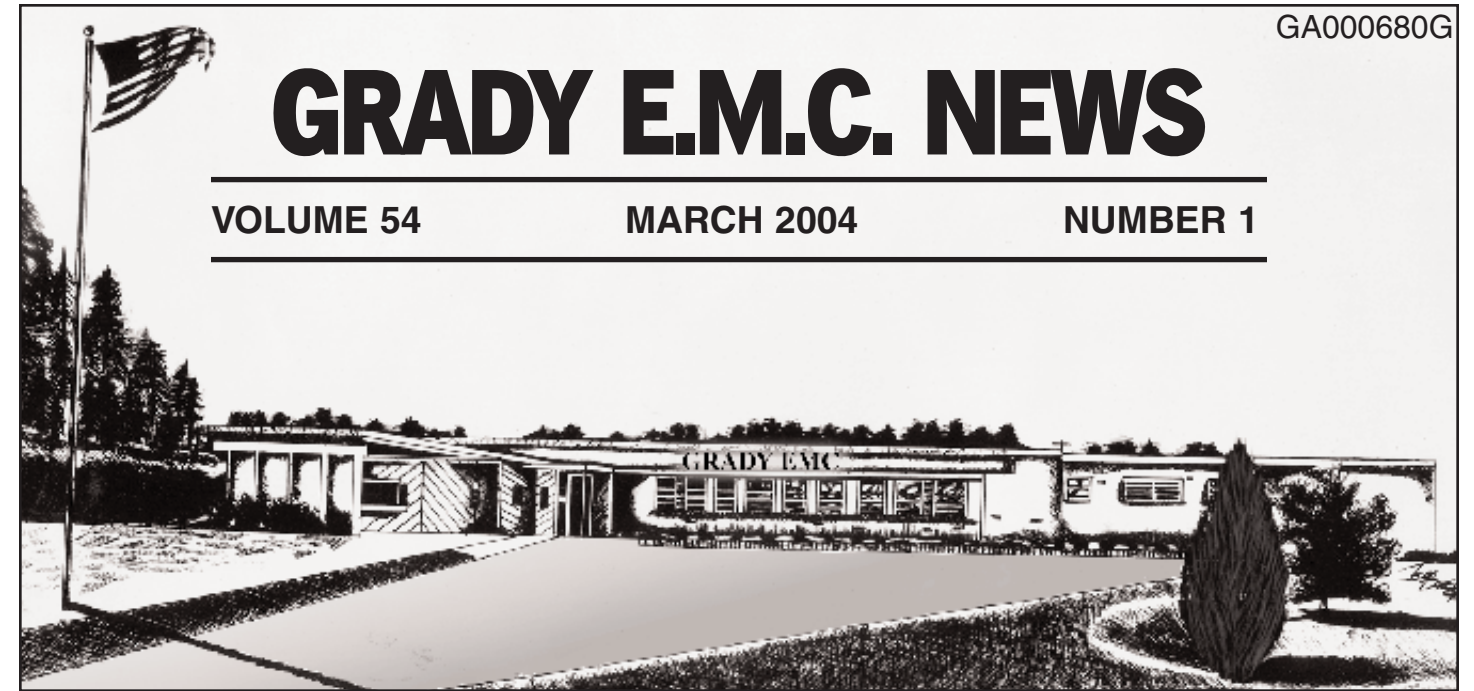
Start by inspecting the outdoor condensing unit. The large outdoor coil - it looks like a car radiator - is where heat is dissipated from your home. The fan in the condensing unit has to move a whole lot of air through the coil, so make sure that there are no airflow restrictions around the condensing unit. Cut near-by grass, shrubs, and tree branches so they are at least 3 feet away at the sides and 5 feet away overhead.

Most condenser coils are loaded with pollen and dust, even when you can't see it. The longest a condenser should go without cleaning is 2 or 3 years, depending on how much it operates during the summer. If your cooling season is 4 months or more, annual cleaning is an excellent idea. Turn off the power to



the unit, and remove any visible grass and lint from the fins and/or louvers with an old hairbrush or whisk broom. Then put on a pair of rubber gloves and spray biodegradable outdoor coil cleaner into the coil. Wait five or ten minutes and flush the coil with a gentle water spray.

Your indoor coil might also need cleaning, even though you can't easily see it. If your air conditioner's filter or blower is dirty, then your indoor coil is probably dirty, too. Cleaning the indoor coil is usually a job for professionals, unless you have easy access, as with a central heat pump. To help keep your indoor coil clean, make sure your filter fits well, is easy to change, and that you change it regularly. Have your air conditioning contractor make improvements to the filter, if needed, so it is easy to get to. Change the filter often to help keep your indoor air conditioner coil clean and reduce energy consumption. ■



# GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

VOLUME 54

MARCH 2004

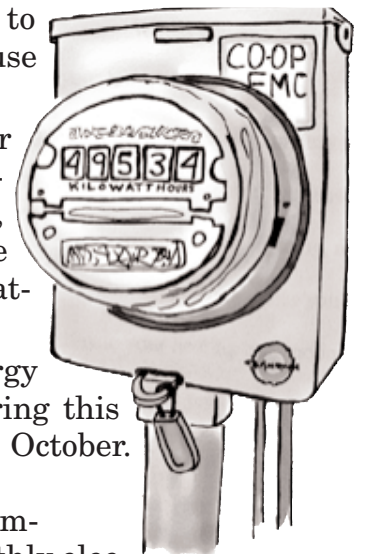
NUMBER 1

## Understanding Energy Use in Your All-Electric

Would you like to reduce your electricity consumption? As you plan to improve your home's efficiency, it helps to understand where you use electrical power.

The first step in understanding your electricity usage is to separate your annual electricity consumption into heating, air conditioning, and baseload uses. Baseload uses include water heating, lighting, refrigeration, laundry, and other uses that don't vary much from month to month. Once you have an estimate of your baseload usage, you can estimate your heating and cooling costs in order to see if they fall above or below average.

Look at your spring or fall electric bills to estimate your baseload energy use, since you probably use little or no heating or air conditioning during this time. This is usually the months of April and May, or September and October. Calculate your average monthly electricity usage for these months in kilowatt-hours (kWh). This is the unit of consumption that your utility company uses, and it should be listed on your bill. Multiply that average monthly elec-



continues on page 4

DOING BUSINESS WITH PEOPLE WITH WHOM YOU KNOW AND TRUST

## GRADY EMC

"Your local cooperative with access to the world's power."

GRADY EMC... PROVIDING SERVICE THAT SHINES

GRADY ELECTRIC  
MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION  
P.O. BOX 270  
CAIRO, GEORGIA 39828

T.A. ROSSER  
President

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DONALD COOPER  
Chairman  
Dist. 2

DEWEY BROCK, Jr.  
Dist. 1

LAMAR CARLTON  
Vice Chairman  
Dist. 3

ROBERT E. LEE  
Secretary - Treasurer  
Dist. 6

JAMES FREEMAN  
Dist. 4

L. O. MAXWELL, III  
Dist. 5

G. WILLIS SMITH  
Dist. 7

ATTORNEY  
KEVIN CHASON

#### OFFICE HOURS

8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Drive Thru – 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

MONDAY thru FRIDAY  
CLOSED HOLIDAYS,  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY

#### BUSINESS and SERVICE CALLS

DURING and AFTER  
OFFICE HOURS

377-4182

TOLL FREE

SERVICE NUMBER

1-800-942-4362

Published Quarterly,  
Mailed to All Members of  
Grady Electric Membership  
Corporation

## Those Strange Outlets Protect You

Have you ever wondered why you have different outlets in the bathroom? Those outlets are Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs). More than two-thirds of 300 electrocution deaths could have been prevented with the use of GFCI outlets, according to the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission.



The GFCI is able to shut off when a small fluctuation in current is detected. These outlets are much more sensitive to current fluctuations than a fuse or your circuit breaker.

These GFCI outlets should be installed anywhere an appliance might come in contact accidentally with water, typically in the bathroom, kitchen, laundry room or garage.

Don't take your GFCI for granted. The Underwriters Laboratory suggests testing your GFCI monthly to make sure it is working properly with the following steps:

- Push the "Reset" button located on the GFCI receptacle.
- Plug a nightlight (with an "ON/OFF" switch) or other product (such as a lamp) into the GFCI receptacle and turn the product "ON."
- Push the "Test" button located on the GFCI receptacle. The nightlight or other product should go "OFF."
- Push the "Reset" button again. The light or other product should go "ON" again.

*continues on page 3*

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

#### Rural Electrification Administration Statement of Nondiscrimination

Grady Electric Membership Corporation has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Electrification Administration that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, all requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, all requirements of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, all requirements under the Americans Disabilities Act of 1990 and all requirements of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, of solely by reason of such person's disabilities or on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program or the operation of its facilities. Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the ground of race, color or national origin, solely by reason of such person's disabilities, or on the basis of age, in its policies and practices relating to applications for service or any other policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants including employment, rates, conditions and extensions of service, admissions or access to or use of any of its facilities, attendance at and participation in any meetings of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operations of this organization. The person in this organization responsible for coordinating the nondiscrimination compliance efforts of this organization is Vickie L. Peak.

Any individual, or any specific class of individuals, who feel subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, by the Age Discrimination Act, by the Americans Disabilities Act or by the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture may personally or through a representative, file with the Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; the office of the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250; The Office of Advocacy and Enterprise, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture of the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

*continued from page 1*

If the light or other product remains "ON" when the "Test" button is pushed, the GFCI is not working properly or has been incorrectly installed (miswired). If your GFCI is not working properly, call a qualified, certified electrician who can assess the situation, rewire the GFCI if necessary or replace the device.

## Thomas County Central Student Alan Hurst Wins Statewide Contest That's Truly "Electrifying"

Thomas County Central High School student, Alan Hurst recently won first place while competing with high school students across the state to win a \$1,000 scholarship in the Electric Membership Cooperative/Future Farmers of America (EMC/FFA) Wiring Contest. This career development event was held in January, 2004 at the State FFA Center in Covington, GA.

The contest, co-sponsored by Grady EMC in Cairo, tested students' knowledge of electrical wiring gained in classroom instruction and FFA supervised activity projects. The event's main project was a practical wiring exercise that required students to read a schematic, then plan and actually wire the circuit. The event also required students to complete a written, problem solving exercise and an oral presentation of their wiring exercise.

Grady EMC sponsors the wiring contest because the exercise strengthens the confidence of agriculture students in themselves and their work. This was the third year that Alan had participated in this event and it was evident that one could see Alan's level of confidence grow from year to year. His instructor, Jerry Stone, had a tremendous impact on Alan by working with him for several hours after school in order to enhance Alan's capabilities. Jerry's support, dedication, and commitment to Alan and this event helped Alan to take top honors at state.

Alan, representing Grady EMC, advanced to the state finals by placing second in the Area 5 Southern Region competition held December 9th, 2003 in Tifton, GA at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Alan also received scholarship monies for his efforts at this event.

Grady EMC partnered with its statewide trade association, Georgia EMC, and FFA to sponsor the Career Development Event. The contest is designed to encourage safe electrical wiring, create an awareness of electricity and teach methods of energy conservation so that tomorrow's citizens are informed individuals.

Grady EMC would like to offer special congratulations to Alan for his hard work and for winning the state contest. We would also like to acknowledge Thomas County Central High School for offering and promoting this program to their students and to Jerry Stone for his commitment to teaching this program. Alan's parents are Vance and Joy Hurst of Thomasville.

Grady EMC is a member-owned cooperative providing electricity and related services to approximately 14,000 members in Decatur, Grady, and Thomas counties. Collectively, the 42 EMCs of Georgia provide electricity and related services to 3.7 million people, nearly half of Georgia's population, across 73% of the state's land area. ■



*Pictured are (l-r) Donald Dalton, TCCHS Vol/Ag Instructor, Donnie Prince, Grady EMC, presenting Alan Hurst with electricians tool pouch and belt along with a contribution for Alan's college expenses, Jerry Stone, TCCHS Vol/Ag instructor, and Frank Delaney TCCHS principal.*