

Jefferson Energy Cooperative

Important Facts and Figures

1. 1935-Franklin Roosevelt signed the executive order creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).
2. Jefferson Energy Cooperative was chartered as a member-owned cooperative in October 1937.
3. Jefferson Energy Cooperative currently employs 105 people and serves over 27,000 members.
4. Jefferson Energy Cooperative maintains over 4,000 miles of line.
5. Jefferson Energy Cooperative serves areas in eleven counties: Burke, Columbia, Emanuel, Glascock, Jefferson, Jenkins, Johnson, McDuffie, Richmond, Warren, and Washington.
6. There are 41 EMCs in Georgia.
7. The EMCs in Georgia service in excess of 3.7 million members.
8. How is Jefferson Energy different from an investor-owned utility like Georgia Power Company (Southern Company)?
The ultimate goal of both companies is the same to serve the people in their respective service areas with an adequate supply of electricity. However, there are quite a few differences between Jefferson Energy and Georgia Power. Georgia Power is referred to as an “Investor-owned utility” (IOU for short). This means that anyone may purchase stock in this company and, therefore, they become a stockholder of Georgia Power Company. Georgia Power then operates on a profit basis so their stockholders make money as a result of their investment. So, a select few (only stockholders) stand to benefit from the profits. IOUs are generally governed by public service commissions.

As with all EMCs, Jefferson Energy is non-profit; “Owned by those we serve”. This means only customers of Jefferson Energy can own the company. By merely applying for electric service and paying a small membership fee, a person becomes part owner and a “member” of this corporation. Therefore, any and all money in excess of operating costs and expenses (margins) is assigned back to the members (customers) of Jefferson Energy. The money assigned to our members is referred to as Capital Credits.

9. Who runs Jefferson Energy?

The members run Jefferson Energy. Now, of course, we can't have over 27,000 members directly determining our rates and policies. But they do determine these things indirectly. Each July, Jefferson Energy holds an annual business meeting for all our members. At this meeting a financial report must be made to our members to let them know the state of their business. Probably the most important item of business at the annual meeting is the election of a board of directors. These nine directors are the governing body and they represent the entire membership. Each director is elected by the membership to service a three-year term. Directors may be re-elected after their three-year term expires.

10. Who are Jefferson Energy's directors?

William L. Howard, Chairman; Larry Hadden, Vice Chairman; James L. Gay, Secretary-Treasurer; Ophelia McCain, Mark Davis, Eugene Tanzymore, Martin Thompson, Joe Shurley, and Tim Garrett.

11. Who is Jefferson Energy's General Manager?

Chris Dillard

12. Other organizations you should know about:

a) Oglethorpe Power Corporation: Established in 1975 to provide electricity to 39 of the 41 EMCs in Georgia. OPC is divided into three specialized companies. It will remain a cooperative and operate primarily as a power generating organization. Systems operations and transmission companies have been formed as subsidiaries of OPC. Oglethorpe Power Corporation is located in Tucker, Georgia.

b) Georgia Electric Membership Corporation: GEMC is a cooperative owned by Georgia's 41 EMCs. Services include producing publications for EMC members such as GEORGIA Magazine, acting as a liaison for the electric cooperative with state and federal government officials and providing training for employees of EMCs.

c) NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association): The national EMC organization. It represents the approximately 875 EMCs in the United States. NRECA provides similar programs on a national basis that Georgia EMC provides on a state level. One of the activities NRECA sponsors is the Washington Youth Tour in which you are participating. NRECA's headquarters is in Washington, D.C.

13. What fuels are used to generate power for the electric consumers of Georgia?

At present, the electricity generated in Georgia predominantly uses coal as the fuel source. The breakdown is:

- Coal 36%
- Nuclear 45%
- Hydro 5% (electricity generated by falling water)
- Gas 14%

14. Jefferson Energy offers other value-added services to their members:

- Security Lights
- Home and business security systems
- Free Energy Audits-energy analysis of your home to identify problem areas.
- Bank Draft, Levelized Billing, Payment by Credit Cards, and Kiosk locations.
- Free Electrical Safety Programs for schools and organizations.
- Green Power