

Celebrating the Georgia lifestyle

April 2014

GEMC

Georgia[®]

MAGAZINE

**Free home energy audits help
GreyStone Power members**

**Local businesses are the key
to success**



GREYSTONE
POWER CORPORATION
An Electric Membership Corporation

Everyday businesses, everyday savings

Attention businesses, let's clear the air! How many discount programs have you joined? By accepting a discount card for goods or services, are you offered anything in return, or did you have to pay to become part of that program hoping the advertisement would yield a good investment? What will you get out of it other than the occasional sale or two?

The bottom line is you were looking for a way to increase your sales and your customer base. It's not a bad idea really, but why pay for it? With the Co-op Connections® Card program, you will have the ability to share your discount both locally and nationally.

Joining is easy, and best of all, it's **FREE!** With more than 325 local businesses, and hundreds more participating nationally, this discount program can provide you a win-win opportunity.

In exchange for your participation, you will receive a number of benefits. Upon enrolling, you and your employees will receive a Co-op Connections

Card that you can begin using personally, allowing you to take advantage of the Healthy Savings program, local and national discounts and online shopping discounts. Though this is not insurance, by providing cards to employees as a way to supplement other health care benefits, you are allowing them to take advantage of discounts on prescriptions, vision, hearing, dental, chiropractic and lab and imaging services. Through this powerful discount card, GreyStone members have saved more than \$1.6 million in prescription savings alone, ranking fourth in the nation among 446 participating co-ops!

Another major benefit you will receive is free advertising. Your discount will be listed online and in multiple news outlets to more than 107,400 GreyStone Power members! The only cost to you is the unique discount you will offer our members.

Here's how to get started:

Start by completing and returning the participant agreement, which can be found on the Co-op Connections page at www.greystonepower.com. Then visit www.connections.coop and create a login using the same email address listed on the participant agreement.

Once your access has been granted, you will then have the ability to update and upload pictures and



additional information about your business, as well as make changes to your offer in the future.

You can return your participant agreement via fax to 770-370-2407 or by email at ccc@greystonepower.com. For a complete listing of participating businesses, visit greystonepower.com. For additional questions about participation, call 770-370-2436.

Look who recently joined!

J & R Heating and Cooling

Powder Springs 678-903-6154
\$25 off standard service call and \$150 off complete system.

Stone Mountain Park

Stone Mountain 770-498-5690
Discount on All Attraction Adventure Pass. Tickets are \$21 plus tax; prices valid for ONLINE advance ticket purchases ONLY. Must enter promo code: *greystonembr* at the time of purchase to access discount. (\$10 parking permit or \$35 annual parking permit not included in discount and required for park entry.)



Save Every Day

on the everyday things and get more out of life.



Find out what your **FREE Co-op Connections® Member Benefits Card** can do for you!



The GreyStone Connection

THE POWER OF MEMBER CONNECTIONS



A LOOK INSIDE: **p. 26B** HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 2 • APRIL 2014

Miller's Minute

You are a member-owner of GreyStone Power Corporation, a nearly 108,000-member electric cooperative serving portions of eight counties west of Atlanta. More than that, you are part of a grassroots effort that began over 77 years ago to bring reliable, affordable electricity to homes and businesses, and is still doing so today.

Did you know? Electric co-ops serve three-quarters of the land mass in the U.S., 2,500 of 3,141 counties in the U.S., and maintain 2.5 million miles of electric lines that represent 42 percent of the nation's total.

As you can see, you as a member have a strong voice when it comes to utility issues.

Your voice is important. *Action.coop* is a website created specifically for you to express your concerns and opinions. Please visit the site to help us keep electricity affordable. Let's continue our strong tradition of success. Thank you.

- Gary

Gary Miller, President/CEO



Living the comfortable life

By AMANDA BUSBY, Editor

When you hear the word comfortable, what comes to mind? Sweat pants? Room temperature? Snuggling on the sofa under a cozy blanket? Perhaps it means having enough money to pay your bills, with enough left over so you and your family can go out to eat, vacation or even go to the movies whenever you like.

The term is relative to what may be going on in your life. I think it is safe to say that everyone would like to have enough money to be comfortable. Even if your budget is tight, you can do many different things to help provide a little more wiggle room and GreyStone Power can help!

As a member of GreyStone, you can take advantage of many different benefits. Making your home more energy efficient is just one of the many ways you can get started.

With rebate programs ranging from energy-efficient upgrades to solar installation, low-interest home loans through GEMC Federal Credit Union and even free in-home energy audits, you can save money throughout your home. And today,

every little bit of savings can help.

To get you started down the path of savings, let technology guide you. Hundreds of websites and apps on the market can help by providing energy efficiency tips, efficiency-minded games and even energy management tools. All you have to do is pick the one that fits you best, use it on a regular basis and watch the savings add up.

As part of the Touchstone Energy brand, we are happy to provide you with an app and a website we feel could really help you get the ball rolling. The *TogetherWeSave.com* site offers efficiency tips, how-to videos

continued on page 26B



GreyStone members Scott and Kathy Patman learn how to reduce electricity costs by caring for their HVAC units.

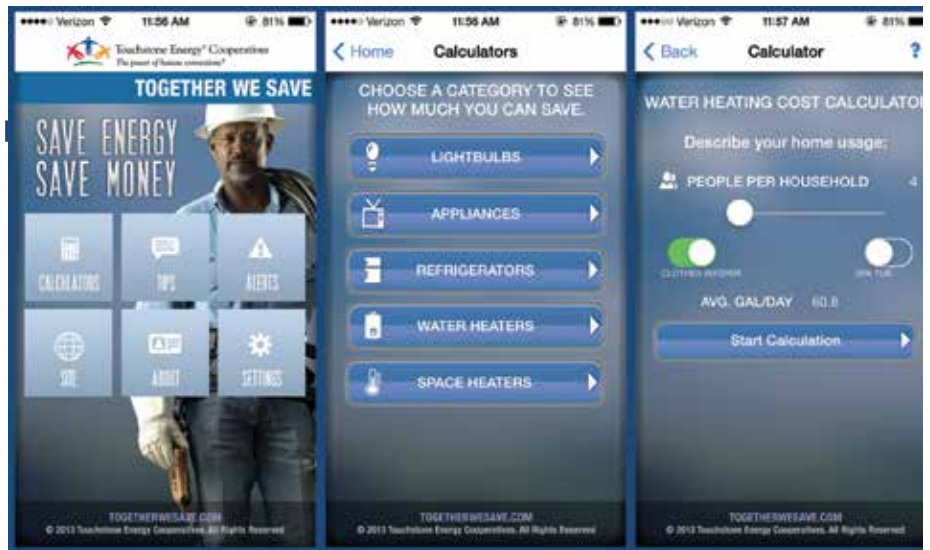
and energy use calculators. Visit the Energy Savings Home Tour to unlock your potential savings. By saving energy, you save money.

You can also download the TogetherWeSave.com app to discover easy ways to save energy and money for your home while you are on the go. Both the site and the app are a valuable resource to help you learn all you need to know in order to become more energy efficient.

Once you've completed your research, performed your own personal energy audit and put some tips into action, you no longer want to know just the estimated savings, but are ready to see the actual numbers. Is it working?

Pay close attention to your monthly bill statements and look for changes in your energy consumption. Notice if there is a significant difference or none at all.

Perhaps you have tried this new way of life by replacing old appliances with EnergyStar appliances, repairing



leaks and seals, or replacing air filters, but you are still not seeing much of a change in your energy consumption. You know you have become more efficient around the house and you are bumfuzzled that you are not seeing a difference. It may be time for a professional energy audit. Perhaps you have a phantom source that is consuming more energy than you think.

GreyStone's residential energy consultants are available for a free in-home audit. By discussing actions already taken, examining your current

system and recommending additional steps that can be taken, your home can become the most energy efficient it has ever been.

Start today by trying out our HomeEnergyCalculator and downloading a Do-It-Yourself Home Audit form, located on the Energy Audits page under the Save Money/Energy tab at greystonepower.com. For additional information about becoming more energy efficient, call 770-370-2070 to speak with a qualified consultant. Savings are just a call away.

Rebates are available for the taking

When your home efficiency is not where it should be, there are many things you can do. Some are costly while others are not. In order to find out where your house stands, start with a personal or professional home energy audit to help determine your areas of need.

GreyStone members Scott and Kathy Patman recently had a chance to welcome energy consultant Drew Hook into their home for a thorough once-over. Drew and his team perform hundreds of audits throughout the year helping members identify potential energy use problems.

As an added benefit, GreyStone members have several rebate programs available to them for such an occasion:

- ◆ **Switch from gas heat to heat pump or dual fuel:**
rebate of \$300 to \$600 based on SEER rating.
- ◆ **Switch from gas or propane to electric or solar water heater:**
rebates from \$200 to \$500 based on warranty and type of water heater.
- ◆ **Installation of photovoltaic solar panels:**
\$450 per kw of capacity, max 10 kw.
All rebates are limited to 2014 or when funds are depleted. Payment is made after appliances are installed, inspected and verified by GreyStone Power to ensure that all program requirements have been met.
For additional information



Infrared thermometers identify drafts and thermal leaks within the home.

about our rebate programs or to see if you meet the rebate requirements, visit the Save Money/Energy tab at greystonepower.com. You can also call 770-370-2070 for more info about the rebates.

Do It Yourself

Ask the Expert

We have all experienced higher home electric bills this winter due to some of the lowest temperatures in years, which led to higher home energy use. As winter leaves us and we head into summer, we wonder, will this summer prove to be hotter than normal? Your guess is as good as mine, but you can do something to help you prepare for the hot summer months ahead. A free home energy audit might be just what you need!

GreyStone offers an opportunity to better manage your home's energy use by providing a free in-home energy audit conducted by an experienced energy consultant. The audit, which typically lasts an hour and a half, includes an inspection of high energy users within the home, such as heating and cooling systems and water heaters. Insulation and air infiltration areas are inspected. Recommendations are provided that will help ensure a more comfortable, safer, healthier and energy-efficient home environment.

Incentive and rebate programs are offered for members who need to replace gas or propane water heaters or heating systems with efficient electric or solar systems. GreyStone also offers members the HomePlus Loan through GEMC Federal Credit Union. Finance as much as \$5,500 for 36 months for energy-efficient home improvements at as little as 2.9% APR*. Incentive and rebate programs are limited to 2014 and continue until available funds are depleted, so plan for your home energy efficiency project as soon as you can!

You can count on GreyStone as

Finance your energy-efficiency home improvements with a

2.9%^{APR}

HomePlus Loan!



Mark your calendar for our next EE101 on April 8, 2014! To register or for more information, call 770-370-2070.



Rudy Echols
Energy Services Manager

your "one-stop shop for energy efficiency." For assistance in making your home more energy efficient, call your Residential Energy Services Department at 770-370-2070.

**APR: Annual Percentage Rate qualification includes a prescreening by GreyStone Power and an approval for a HomePlus Loan from GEMC Federal Credit Union. Homes must be served by GreyStone Power and can be a rental home.*

DIY top three

1. Determine if your home could use an energy-efficient pick-me-up. Request an in-home energy audit by your Energy Services Department at 770-370-2070 or visit greystonepower.com.

2. If you plan home energy efficiency improvements or equipment purchases, call for info about the HomePlus loan. Call Marilyn Ragsdale, 770-949-3557 or Paula Musgrove, 770-370-2070.

3. Sign up for our free Energy Efficiency 101 seminar at GreyStone Tuesday, April 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to learn ways to better manage your home energy use. Register at 770-370-2070 or visit www.greystonepower.com.



GET EQUIPPED WITH DO-IT-YOURSELF SKILLS AND LOWER YOUR ENERGY BILL

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

6:30-8:30 p.m.

**GreyStone Power Auditorium
4040 Bankhead Hwy.
Douglasville**

Seats are limited, so reserve yours now! Seminar is for adults only. No children, please, as they may disturb someone else trying to learn.

For more information call 770-370-2070 or visit greystonepower.com.



GREYSTONE
POWER CORPORATION
An Electric Membership Corporation

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM



A day in history

For more than 64 years, cooperatives (co-ops) around the country have used an animated ambassador to promote loyalty and personality among the electric co-op world.

On Oct. 30, 1950, Andrew “Drew” McLay put his pencil to paper to design the rural electrification symbol, then called “Willie the Wired Hand.” Though the PR story during these times seemed to portray rural electric service as the farmer’s hired hand, Drew picked up on the idea that the symbol should relate to all members.

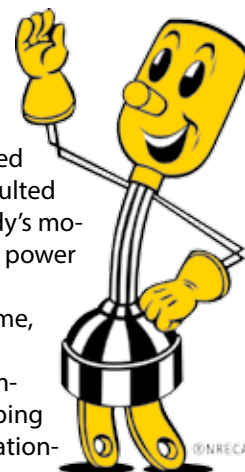
In February 1951, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s

(NRECA) membership officially selected Willie as their spokes-character. His name was soon shortened to Willie Wiredhand.

Not long after, co-ops found themselves in a lawsuit over the use of Willie, citing similarities with another animated character, Reddy Kilowatt, a licensed character for private power companies. This battle lasted until 1956 when a federal judge sided with Willie and the co-ops, ruling that the plaintiff could not claim exclusive rights in all situations in which a figure could be used to illustrate the uses of electricity. This battle was symbolic of the David vs.

Goliath struggle between co-ops and investor-owned utilities, which resulted in the end of Reddy’s monopoly over other power companies.

During this time, animated spokes-characters were important in developing positive brand relationships and satisfying a need for people to personify things.



—Source: electricconsumer.org

Pinterest Pick

CHOCOLATE CHIP BANANA BREAD

Ingredients:

- 1 stick butter
- 1-1/3 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup mashed ripe bananas
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)

Step 1: Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar. Mix in eggs, vanilla and sour cream.

Step 2: In a separate bowl whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

Step 3: Slowly add to sugar mixture and stir until combined. Fold in bananas, chocolate chips and nuts.

Step 4: Pour mixture into two large loaf pans or four small loaf pans. You can also make 24 muffins.

Step 5: Bake according to appropriate time: 1 hour for large loaf pan; 35-45 minutes for small loaf pan; or 25 minutes for muffins. It will be ready when lightly browned and inserted toothpick comes out clean.

Once the bread is cooked, remove from the pan and place on a cooling rack. Serve



warm or at room temperature. Enjoy!

Source: iheartnaptime.net

For more fabulous recipes, visit us at pinterest.com/greystonepower.



EVERY MEMBER HAS A VOICE. TOGETHER THEY WORK IN HARMONY.

Every electric co-op member has a say in what’s best for the community. Power to the people, from the people. Doesn’t that sound good? Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at greystonepower.com.



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Election time for GreyStone Board

Three seats on the GreyStone Board of Directors are up for election in 2014. Winners will be announced Oct. 11 at the Annual Meeting of Members.

Eligible members may become a candidate by being nominated by the Nominating Committee, or by nomination by petition of members. To be considered by the Nominating Committee, call 770-370-2066 for a nomination form, or print the online application at www.greystonepower.com. Return completed form to GreyStone by Friday, April 18 or mail completed applications to Nancy Mathison, GreyStone Power, P.O. Box 897, Douglasville, GA 30133.

To be placed on the ballot by submitting a petition signed by 50 or more GreyStone members of record (the name must appear on the electric

bill), call 770-370-2066 to request a petition or print the online petition at www.greystonepower.com. The deadline to submit the completed petition to GreyStone is Thursday, July 3, by 5 p.m.

All nominees are subject to a criminal background check, must live within the geographic boundary of the district they seek and meet all other conditions of eligibility.

Candidates desiring to have their name and biographical information included in the Annual Meeting ballot edition must submit information in the format and manner required by the Credentials and Elections Committee by Monday, July 7. If you are unable to determine the district in which you reside, or need additional information, call GreyStone's independent legal counsel,



Steve Minor, at 770-214-5108.

Directors currently seeking re-election this year are John Walton, District 2, Paulding County; Maribeth Wansley, District 6, Fulton, Fayette and Coweta Counties; and Milton Jones, District 7, Fulton County.



THAT'S THE POWER OF CO-OP MEMBERSHIP

Savings on everyday items. Like up to 85% off prescription drugs at participating pharmacies nationwide.

FIND ALL THE WAYS TO SAVE AT CONNECTIONS.COOP/GREYSTONEPOWER

EVERYDAY SAVINGS



WE BELIEVE IN AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY



Schools depend on
affordable electricity



Families depend on affordable electricity



Business depends on
affordable electricity

WE CAN'T AFFORD UNAFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY

VISIT WWW.ACTION.COOP TO CONTACT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ONLINE, AND ASK THEM TO WORK WITH YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TO DO WHAT IT TAKES TO ENSURE AFFORDABLE ELECTRICITY.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. SIGN UP FOR ALERTS TO STAY INFORMED.



GREYSTONE
POWER CORPORATION

An Electric Membership Corporation