



Line Items

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OVERHEAD *versus* UNDERGROUND POWER LINES

There are two methods of installing the power lines that carry electricity to your home: overhead and underground. Excelsior EMC members sometimes ask why we use one versus the other, or why all power lines are not installed using the same method. Isn't one method better than the other? These are great questions, and the answer is that each method has its place. A variety of factors goes into choosing the correct delivery method for each individual application. However, one of the main factors to be considered is the cost to construct. Underground power lines are much more costly to construct than overhead power lines. As your electric cooperative, Excelsior EMC makes it a priority to keep the costs to our members as low as possible. For this reason, the majority of our distribution system uses overhead power lines. See the table below for some of the pros and cons of each electric delivery method.

	PROS	CONS
OVERHEAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Cost • Quicker Construction • Easier to spot damage and faults • Less expensive to repair and upgrade • Can be built in any terrain • Any voltage can be placed overhead 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susceptible to wind, ice, and snow • More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right of way trimming • Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines • Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions • Less attractive
UNDERGROUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches • Does not interfere with views • No right of way (tree trimming) required • Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions • Not impacted by wind, ice, or snow • Less vulnerable to blinks caused by animals or branches contacting lines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More expensive to build • Susceptible to flooding • Difficult to locate faults • Expensive to repair • There are limitations on voltages that can be buried underground • Can be vulnerable to damage from digging

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BRONSON BRAGDON
Editor

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When your power goes off, don't stay in the dark longer than you have to. To restore your power as quickly as possible, we need your correct phone number. Your phone number is the quickest way for us to locate your home or business when you call to report an outage.

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Between the Lines

by
Greg Proctor
President/CEO

2019 Residential Energy Survey Results

The 2019 Residential Home Energy Survey was conducted from November 2019 through January 2020. The purpose of the survey is to better understand the energy consumption characteristics of our members' homes with the goal of more accurately forecasting the growth in electrical load. Results from the survey are combined with those from other Oglethorpe Power Corporation (OPC) member cooperatives to provide planning information for OPC as well. The survey also fulfills reporting requirements established by the Rural Utilities Service (RUS).

The Cooperative's residential class constitutes about 92 percent of all accounts, while the commercial and industrial classes represent 6 percent, and the remaining 2 percent are represented by irrigation and outdoor lighting.

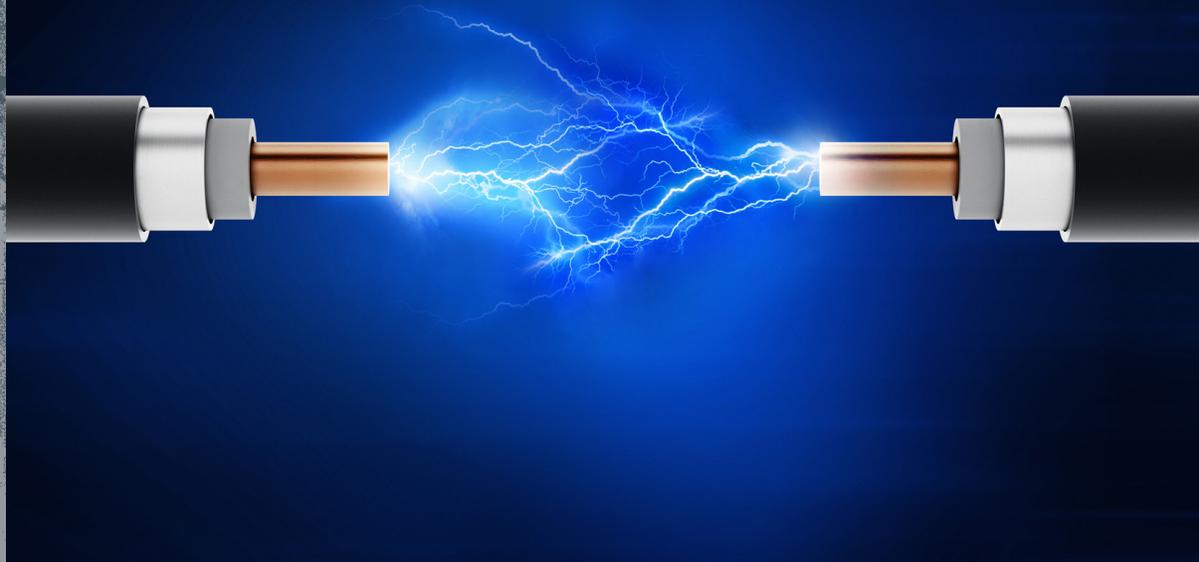
Key findings of the 2019 survey are summarized as follows:

- 72% of respondents live in single-family detached homes. 23% live in mobile or manufactured homes. Median house size is between 1,500 and 1,999 square feet, and the median home was built in the 1990s. On average, 2.6 people live in each household.
- 95% of households have central air conditioning (including heat pumps), and 76% of households use electricity as the main source of heating.
- 91% of households have electric water heating. The most common electric appliances include refrigerators (98%), microwaves (97%), clothes washers (96%), clothes dryers (94%), electric cooktops/stoves (84%), dishwashers (80%), stand-alone freezers (62%), and well/water pumps (64%).
- 63% of households have LED light bulbs in their home. 46% of total indoor lighting is provided by LEDs and 29% is provided by incandescent bulbs.
- Almost all (94%) of households have internet access. Among those with access, 91% say they have a high-speed internet connection. The majority of households have at least one smart phone (91%), a laptop computer (81%), an internet router (75%), a tablet (e.g. iPad; 69%), a DVR/DVD/VCR (64%), and a streaming media player (e.g. Roku; 56%). The average home now has two smart phones and more than one (average 1.2) tablet device.
- 1.6% of households have a battery electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle. 29% of respondents are at least somewhat interested in electric vehicles. One key takeaway is that electric vehicles are poised for rapid growth as the number of available and affordable models increase, the average range increases, and more charging stations come online.

The web-based survey approach resulted in a total of 693 respondents, more than doubling the 331 responses that we received from the 2014 mail survey. I would like to thank each member who submitted a response to the survey link. Your response helps us to better plan for the future so that the power you expect will be there when you need it.



Every Member Counts



***YOU WOULDN'T PICK UP A LIVE
POWER LINE, WOULD YOU?***



So why risk cutting one while digging?

Contact 811 before you dig to have utility lines marked AND help protect yourself from injury and expense. Log on to **Georgia811.com** or simply dial 811 at least 2 business days before you begin your project.



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BE STORM READY

MAKE A PLAN & MAKE A KIT

MAKE A PLAN: Sit down with your family and decide:

- 1 How you will contact each other?
- 2 Where will you go for safety?
- 3 What will you do during and after the severe weather has passed?



For a complete list, and more information on how to best be prepared visit:

fema.gov

ready.gov

redcross.org

MAKE A KIT: Here is a list of the basic supplies you'll need in an emergency

- WATER
- FOOD
- RADIO
- CELLPHONE
- FLASHLIGHT
- FIRST AID KIT
- DOCUMENTS
- MATCHES
- CASH
- WHISTLE



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