



## DO YOUR HOMEWORK BEFORE *Going Tankless*

You're probably familiar with a standard electric water heater. It's basically a large water tank with a couple of heating elements built in to keep the water inside hot. Whenever you open a hot water faucet, the water heater supplies your request.

But is there a way not to have all that hot water sitting around when you don't need it? A way to heat water only when it's needed? Yes, tankless water heaters can do that. But while they might seem like a good idea on the surface, there are a few things you need to be aware of before going tankless.

### **1 TANKLESS WATER HEATERS HAVE LIMITED HOT WATER CAPACITY**

With tankless water heaters, every time another hot water faucet is opened, the temperature of the water at every faucet goes down. With a heat-as-you-go system, there is only so much hot water the unit can supply in an instant. On the other hand, standard water heaters have a large reserve – or in other words, a buffer – they can use to meet the demand of several users at once.

### **2 TANKLESS WATER HEATERS MAY NOT BE FUTURE PROOF**

The power used at once – called electrical demand – of tankless water heaters is off the chart. For comparison, the demand of the average central air conditioner or standard water heater is around 5 kilowatts. The demand of an electric oven is 8 kilowatts. The demand of a tankless water heater can be as much as 36 kilowatts, or more than four times that of an oven!

In the future, electric utilities may change residential rate structures to take electrical demand into account when calculating your bill. If that ever happens, having a tankless water heater in your home could greatly increase your monthly electric bill.



### **3 TANKLESS WATER HEATERS ARE EXPENSIVE**

Tankless electric water heaters cost more than comparable traditional water heaters. In addition, the electrical and plumbing costs necessary to connect the unit may be a substantial amount more, especially if you are switching from a standard water heater to a tankless in an existing home.

Because of the fact that they are trying to raise the temperature of cool ground water to a much hotter temperature at the turn of a knob, tankless water heaters create a huge demand for electricity at one time. That huge demand requires a bigger than normal wire to feed the tankless water heater. The large wire requires a larger branch circuit breaker in your electrical panel. That means the electric panel, its main breaker, the service entrance wire and/or transformer has to be beefed up. Please contact Excelsior EMC before purchasing this type of equipment so that you may discuss possible construction costs to your residential service that may be required.

According to Consumer Reports, the time to recoup your investment can be longer than the tankless water heater's typical 12 to 15-year warranty.

The wise choice for electric home water heating continues to be the traditional tanked water heater. Quiet, economical and easy to install, the tanked electric water heater is a proven solution for today's homeowner.

# Line Items

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.

The LINE ITEMS (ISSN 1089-9987) is published monthly for \$1.00 per year by Excelsior EMC, 2574 Northside Drive West, Statesboro, Georgia 30458. Periodicals postage paid at Statesboro, Georgia. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LINE ITEMS, P.O. Box 297, Metter, Georgia 30439

## Between the Lines

by **Greg Proctor**  
President/CEO

# The Best Way

Cooperatives are based on the principle of people working together. People pooling their efforts to provide a needed service and to improve the quality of life for their families and the communities in which they live.

A cooperative is identified by local ownership, local control, and nonprofit operations. We think it is the best way to serve you.

Excelsior EMC has a unique way of doing business. It's an organization providing a service to its owners. The owners are you, the members of Excelsior EMC.

Your EMC is made up of people working together for people, not profit. That is why your participation is so vital to the Cooperative's continuing success. It's the leadership you elect, the board of directors, that guides the operation of your EMC and sets the kind of policy that puts people first.

We are proud of our employees as they work each and every day providing the highest quality of service at the lowest cost possible. The Georgia Public Service Commission's rate comparisons listed in the October 2020 newsletter showed that Excelsior EMC was among the lowest cost providers of the 41 electric cooperatives and Georgia Power in the state. More importantly the Cooperative's rates have been among the lowest for many years now.

We appreciate your interest, and we encourage you to participate in the operation of Excelsior EMC. If you ever have any comments or questions, all you have to do is call. We are ready to listen.



Every Member Counts



## Stay Comfortable.

Space heating and cooling account for a large portion of the average home's energy use. A programmable or smart thermostat can help you control the temperature of your home and save energy.

Photo Credit: Consumers Energy

# PROJECT SHARE: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

For many years Excelsior EMC consumers have had the opportunity to help folks in our community by contributing to the Salvation Army program known as Project SHARE. Excelsior EMC is one of the many utilities involved in helping citizens who need assistance with basic necessities such as housing, food, medical care, and utility services. Project SHARE helps the elderly, disabled, and those afflicted with illness, and others who are experiencing serious financial hardships.

An attractive part of the program is that your contribution goes to help someone from the county where the donation originated. Locally, the Department of Family and Children Services handles Project SHARE funds.

If you would like to participate, check the appropriate space and complete the form located on this page and return with your next payment.

This amount will be added each month to your bill. Anyone wishing to make a larger contribution should mail it directly to:

**The Salvation Army**  
Project SHARE  
P.O. Box 930188  
Norcross, GA 30003-0188

**Yes, I'd like to participate in Project SHARE.**

Please add  \$1  \$2  \$5 to my electric account each month.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

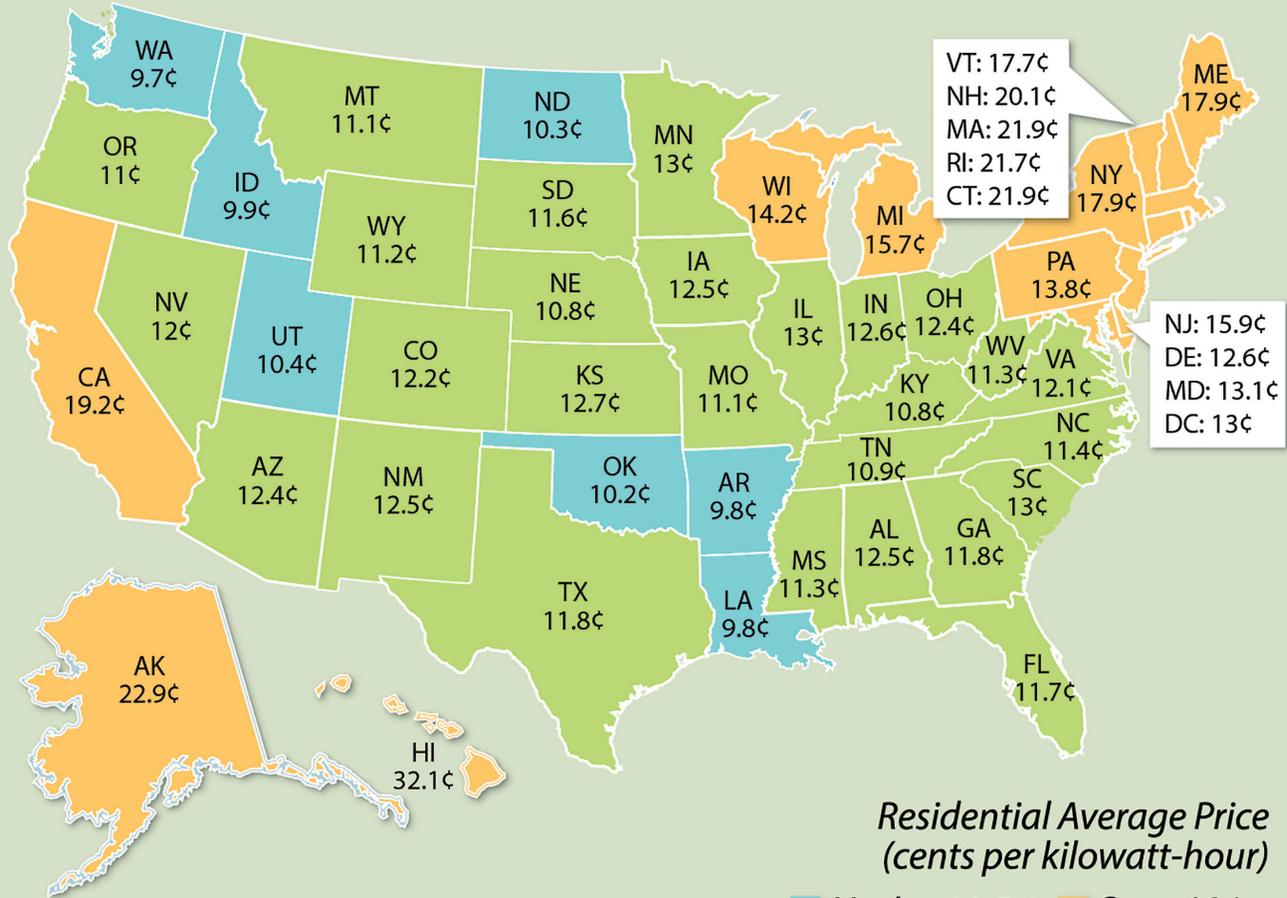
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number (*we bill*) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2019 figures, in cents per kWh



Residential Average Price  
(cents per kilowatt-hour)

- Under 10.5 ¢
- 10.5¢ to 13¢
- Over 13¢

U.S. Average: 13.01¢ per kWh

Excelsior EMC Average: 10.47¢ per kWh

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

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