



Line Items

The Official
Newsletter
Of Excelsior EMC

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ELECTRIC VEHICLE Q&A



You've likely heard of many automobile manufacturers beginning to transition an increasing number of new vehicle models to electric-only models within the next 10 years. Regardless of the type of car you drive today, the electrification of the transportation sector is underway. This rapid rise in the number of electric vehicles (EVs) on the road leads one to wonder, how will this affect me? We regularly receive inquiries about electric vehicles from Excelsior EMC members, so we thought it would be helpful to respond to some of those frequently asked questions in this month's issue of *Line Items*.

Q: What are the advantages of an EV over a gas-powered vehicle?

- A:** One main benefit of EVs, which is also the main factor influencing the transition to EVs, is because they are better for the environment. EVs produce significantly fewer emissions than gas-powered cars, which can help to reduce air pollution.
- A:** They are basically maintenance free. They have fewer parts, less brake wear, no oil, and parts that have little to no regular maintenance.
- A:** Unless you are traveling a long distance, you will no longer have to stop and "re-fuel". You can charge your EV at home over night, which is also cheaper than filling up a gas-powered vehicle.
- A:** You can receive tax credits and incentives of up to \$7500 with the purchase of an EV.

Q: What are some disadvantages of EVs?

- A:** Finding a charging station. While they are becoming more and more prevalent, they can still be few and far between in rural areas.
- A:** The driving range of a fully charged EV does not compare to the driving range of a fully fueled gas-powered vehicle, although it is constantly improving with technology.
- A:** Charging takes longer than refueling. Depending on the type of charger you have available, it could take as little as 20 minutes to recharge at a charging station equipped with a fast charger, or it could take several hours with a level 1 or level 2 charger.

Q: How does the EV future affect Excelsior EMC?

- A:** With the huge push for the transition into EVs in the coming years, we are planning now to ensure that we have the necessary electric infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs without jeopardizing the ability to keep reliable power flowing to our local homes and businesses.

Q: How can I learn more about EVs?

- A:** We recently added an informational page to our website which provides a great deal of information on EVs. To access the page, please visit our website at <https://excelsioremc.com/electric-vehicles/>.

Line Items

Joseph Jones
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

Staying Connected

At Excelsior EMC, we use many forms of technology to communicate with you. Voice, text, email, social media and yes, even print, are some of the avenues we use to keep you apprised of happenings at your cooperative. Advancements in communications technology have allowed us to improve our operational efficiency and bring you more real-time and valuable information ranging from your daily energy usage to outage restoration efforts. In today's world, we rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help.

By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve. Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address in our outage management system. This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your location. With accurate contact information, our outage management system can more accurately predict the specific section of line that is out, which allows a more efficient response from our line personnel.

While we do our best to prevent an outage from occurring, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages, text messages or email—if we have your correct contact information and communication preferences.

Many of you have been members of the co-op for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't been updated for some time. We recognize that many members now use a cell phone as their primary phone service, and we might not have that number in our system. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by updating your profile in your account online, calling a Member Services Representative, or mailing in the form included here. By doing so, you will be helping us be more responsive to your needs, increase efficiency and allow improved responses to power outages. Working together, we can continue raising the bar in our desire to provide you with safe and exceptional service.

Please Update My Contact Information!

Name (as it appears on your account): _____

Service Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Email Addresses: _____

Mail to: P.O. Box 297, Metter, GA 30439



Every Member Counts

LOOK UP!

Don't fly kites, drones or motorized airplanes near power lines.

Kites usually use cotton string, but damp cotton string can conduct electricity almost as well as a metal string/wire.

When using a ladder, avoid power lines.

Keep your ladder far enough away from power lines that if the ladder were to fall, it will not put you into the power lines.

Always deflate helium balloons before throwing them away.

Floating objects, like helium balloons, can easily become intertwined with powerlines or hardware, causing dangerous issues that could lead to outages, fires, or injury.

Hire professionals to trim trees that are close to power lines.

Trees and tree limbs falling into power lines can cause power outages and pose a danger to you and others. Leave that to the professionals.

When planting trees, research the species to ensure it has enough room to grow.

Our right of way is maintained 15 feet on each side of a single-phase line and 20 feet on each side of a multi-phase line. Keep this in mind when planting trees near a power line to avoid it growing into the right of way.

Do not operate equipment too close to powerlines.

Maintain a 10-foot radius from power lines when using tractors, excavators, and other equipment.

Do not cause damage to the yellow protective marker over guy wires.

These wires are not energized but if they are not properly grounded, they can actually conduct electricity. If the yellow marker isn't in place, it can make it harder to see and pose a risk to pedestrians, bike riders and others.



Excelsior EMC Serviceman, Jody Wilson, took this picture of a helium balloon that got caught in a power line and caused an outage, as well as the ground fire that can be seen in the bottom left.

NEW FACES



Joseph Jones

Joseph has been hired as the Marketing and Communications Specialist. Joseph has a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Georgia, where he graduated in 2019. Joseph has been an agriculture teacher for the previous four years. He is excited to join us and looks forward to helping better serve the members of Excelsior EMC.



John David Hodges

John David has been hired as an Electrical Engineer to assist with GIS mapping for our distribution system. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Georgia where he just recently graduated. John David is excited to help Excelsior EMC more efficiently serve it's members.

**The most energy efficient
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for Summer is 78 degrees.**



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