



# Line Items

The Official  
Newsletter  
Of Excelsior EMC

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## LEVELIZED BILLING:

### Making Your Energy Costs Predictable Year-Round

At Excelsior EMC, we know that managing household expenses can be challenging—especially when your electric bill changes dramatically from month to month. For many members, particularly those in older homes, energy use spikes during the hottest summers and coldest winters, leading to unpredictable and often higher bills.

To help smooth out these fluctuations and make budgeting easier, we offer an option called Levelized Billing.

#### WHAT IS LEVELIZED BILLING?

Instead of paying varying amounts each month, Levelized Billing calculates your monthly payment by averaging your electric bills from the previous 13 months. This rolling average means your payment adjusts gradually over time, avoiding sudden jumps.

#### WHY CHOOSE LEVELIZED BILLING?

Older homes often have wide seasonal swings in energy use, which can lead to bill shock during extreme weather months. Levelized Billing evens out those peaks, helping you:

- Avoid surprise high bills.
- Plan your monthly budget with confidence.
- Manage your cash flow more easily.

#### HOW IT WORKS

1. We average your electric bills over the last 13 months.
2. That average becomes your monthly payment.
3. Each month, we update the average by adding the newest month and dropping the oldest.
4. Your payment amount changes slowly, keeping things predictable.

#### IS LEVELIZED BILLING RIGHT FOR YOU?

This option is ideal if you want consistent monthly payments, experience big seasonal energy swings, or are on a fixed income and want to avoid surprises.

#### GET STARTED TODAY

Enrolling is simple. Contact our member services team and sign up. Let Excelsior EMC help you take the guesswork out of your energy bills with Levelized Billing—steady payments, no surprises.

# Line Items

Joseph Jones  
Editor

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**When Your Power is Off - Call  
(912) 685-2115 or (912) 764-2123**

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

## *Safety Starts the Year: How We Keep Our Crews and Community Protected*

As we turn the page into a new year, it's natural to think about fresh starts and renewed commitments. At Excelsior EMC, there is no commitment more important than our pledge to keep our employees, our members, and our community safe. Safety is not an initiative that begins and ends—it is the lens through which we view every decision, every project, and every mile of line we maintain. That focus becomes even more important during the winter months, when cold weather, increased electricity use, and unpredictable outages demand heightened attention from all of us.

For our lineworkers and operations personnel, winter presents unique challenges. Shorter days mean more work completed in low light. Moisture, cold wind, and freezing temperatures make routine tasks more difficult and increase the risk of slips, falls, and equipment complications. When outages occur during severe weather, our crews must not only restore power quickly and efficiently—they must do so with an unwavering commitment to safety. Every job site, whether it's a downed line on a rural road or a blown transformer in a neighborhood, is approached deliberately and systematically to ensure that every crew member returns home at the end of the day.

To continue strengthening this culture, we recently implemented a new, highly focused safety program that has already begun to make a measurable difference. This program builds on the solid foundation our employees have relied on for years, but takes our approach to the next level. It includes expanded safety training, renewed emphasis on real-time hazard identification, and structured communication before, during, and after each job. Enhanced job briefings now ensure crews thoroughly review surrounding hazards—such as icy ditches, leaning trees, wet ground, or secondary lines—before any work begins. Supervisors and crew leaders are participating in more frequent field audits to help reinforce best practices, encourage open dialogue, and provide coaching where it's needed.

While our crews carry the responsibility

of performing dangerous work, safety is truly a shared effort between Excelsior EMC and our membership. Members can play a vital role in keeping our employees safe, especially during outages or roadwork events. If you see crews working along the roadside, please slow down, move over when possible, and give our team the space they need to work. Many of our job sites place employees only a few feet from traffic, and your attentiveness behind the wheel can make all the difference.

Generator safety is another critical area where members can directly protect both themselves and our crews. Portable generators can be lifesavers during a prolonged outage but must be used properly to avoid dangerous situations. Never operate a generator indoors, under a carport, or near windows or vents where carbon monoxide could accumulate. And absolutely never plug a generator directly into your home's electrical system unless a transfer switch has been professionally installed. Without one, electricity can backfeed through the lines, creating a deadly hazard for lineworkers who are working to restore power. We appreciate the steps our members take to use generators responsibly—your vigilance keeps everyone safe.

This winter, we also encourage members to report any downed lines or damaged equipment immediately. Even if a line appears inactive or harmless, consider it energized and stay at least 35 feet away. Our crews will respond as quickly and safely as conditions allow.

As we look toward the year ahead, our commitment remains clear: to protect the people who power our communities and to deliver electricity safely, reliably, and responsibly. Our new safety program is strengthening our foundation, empowering our employees, and reinforcing the cooperative values that guide every decision we make.

Thank you for your continued support, your patience during outages, and your partnership in keeping our communities safe. With your help, we can make 2026 a year defined by preparedness, protection, and the shared responsibility of looking out for one another.



Every Member Counts

# Simple DIY Sealing Tips to Improve Winter Efficiency

When winter temperatures drop, even small drafts and air leaks can make your home work harder to stay comfortable. The good news? Many of the most effective weather-sealing improvements are simple, low-cost projects you can tackle yourself—often in just a weekend. By tightening up your home now, you can reduce energy waste, lower your heating costs, and stay cozier all season long.

## START WITH A HOME AIR-LEAK CHECK

Before grabbing tools, spend a few minutes tracking down the common spots where cold air slips in:

- Around doors and windows
- Attic access points
- Baseboards and trim
- Electrical outlets on exterior walls
- Plumbing penetrations
- Recessed lighting
- Duct connections

## USE THE CANDLE TRICK TO FIND HIDDEN DRAFTS

A classic (and surprisingly effective) method for discovering air leaks is the candle trick.

Here's how it works:

1. Turn off fans and your HVAC system so air in the home is still.
2. Light a candle or use a stick of incense.
3. Slowly move it around edges of windows, doors, baseboards, outlets, and other suspected draft points.
4. If the flame flickers, bends, or blows toward or away from an area, you've found a leak.

This simple test helps you pinpoint sneaky drafts that you may not feel by hand—but that could be costing you comfort and money. Just remember to use the candle safely and never leave it unattended.



## SEAL UP WINDOWS AND DOORS

Once you've identified problem areas, sealing them is often quick and inexpensive:

- Install weatherstripping around door frames
- Add door sweeps to block under-door drafts
- Use rope caulk or removable caulk for older window sashes
- Apply clear window film kits to reduce heat loss through single-pane windows

## FOCUS ON THE ATTIC

Warm air naturally rises, making the attic a major exit point for heat:

- Seal gaps around light fixtures, vent pipes, chimneys, and wiring using caulk or foam
- Add weatherstripping to the attic hatch
- Place insulation on the back of the access door

## CAULK AND FOAM FOR THE BIG GAPS

Use caulk for small cracks around trim, baseboards, and window casings. Expanding spray foam is ideal for larger gaps around plumbing, wiring, and other penetrations.

## INSULATE OUTLETS AND SWITCHES

Exterior-wall outlets and switches can be surprisingly drafty. Adding inexpensive foam gasket inserts behind the cover plates helps reduce air infiltration.

## SEAL LEAKY DUCTS

Use foil tape or mastic to seal gaps in accessible ductwork, especially in attics or crawlspaces. Even small fixes can improve heating efficiency.

## SMALL EFFORTS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Winterizing your home doesn't have to be costly or complicated. A few simple DIY sealing projects—combined with tricks like using a candle to spot hidden drafts—can add up to meaningful savings and a more comfortable home throughout the colder months.

# PROJECT SHARE:

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

For several years Excelsior EMC consumers have had the opportunity to help needy people 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.

<b>Please add:</b>	Name _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1	Address _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5	Account Number (we bill) _____
to my electric account each month.	Signature _____

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