

POWERlines

Utilities and Educators Team Up

In this month's Powerlines, we have a section highlighting the implementation of the new *Energy System Career Pathway Dual Enrollment* program that will be offered this fall as a partnership between Newnan's West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) and Central Educational Center (CEC).

Coweta-Fayette EMC, Georgia Power, Newnan Utilities, CEC, WGTC, the Georgia Energy and Industrial Consortium (GEICC) and other great organizations and individuals have worked together as a team to support the development of this new, utility-focused curriculum.

We—meaning all the participating utilities—believe this program will provide an excellent *foundation* upon which one can build a career if they so choose. The courses provide a good overview of the utility industry; after completing them, a student may opt to obtain additional technical training and seek employment in the industry or pursue a four-year degree in utilities-based engineering, business, accounting, communications, marketing and many more.

I mentioned in an earlier Powerlines issue that each business needs to find its niche and make sure they are exceptional within that discipline. It is very possible that this new course at WGTC could provide a potential niche for a student that—when combined with additional technical training or higher education—could provide a competitive edge in the utility industry. It's the embodiment of the phrase "luck is when opportunity meets preparation."

All of the utility team members are working together to make this education program a success. We appreciate and thank WGTC and CEC for their support in making this opportunity possible. It may take a while to get this career-focused program to full student capacity, because it is a new idea. I have been told that student enrollment into

fresh WGTC/CEC programs is usually driven by word of mouth from other students. We are optimistic the "student grapevine" will spread the word that all local utilities support this program and will

continue to do so by participating as advisory committee members. We are behind the school and instructor, and we want the students who participate to know we back their interest in the utility industry 100 percent.

I have the opportunity to speak to many large commercial and industry leaders in our area as I exercise my duties at the cooperative and while actively

participating in organizations promoting economic and community development. Without a doubt, the leaders I talk to say their number one concern is to make sure we produce a talented and skilled workforce to support local business activities.

A quality job-focused educational environment is essential to achieving economic prosperity, and Coweta-Fayette EMC totally supports this endeavor. As we have in the past, we pledge to do everything in our power to assist our local school boards and superintendents to deliver the quality education needed to meet today's business needs now and in the future. Stronger business-to-education partnerships and working relationships can provide real-world knowledge, expertise and industry-specific insight that can enhance the quality of education received in a scholastic setting.

Providing opportunities for instructors to gain an understanding of what each industry is looking for in a prospective employee allows the educational system to give students competitive advantages in a future workplace.

For the Team,

Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"
Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"



Electrical Safety Training for Emergency First Responders

A vehicle loses control and slams into a utility pole, knocking wires down in the process. First responders arrive on the scene in minutes to assist the victims... but what about their own safety? Could these firefighters, police officers and EMS workers be placing their own lives in danger by approaching potentially electrified power lines?

According to officials with Coweta-Fayette EMC and Georgia EMC—the statewide trade association that serves our state’s 41 electric membership corporations—this type of situation is all too common and extremely risky for public safety personnel.

To help local first responders understand the dangers that arise from electricity-related emergency situations, Coweta-Fayette EMC hosted a training session June 3 at the co-op’s office in Palmetto.

“Discussing electrical hazards with our first responders is critical,” said EMC Engineering VP Chris Stephens. “This information could save a life.”

During the training session, which drew a crowd of about 50 public safety officials from Coweta/Fayette Counties and the City of Palmetto, Stephens shared tips on power line identification. Greg McKoy, GA



First responders watch an electrical safety demo during a training session June 3 at the EMC’s Palmetto headquarters.

EMC Training Center Supervisor, provided information on electricity and its characteristics, as well as examples of the associated types of emergency situations.

“Electricity is always searching for a path to ground,” McKoy said. “It’s important that you don’t become a part of that path.”

He stressed scene assessment, maintaining a safe distance from downed lines and contacting utility companies as soon as possible when a wire is involved. A high voltage lab demonstration by Pike Electric further demonstrated the dangers of electrical equipment.



Trimming Future Problems Ensures Safe, Reliable

One of the most beautiful parts of summer is the lush vegetation: trees and shrubs full of green leaves filling out sweeping branches and providing much-needed shade. Although they may seem harmless on calm, sunny days, these towering pillars and long limbs heavy with vegetation can threaten your home’s power supply during windy, stormy weather.

As you can probably guess, weather-related events (lightning and wind, for example) generate a large number of power outages for electric cooperatives – 21.49 percent according to a Coweta-Fayette EMC survey. But you may not know that vegetation, like trees, shrubs and brush, growing too close to power lines and distribution equipment causes a whopping 33.65 percent of power interruptions.

To “cut back” on potential tree-related problems Coweta-Fayette EMC operates an aggressive right-of-way (ROW) maintenance program. Our crews look for foliage growing under lines, overhanging branches, leaning or other types of “danger” trees that could pull down a power line if they fall. It’s a job that’s never done—by

the time crews finish trimming across the distribution lines, vegetation has a starting point—and it’s an important one to you, our members, for three reasons: safety, reliability and cost.

Our primary concern is the safety of our members. Keeping trees clear of power lines ensures our crews are safe. From making sure power lines are clear to creating a safe environment, a well-maintained ROW helps avoid power outages.

Power lines are a constant part of our landscape, but we need your help to keep them clear. We work hard to keep lines clear, but we need your help to remove branches that might pose a risk. When planting trees in your yard, think about how wide their branches may grow and how high their clearance is from the ground. A 10-foot clearance is a good rule of thumb for our utility poles to give power

Implementation of New Energy-Career Focused Curriculum at CEC, WGTC in Final Stages

West Georgia Technical College (WGTC) electronics technology instructor Daniel Halstead recently toured Coweta-Fayette EMC to gain industry knowledge as a part of the final implementation process of the Energy Systems Career Pathway Dual Enrollment partnership with Newnan's Central Educational Center (CEC) and (WGTC's) Coweta campus.

The classes will begin in the fall of this year and will be held at WGTC, with CEC students commuting. Those graduating with an Energy Industry Fundamentals (EIF) credential will be part of a potential pipeline of skilled workforce for the local energy industry.

And that industry has a lot to offer: namely, good-paying jobs that allow people to build stable careers in the communities in which they've grown up. But those in the field understand that these jobs may not be for everyone—many require outdoor, physical labor (like climbing poles) and working non-standard hours. EIF helps validate that this is a career students are passionate about.

"This is a certificate program that provides a broad overview of the electric and natural gas utility industry," said EMC CEO Anthony "Tony" Sinclair. "It really helps potential workers and students determine whether a

career in energy is right for them. With the EIF program, we can better prepare the emerging workforce for a specific type of job and provide the technical training they need to move forward. The value of this credit is undeniable for those seeking an energy career – there is a bright future for EIF because the power industry creates jobs."

The classes that will be offered are: Foundations of Energy Technology; Energy and Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution; and Energy Systems Applications. The introductory course will allow students to develop a broad understanding of the energy industry to include infrastructure, generation, transmission and distribution of nonrenewable, renewable

and inexhaustible energy sources. The second class will expand their baseline power knowledge and include further information on business models, regulations and safety within the energy industry. The final step will be to study the relationship between force, work, energy and power. Students will explore and apply the principles of electrical, fluid and mechanical power and will research renewable, non-renewable and inexhaustible resources and conservation efforts.



WGTC electronics technology instructor Daniel Halstead (third from right) gains insight from the EMC's engineering and technical service team as a part of the Energy Systems Career Pathway Dual Enrollment partnership.

e Power

activities along our 6,000+ miles has started to grow back at the important part of the service we provide for reasons: safety, reliability and security of our workers and members. We also keep your family and your child's tree house doesn't hit your environment while doing yard work, and tragedy. Part of our landscape; it's easy to forget to keep the area around our trees. Let us know if you notice trees falling. Even more important, before you know how tall they may grow and spread. As a rule of thumb, 25 feet should be available on each side of the lines plenty of space.

If severe weather blows through, a well-maintained ROW leads to fewer outages and faster response time. Trees are less of a threat. When trees do fall, crews are able to restore service more quickly than they could with poorly maintained areas.

Thanks for your help as we work together to keep electricity reliable. To report trees you think may pose a problem, call 770-502-0226. To find out more about proper tree planting, visit arborday.org.



Trimming Future Problems Ensures Safe, Reliable Power

One of the most beautiful parts of summer is the lush vegetation: trees and shrubs full of green leaves filling out sweeping branches and providing much-needed shade. Although they may seem harmless on calm, sunny days, these towering pillars and long limbs heavy with vegetation can threaten your home's power supply during windy, stormy weather.

As you can probably guess, weather-related events (lightning and wind, for example) generate a large number of power outages for electric cooperatives – 21.49 percent according to a Coweta-Fayette EMC survey. But you may not know that vegetation, like trees, shrubs and brush, growing too close to power lines and distribution equipment causes a whopping 33.65 percent of power interruptions.

To “cut back” on potential tree-related problems Coweta-Fayette EMC operates an aggressive right-of-way (ROW) maintenance program. Our crews look for foliage growing under lines, overhanging branches, leaning or other types of “danger” trees that could pull down a power line if they fall. It's a job that's never done—by

the time crews finish trimming activities along our 6,000+ miles of distribution lines, vegetation has started to grow back at the starting point—and it's an important part of the service we provide to you, our members, for three reasons: safety, reliability and cost.

Our primary concern is the safety of our workers and members. Keeping trees clear of power lines also keeps your family and our crews safe. From making sure a child's tree house doesn't hit power lines to creating a safe environment while doing yard work, a well-maintained ROW helps avoid tragedy.

Power lines are a constant part of our landscape; it's easy to forget they are around. We work hard to keep the area around our lines clear, but we need your help. Let us know if you notice trees or branches that might pose a risk. Even more important, before planting trees in your yard, think about how tall they may grow and how wide their branches may spread. As a rule of thumb, 25 feet of ground-to-sky clearance should be available on each side of our utility poles to give power lines plenty of space.

If severe weather blows through, a well-maintained ROW leads to fewer outages and faster response time. Trees are less of a threat. When trees *do* fall, crews are able to restore service more quickly than they could with poorly maintained areas.

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Take a Vacation from High Power Bills

Soaring temperatures and sultry summer nights can cause electric bills to skyrocket. This summer, take a vacation from high electric bills by making your home—and your family's habits—more energy efficient.

Beat the Heat

Air conditioning helps most Americans beat the sweltering summer heat. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), air conditioning accounts for as much as 50 percent of the average household electric bill. Proper maintenance and smart use of your home's cooling system will help keep your electric bill in check.

First, make sure your air conditioner's external unit is clean and free of debris. Clear away dead leaves or overgrown plants and weeds to enable the unit to perform as it should. Second, change all of the air filters inside your home quarterly. Fresh filters not only reduce the strain on your cooling system, but improve the air quality in your home.

Third, the DOE recommends that you set your home's thermostat as high as possible, while still maintaining a comfortable environment for your family during the summer months. Investing in a programmable thermostat can lead to even greater savings by automatically adjusting it so that the cooling system runs less often when you are away.

Made in the Shade

Windows are not only great sources of natural light in your home, but also great sources of heat during the summer. Curtains, blinds, and shades are some of the most cost-effective ways to make your windows and home more energy efficient. These window coverings offer low-cost, stylish solutions to shield the sun's rays and keep the interior of your home cool and comfortable. Proper weather stripping and caulking around window panes and casings will also improve the function of your windows by keeping the cool air in and the hot air out.

As your summer heats up, call on your friends at Coweta-Fayette EMC for more ways to lower your power bill. You can also visit *TogetherWeSave.com* to find out how little changes around the house can add up to big energy savings.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, EnergySavers.gov, TogetherWeSave.com



Testing your Security System

When your security system was installed by Relyco or converted from another vender to Relyco Security, all of the components were tested for proper operation. For added assurance, however, you should test your system **AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH** to ensure it continues to communicate properly with our Central Station Operator. You can easily do this yourself by following these simple steps.

Call the Central Station at 770-252-8117 or 888-227-0705 and let them know you wish to test your system. You will need to provide your pass code at this time.

Close all of your doors and windows that have sensors installed, arm your system and let your exit delay time expire, typically 60 seconds.

Open a protected door, window, etc., preferably nothing with entry/exit delay. Once the siren begins sounding, wait at least 60 seconds before disarming the system.

Call the Central Station to verify they received your alarm signal and that it was for the correct zone.

If they did not receive your signal, ask them to notify the Relyco business office of your need for service, or simply call our office at 770-253-4053 Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to request service on your system.

Be safe, secure and satisfied with Relyco Security.



Security Resources

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POWERlines

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Coweta-Fayette

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Member Appreciation and Annual Meeting

When: October 11, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Where: Coweta-Fayette EMC Headquarters Near Palmetto

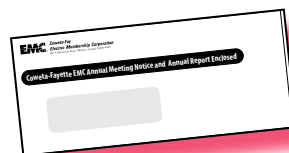
Come join in the fun and learn more about your cooperative during this year's Member Appreciation Day. Each family will receive **a special gift** for attending.

Entertainment will be by Alvarado Roadshow, a country band from Alvarado, Texas. They have joined us for the past several years and were enjoyed by all. Once again, they will entertain you with their true country style.

Fun activities can be enjoyed by the entire family. There will be games for the children and bingo for adults, plus door prizes, children's crafts, cotton candy, popcorn and soft drinks.

Information on energy efficiency, green power, Operation Round Up, Touchstone Energy, security and natural gas will be available outside on the midway before the meeting begins.

Your Annual Report will be mailed to you in September in a window envelope just like last year. It will have "Coweta-Fayette EMC Annual Meeting Notice and Annual Report enclosed" on the front. Please save the address portion of the mailing for registration at the meeting



The Grand Prize will be a \$1,000 credit on your electric bill. You must be present to win, so be sure you mark Saturday, October 11, on your calendar and join us for a day of fun and valuable information at this year's member appreciation day and annual meeting.

