

# Sunny Days Ahead: Coweta-Fayette EMC Helps Members Harness Solar Energy

Just in time for summer sunshine, Coweta-Fayette EMC's renewable energy supplier, Green Power EMC, has reached an agreement to purchase the full output of a new 52 MW solar array planned for construction in Jeff Davis County near Hazlehurst. Your cooperative will receive around 20 percent of the power produced from this project, along with eight other electric co-ops at varying smaller percentages, helping to make Georgia the fastest-growing solar state in the U.S.

According to EMC CEO Chris Stephens, the solar array will occupy approximately 600 acres, will include technology that allows panels to track the sun from east to west and will produce enough energy to serve around 8,500 EMC households. Once completed, the project will generate more than 134 million kW hours of renewable electricity annually. That amount of clean energy offsets 92,500 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to the annual emissions from burning 10,400,000 gallons of gasoline or the emissions from more than 19,500 automobiles.

Construction on the 52 MW array is scheduled to begin in late 2015, and the facility will be ready to produce electricity in the fall of 2016.

Stephens said this project is the result of a request for proposals issued in late 2013 to add more solar energy to Green Power EMC's portfolio. The company provides renewable energy to 38 of Georgia's EMCs. "The addition of one of the largest solar projects in

demonstrates our commitment to the state's renewable resources, it also allows our members the choice to purchase competitively priced solar energy," Stephens said. "We are excited to be a part of this major expansion of solar energy in Georgia."

Green Power EMC was the first green energy provider in the state. In addition to landfill gas generation, Green Power EMC obtains power from renewable facilities all over the state, including low-impact hydroelectric, biomass from wood waste and solar power. EMCs that own Green Power EMC serve more than 4.1 million Georgia residents.

Coweta-Fayette EMC is your trusted source for solar energy information, and we've supported it for quite some time. Georgia's EMCs, together with Green Power EMC, developed SunPower for Schools in 2005 as a partner in education program providing an in-class solar learning laboratory for students across the state. Coweta-Fayette EMC partnered with Sandy Creek High School in Tyrone for the installation of an on-site solar array and software needed to study energy produced by the sun. SunPower for Schools is the largest solar education initiative in Georgia.

For more information on our member-focused approach to solar power options, including a solar calculator and live data, please visit Coweta-Fayette EMC and Green Power EMC online at *Utility.org* and *Gpemcsolar.coopwebbuilder2.com*.





The President's Message

Chris Stephens
President and CEO

Solar energy is the power contained in the sun's rays, and it is creating a lot of excitement in the electric utility industry. Here at Coweta-Fayette EMC, we are focused on determining how we can use this resource to benefit you, our member. So far, we have evaluated utility-scale, community and rooftop solar arrays and will continue assessing other options as they are available.

In fact, we recently announced that our renewable energy supplier, Green Power EMC, reached an agreement to purchase the full output of a new 52 MW utility-scale solar array planned for construction in Jeff Davis County near Hazlehurst. Coweta-Fayette EMC will receive approximately 20 percent of the solar energy and environmental attributes produced from this project over the next 30 years at cost-competitive rates, helping to make our cooperative one of the fastest-growing solar co-ops in the U.S. The solar array will be ready to produce electricity in the fall of 2016.

We are also considering the feasibility of smaller community-scale solar projects we can install locally. This could provide members the option of using a renewable resource without adding power-generation technology to the home.

Members now have a couple of options when it comes to rooftop solar. They can purchase the system outright, or—as a result of House Bill 57—they will have the option to lease it. HB 57, which passed both the House of Representatives and Senate unanimously, was recently signed by Gov. Deal, effective July 1. This bill was negotiated between electric utilities in the state and the solar industry and allows consumers in Georgia to lease solar panels through a financial agreement with a third party.

We want our members to make their own decisions about rooftop solar; however, Coweta-Fayette EMC wants to be your partner. As your partner, we will review the economics of a rooftop solar system. We can help determine if the information you have is accurate or if it has been misrepresented with regard to savings or sales back to the cooperative. Our energy services experts can provide you with monthly, daily and hourly usage data to help you understand your electrical usage requirements. We can also help you determine if you might see a better payback by investing in energy efficiency and conservation measures.

Whether or not you go solar, it's always a good idea to improve your home's energy efficiency. Your EMC offers a number of options to save you money and improve the safety and efficiency of your home. Making your residence as energy efficient as possible will help ensure your rooftop solar system is properly sized for your current and future energy use. We will be offering solar audits in the near future. Please contact us if you have questions, or visit our website at *Utility.org* for more information.

## **Is Solar Right for Me?**

#### How much sun is in my area?

The amount of sun available to generate energy in our area depends on the angle of the sun, cloud cover and a clear path to the sun. Georgia averages about five hours of sun per day.

## Do solar panels work on cloudy days and/or shady areas?

Sunshine is the "fuel" for your solar panels. If sunlight is blocked by clouds, trees or other structures, your solar panels will produce a very limited amount of electricity. While we cannot control the weather and cloud cover, placing your panels in areas with the most sunshine will help make your system more productive.

#### How much will a solar system cost?

Depending on the location and technology,

a solar photovoltaic system installation can range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per kilowatt.

## How do I know if my house is suitable for solar?

A south-facing exposure with minimal shading offers the greatest solar energy potential. However, some solar power can be generated from any open spot with a direct line-of-sight to the sun. Because of the potential long life of solar panels, your roof needs to be in good condition to avoid costly removal or replacement of your panels during roof repairs.

## If I install solar, will I need to stay connected to the EMC?

Chances are, your solar system will not generate all the energy you need all of the time.

To ensure a continuous supply of energy, it's best to remain connected to the EMC.

## 2015 Melissa Segars Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to another group of extraordinary young men and women from our service territory! This year, the Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc., Board of Directors awarded scholarships to 29 deserving high school students. We applaud these hard-working teens and wish them all the best in the future!



**Stacie Evans** East Coweta High School Parents: Daniel & Kristy Evans \$1,500



Savannah Emerich East Coweta High School Parents: Amy Emerich \$1,500



**Abigail Pepper** East Coweta High School Parents: Dale & Sherie Pepper \$1,500



**Janeen Thomas Fayette County High School** Parents: Santhosh & Rachel Thomas \$1,500



Luke Newman **Heard County High School** Parents: Dan & Yvonne Newman \$1,500



**Marleigh Fouts Landmark Christian School** Parents: Nicholas & Lori Fouts \$1,500



**Anna Wilke Landmark Christian School** Parents: David & Kimberly Wilke \$1,500



**Maddison McAllister Landmark Christian School** Parents: Chip & Lisa McAllister \$1,500



**Emily Bunker** McIntosh High School Parents: Mark & Liz Bunker \$1,500



Megan Diebboll Newnan High School Parents: James & Lisa Diebboll \$1,500



**Anna Haydon** Newnan High School Parents: Clay & Hope Haydon \$1,500



**Elizabeth Hovey** Newnan High School Parents: David & Anne Hovey \$1,500



Arden Jobe Nikita Patel **Newnan High School** Parents: Dean & Beth Jobe \$1,500



Newnan High School Parents: Ajay & Ishani Patel \$1,500



**Candice Tate** Newnan High School Parents: Rickey & Alison Tate \$1,500



**Sarah Thompson** Newnan High School Parents: Greg & Cindy Thompson \$1,500



James Mapel **Newnan High School** Parents: Steve & Lynne Mapel \$1,500



**Alaina Whitmore** Northgate High School Parents: Lance & Kelly Whitmore \$1,500



**Deriyana Irving** Northgate High School Parents: Heath & Anita Irving \$1,500



**Aatika Shah** Northgate High School Parents: Noor & Farzana Shah \$1,500



Ellie Klarl Sandy Creek High School Parents: Manfred & Carrie Klarl \$1,500



**Lucille Wang** Starr's Mill High School Parents: Yangsheng Wanggui & Tong Cong \$1,500



**Anslee Broome** Whitewater High School Parents: Chris & Kim Broome \$1,500



**Kyra Parks** Whitewater High School Parents: Desey & Carmella Parks \$1,500



Sophia DiCarlo Whitewater High School Parents: Thomas & Lisa Dicarlo \$1,500



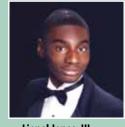
Sasha Smith Whitewater High School Parents: Earl & Foy Smith \$1,500



Lauren Rhodes Whitewater High School Parents: Leland & Pamela Rhodes \$1,500



**Nicholas Powell** Whitewater High School \$1,500



Lionel Jones, III Whitewater High School Parents: Raymond & Tracy Powell Parents: Lionel Jr. & LaGuanda Jones \$2,000

## Home Energy Assessments

Since 1997, Relyco has helped keep your home safe and secure, and now we can also help you save energy and make your home more comfortable.

A Home Energy Assessment by Relyco utilizes the latest technologies to inspect all areas of your home for energy loss and includes diagnostic testing to measure air leakage:



This detailed analysis of costeffective home improvements can help lower your energy bills and give you peace of mind. Rebates may apply.

For more information, contact Relyco at 770-253-4053.





Resources, Inc.

Chris Stephens, President and CEO C. Bradford Sears, Jr., Attorney Douglas B. Warner, Attorney

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James W. Fulton, III, Chairman Therol Brown, Vice Chairman J. Neal Shepard, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer W. L. Clements

Ross Henry Alice J. Mallory K. M. Spaller Elwood Thompson Mildred A. Winkles

#### **POWER** lines

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#### Coweta-Favette

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### **Nominating Committee for Upcoming Board Elections Announced**

#### **Bylaws of Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation**

#### Article III Directors

3.05 Nominations by Nominating Committee. It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint, not less than forty-five (45) days before the date of the meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation to the geographical areas served by the Cooperative. No member of the Board may serve on such committee. Written notice of the names of the members of the committee and meeting date for the committee shall be provided to the members prior to such meeting. It shall be the duty of the nominating committee to meet not less than forty-five (45) days prior to such meeting and to nominate one or more candidates for each seat on the Board of Directors

**3.06 Nominations by Petition.** Other nominations for such elections may be made by written petition signed by not less than fifteen (15) members, which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Cooperative or his/her designee not less than forty-five (45) days prior to such meeting.

**3.07 Notice of Nominees.** The Secretary shall be responsible for posting at headquarters of the Cooperative the nominees for each seat made by the nominating committee and by petition and shall provide written notice thereof to the members by separate written notice according to the rules and procedures promulgated by the Board of Directors.

The following Nominating Committee was appointed by the Board of Directors at their regular meeting held June 23, 2015. This committee will meet August 18 and prepare a list of nominations that will be posted at the EMC office at least 45 days before the annual meeting on October 10, 2015

#### 2015 Nominating Committee:

that is to be filled at such meeting.

Ms. Frances Coggin

Newnan

Ms. Miriam H. Crews

Favetteville

Mr. Winston Dowdell

Newnan

Mr. Willie Guy

Newnan

Mr. Marwin Hallford

Fayetteville

Luthersville

Ms. Putula Hardaway

The three directors whose terms expire this year are:

W.L. Clements Seat 4

Coweta County

Alice Mallory

Seat 4

Fayette County

Ms. Anita M. Keith

Sharpsburg

Mr. Ralph Todd Rainwater

Sharpsburg

Mrs. Cynthia S. Reno

Fayetteville

Mildred Winkles

Seat 3

Coweta County