



## Schools and Businesses: the Perfect Partnership

Recently, I asked our Member Services and Communications team to evaluate the importance of quality schools in our service area, and we had quite a conversation about Coweta-Fayette EMC's successful educational partnerships in the past.

The team all agreed that there was much more to do in the future, and we need to challenge ourselves to ensure we stay on target, embrace technology enhancements and consider the economic impacts of a global economy. Evolving skill sets and job niches in work environments have forever changed the dynamics that directly affect our Members and their children.

Asking questions is always a good place to start the learning process. We therefore focused on three questions and progressed from there with three answers we felt encompassed our role in local educational issues.

### ***Is local school quality important to our co-op?***

"Coweta-Fayette EMC is reliant upon excellent schools in our territory to provide a focal point of educational services and activities for all children. One of the last enduring public institutions, our schools – along with their talented, dedicated teachers – play a crucial role in not only the instruction of reading, writing and arithmetic, but also the introduction to ethics, values, socialization and cultural skills. Local schools have provided us with a skilled, competent workforce, but also an educated, responsible community full of contributing citizens."

### ***How do schools affect the business climate in our service area, and how do they affect community growth and prosperity?***

"An exceptional school system is invaluable for businesses in the surrounding community. When families, schools and community institutions collectively agree upon goals and determine how to reach them, everyone benefits. Schools enjoy the informed support of families and community members, families experience opportunities to contribute to their chil-

dren's education and communities look forward to growth and prosperity. Quality schools and the subsequent vocational opportunities they produce make a community attractive to potential business development prospects, and school-business connections create additional advantages. Through creative vision, strategic planning, leadership, teamwork and intertwining improvement initiatives, schools, families, communities and businesses can prepare for a more promising future."

### ***Is it important for our EMC to be involved in local school systems?***

"As a co-op, one of our most meaningful founding principles is commitment and concern for community, and what's more important to a community than the preparation of its youth to be good citizens and productive adults? We believe businesses play a vital role in that development, so school involvement has always been one of our tenets. From scholarships and teacher project grants to career day safety programs and educational partnerships, we believe in the benefits of collaborative enterprise and resource-sharing when helping to cultivate future leaders."

Our dedicated school board members, superintendents and teachers are setting priorities and making hard decisions daily on our behalf and under exceptionally difficult economic circumstances. Property values are still down, which means school system revenue has been substantially impacted. We applaud everyone who has worked to assist the school systems—the support of a community is a powerful tool, and it is an attribute you can be proud of.

We take the challenge of being a great partner in education to heart; it has never been easy, but it is a worthy goal we always strive to accomplish!

For the Team,

*Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"*

Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"



# Bright Lights

Every year, Coweta-Fayette EMC's Operation Round Up initiative gives educators the opportunity to apply for grants dedicated to special teaching projects not often available in tightly budgeted school systems. Through this year's program, the Coweta-Fayette Trust, Inc. Board of Directors awarded over \$29,000 in Bright Ideas grants to 23 deserving teachers throughout the EMC service area.

And while the awarding of winners is fun, Round Up board members don't often get to see their funding in action. This year, however, they were in for a special treat as Crabapple Lane Elementary School and 5th grade teacher Pat Costa proudly displayed students' outstanding work with shoe box circuitry during an exhibition in the cafeteria.



*Kavya Ramesh displays her shoe box circuit room during Crabapple Elementary School's Bright Ideas project exhibition.*

well as series and parallel circuits. They gained a deeper understanding of electricity and how things work in our lives, while also developing engineering design skills.

"The students enjoyed working together as engineers and problem-solvers," said Costa. "They learned all about conductors as they created switches, circuits as they built both series and parallel lines, and problem solving as lights would go off and they would have to troubleshoot to find the reason. In follow-up discussions, everyone thought the project was the best and recommended doing it again next year."

The Bright Ideas program is sponsored by the Coweta-Fayette EMC Operation Round Up Trust from funds raised by EMC members who allow their bills to be "rounded up" to the nearest dollar each month. This is the eighth year the Bright Ideas grant has been available, and it will be offered to educators once again for the 2013-2014 school year. Interested teachers are encouraged to begin working now on plans for their applications.



*Caitlin van Zyl and Megan Uszynski (l-r) flip the switch in their brightly-lit bowling alley.*

According to Costa, the road leading up to the finished products was an exciting one. Using critical thinking and problem-solving skills, the students worked collaboratively to design and wire a shoebox "room" based upon 5th grade learning objectives. The innovative project allowed them to create and design these rooms around their own interests, while also meeting specific criteria – such as one light must be brighter than the others, a switch must be able to turn off two of the three lights, for example – with certain materials.

The students learned how simple circuits, conductors, insulators and switches work, as



*Operation Round Up board Members join project participants Gwen Gray, Jacqui van Zyl, Caitlin van Zyl and Megan Uszynski (l-r) on stage for a presentation.*



# The Right Tree in the Right Place

As spring begins its return, so too will our trees start to fill with new growth. While beautiful leaves and sturdy limbs help purify the air and enhance the beauty of our neighborhoods, they may also pose electrical hazards if not placed thoughtfully or pruned properly.

Coweta-Fayette EMC encourages responsible practices that help preserve community trees while also benefiting electric co-op consumers.

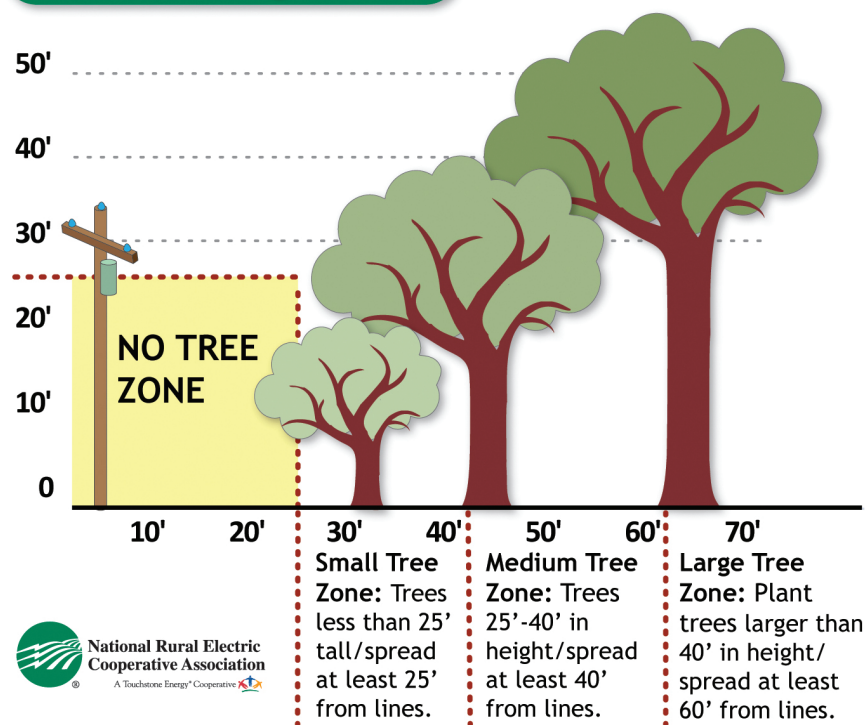
Trees can help cool your home, break cold winds to lower your heating costs and provide food for wildlife. Properly placed trees may lower line clearance costs for utility companies, reduce tree mortality and result in healthier community forests.

Tree limbs, however, can be a power line's worst enemy. Strong winds, storms and heavy ice can topple trees or shatter branches that pull down power lines and cause outages. Sometimes, even if heavily damaged, lines remain energized, and the possibility of electrifying trees and nearby objects exists. Arcing and flashovers between power lines and trees are also dangerous. In winter, extra weight from snow and ice can bend or break tree branches, bringing them close to power lines.

Coweta-Fayette operates an aggressive right-of-way maintenance program. Our crews look for foliage growing under lines, overhanging branches, leaning or other types of "danger" limbs and trees that could grow into lines. 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.

In working to keep a safe, reliable and affordable supply of power flowing to your home or business, we need your help. Let us know if you notice trees

## Tree Planting Guide



National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

or branches that might pose a risk to our power lines. More importantly, before planting trees in your yard, think about how tall they may grow and how wide their branches may spread. Choose tree varieties with care, and plant with power lines in mind.

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.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation



## Electrical Safety for all Ages: the Importance of Precautionary Measures for Older Adults

Statistics show that home fires result in 2,590 civilian deaths and 12,910 civilian injuries in the U.S. each year.

Although electrical hazards plague the public at large, older adults face the gravest risk. Those over 65 are more than twice as likely to die from a house fire as the general population, and this risk increases with age. Those 75 and over are challenged with a risk that is 2.8 times higher, and adults over 85 are at a staggering risk that is 3.7 times higher. As baby boomers retire, the United States Fire Administration (USFA) has predicted that the percentage

of older Americans will increase significantly, thus making a corresponding increase in fire deaths and injuries among older adults probable.

Electrical failures are a leading cause of home fires every year, and electrical distribution and lighting equipment fires increase in frequency with dwelling age. Homes with aging electrical systems are at a heightened risk for fires, posing a serious risk to older adults who have remained in the same home for an extended period of time.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, half of all U.S. homes were built before 1973, which is long before many of today's electronics were invented. Unfortunately, higher energy demands can overburden an older system, causing fires or electrocutions.

Many electrical fires can be prevented with up-to-date technology and by recognizing warning signs. Follow these easy tips to identify and prevent home electrical hazards:

- Regularly check all cords, outlets, switches and appliances for signs of damage or wear. Use extension cords only temporarily.

- Ensure outlets are not overloaded with devices. They can overheat and start a fire.
- Look and listen for warning signs of an electrical problem (outlets and switches that are warm or make crackling, sizzling or buzzing sounds).
- Always replace fuses or circuit breakers with the correct size and amperage.
- Consider upgrading breakers to state-of-the-art AFCI circuit breakers. Keep the electrical panel accessible so you can quickly shut off power in an emergency.
- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Place them inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area. Test once a month, change the batteries at least once a year and replace the alarm itself every ten years.

Be sure to educate yourself or any older adults in your life, and encourage family members of all ages to work together to identify and correct potential home fire hazards.

Source: The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), NRECA's Straight Talk



# Testing Your Security System

When your security system was installed by Relyco or converted from another vendor 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***

Anthony H. Sinclair, President and CEO  
C. Bradford Sears, Jr., Attorney  
Douglas B. Warner, Attorney

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James W. Fulton, 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

POWERlines

Editor: Mary Ann Bell  
807 Collinsworth Road, Palmetto, GA 30268  
(770) 502-0226

Coweta-Fayette EMC is an Equal Opportunity  
Affirmative Action Employer/M/F/V/H



Coweta-Fayette

770-502-0226  
www.utility.org



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Green Power Program is Green-e Certified

The Green-e Energy Certification program provides independent, third-party certification to ensure renewable energy meets strict environmental and consumer protection standards. The Center for Resource Solutions requires that sellers of certified renewable energy disclose clear and useful information to potential customers, allowing consumers to make informed choices. Therefore, the following content label provides the renewable resources used in Coweta-Fayette's program in 2012 and 2013.



PRODUCT CONTENT LABEL

The product is sold in blocks of 100 kilowatt-hours (kWh).  
The product will be made up of the following renewable resources

Green-e Energy Certified New <sup>3</sup> Renewables in Coweta-Fayette EMC Green Power Program			Generation Location
	2012 <sup>1</sup>	2013 <sup>2</sup>	
-Biomass	100%	100%	Georgia
-Geothermal	0%	0%	
-Eligible hydroelectric <sup>4</sup>	0%	0%	
-Solar	0%	0%	
-Wind	0%	0%	
TOTAL	100%	100%	

1. The 2012 figures reflect the resources that were supplied for the year ending December 31, 2012.
  2. The 2013 figures are prospective and reflect the power that we have contracted to provide. Actual figures may vary according to resource availability. We will annually report to you the actual resource mix of the electricity you purchased during the preceding year.
  3. New Renewables come from generation facilities that first began commercial operation on or after January 1, 1997.
  4. Eligible hydroelectric facilities are defined in the Green-e Energy National Standard ([http://www.green-e.org/getcert\\_re\\_stan.shtml](http://www.green-e.org/getcert_re_stan.shtml)) and include facilities certified by the Low Impact Hydropower Institute (LIHI) ([www.lowimpacthydro.org](http://www.lowimpacthydro.org)); facilities that are run-of-the-river hydropower facilities with a total rated nameplate capacity equal to or less than 5 MW; and facilities comprised of a turbine in a pipeline or a turbine in an irrigation canal.
- For comparison, the current average mix of resources supplying Coweta-Fayette EMC includes: Coal (30%), Nuclear (26%), Oil (0%), Natural Gas (43%), Hydroelectric (1%), and Other (1%).
- The average home in the United States uses 900 kWh per month. [Source: U.S. EPA]
- For specific information about this electricity product, please contact Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation, (770) 502-0226, [www.utility.org/site/GreenPowerBlock.aspx](http://www.utility.org/site/GreenPowerBlock.aspx).



Green-e Energy certifies that Coweta-Fayette Electric Membership Corporation Green Power Program meets the minimum environmental and consumer protection standards established by the non-profit Center for Resource Solutions. For more information on Green-e Energy certification requirements, call 1-888-63-GREEN or log on to [www.green-e.org](http://www.green-e.org).