

# POWERlines

## Doing the Right Thing – It's the EMC Way!

As we all watch Fox News, CNN and other headline providers these days, we see that the economy is typically the primary target of attention – as it should be. Financial experts from opposing sides debate what the right course of action needs to be to put our less-than-desirable economy back on course. For the last several months, the same scenario has played out on television news so frequently that it seems like the movie “Groundhog Day,” in which Bill Murray relives the same day over and over.

I agree there are often many ways to address a problem to get the desired solution, but there is usually only one good way to do the right thing. Some might say it is just as hard to determine what the right thing is as it is to voice a solution. I tend to disagree. Knowing and doing the right thing have nothing to do with what political party you are affiliated with, where you were born or who your family is.

You don't have to be a Rhodes Scholar or rocket scientist to know how to do the right thing. It's about following the Golden Rule and exercising good, old-fashioned common sense, just like your parents and grandparents taught you. Doing the right thing is as easy as acting in the best interest of the people you serve. For instance, giving our children anything they want and not making them work hard for it may be doing them an injustice.

Creating opportunities for our children – but at the same time instilling in them the need for studying, innovation and creative thinking – is important. As Americans, we've always taken pride in dreaming big; more importantly, we have consistently turned our grand ideas into tangible results, and the world has subsequently benefited.

Until the last couple of decades, America has been envied and admired for our ability to invent and manufacture many value-added products sought after and exported across the globe. Our loss of manufacturing jobs has become a major economic problem that must be reversed to open the door to prosperity.

There is no reason we can't once again lead the way in all industries, despite the low cost of international labor.

We must retool our manufacturing facilities, install the most advanced technology and robotics and, most importantly, train a new and specialized workforce with the skills and attributes to manufacture efficiently. I am proud of my college degree, but in the future, we need many more technically trained employees to choose a path that will assist us in meeting international economic challenges.

Doing the right thing would seem to mean that our country's leaders need to pass legislation and taxation adjustments to specifically accomplish what's required for the reemergence of our manufacturing industry. If what our leaders propose will not produce more manufacturing jobs, it's not the right thing to do. It sounds pretty simple, doesn't it?

Your co-op employees look at every task to ensure it's the right thing to do for our members. If we can't make that statement, we look for a better way. Sometimes, a business is most efficient when focused on a limited number of really important objectives, rather than many.

Coweta-Fayette EMC employees work side-by-side with local and regional community leaders to promote economic development and job creation. We look for ways to assist our members, enhance their quality of life and present opportunities to save money. For instance, we provide good advice to our members on energy efficiency opportunities, and we strive to reduce costs by using all available money-saving power sources in our energy quiver.

Being the best we can be for You is the right thing to do – and the EMC way!

For the Team,

*Anthony H. Sinclair "Tony"*  
Anthony H. Sinclair “Tony”



# Green Power Sees Major Growth

Green Power EMC, the largest renewable-energy provider in Georgia, continues to increase its energy portfolio with the addition of a 150-kilowatt solar facility in Warner Robins and the expansion of a landfill gas to energy facility in Taylor County.

These two projects, both indicative of Green Power's quest to secure power sources that create less emissions than conventional methods, will bring the cooperative's portfolio of renewables up to more than 28 MW of power.

In Warner Robins, Green Power EMC joined forces with odor elimination manufacturer Clean Control Corp. and solar developer First Century Energy to build the solar panels. Located on approximately one acre at the headquarters of Clean Control Corp., the facility will be one of the largest solar photovoltaic arrays in the state, providing 4.7 million kWh of solar energy to the power grid over its projected 25-year lifetime.

This project and associated power purchase agreement is the second joint project of First Century and Green Power EMC under a pilot program aimed at deploying solar installations in EMC service areas throughout Georgia.

"Green Power EMC is actively pursuing efficient approaches to increasing the supply of renewable energy to Georgia's EMC members," said Jeff Pratt, President of Green Power EMC. "Distributed solar power generation can help

supply a customer's energy needs with little ongoing maintenance and no fuel expense."

The Taylor County Landfill, which has been producing green energy from captured gas since 2003, began expanded production, from 4 to 7 MW, in late 2011. This makes Taylor County the largest landfill gas to electricity unit in the state.

Green Power EMC, along with their partners Veolia Environmental Services and Energy Developments, Inc., recently celebrated the expansion with a ribbon cutting. Senate Regulated Industries and Utilities committee member Sen. Ed Harbison (D-Columbus) gave a brief speech commending Georgia's EMCs for their efforts in promoting renewable energy and lauded the companies involved for their investment in rural Georgia.

Coweta-Fayette and 15 other EMCs in the state joined together to form Green Power EMC in 2002. Now, participation has grown to a partnership of 39 Georgia EMCs. This group works together to research and provide green electricity produced from renewable sources such as solar, wind and biomass, which includes landfill gas and agricultural wastes.

Approximately 4.4 million EMC-member households across Georgia will have more than 28,000 kilowatts of renewable energy available to them through Green Power EMC's mix of biomass, solar and low-impact hydro generation.



*Green Power's new facility in Warner Robins will have one of the largest solar photovoltaic arrays in the state.*



*The newly expanded gas to energy facility in Taylor County will provide enough electricity to power approximately 5,000 homes.*

## Home Energy Suite at utility.org

To help you better manage your utility costs, Coweta-Fayette EMC has lots of energy saving tools right at your fingertips. Simply click on the "Home Energy Suite" at the bottom of our webpage – [www.utility.org](http://www.utility.org) – and begin learning how to save on your energy dollars.



**The Home Energy Calculator** will help you learn about your energy use based on your inputs and will allow you to perform energy saving scenarios to pinpoint your opportunities for savings.



**The Appliance Calculator** will give you a feel for what your home's appliances are costing you to operate. Simply input the type of television, refrigerator, etc. and the hours used, and watch for your kilowatt usage and cost.



**The TV Calculator** compares cost of LCD, DLP, Plasma and other TV options. It's interesting to see what you're paying even when you aren't watching.



**The Space Heater Calculator** compares the cost of operation for one or more space heaters to the cost of the energy efficient brand.



**The CFL Calculator** compares the cost to operate compact fluorescent lights to incandescent lights. It will show you how much that can be saved by just replacing your existing lights with CFLs.



# Making Co-op Connections: Linemen from Costa Rica

## Visit Coweta-Fayette EMC

Two electric utility technicians from Coopeguanacaste, Coweta-Fayette's sister cooperative in Costa Rica, trained alongside their American co-op counterparts May 20-June 3 in an effort to learn best practices when working with energized power lines.

Marcos Adolfo and Christopher Zelaya, referred to as "overhead linemen" due to their work atop power poles, both learned and taught much during the two-week co-op visit. They shadowed EMC crews, discussed safe construction, worked with energized lines and also demonstrated techniques used at their co-op.

Coopeguanacaste, an electric cooperative serving the territory around Nicoya, Costa Rica, is located in an area known for its beaches, surfing and sportfishing, as well as inland cattle ranches, sugar cane and cotton plantations. Some parts of Guanacaste have had electricity for decades, but service is still rare in others.

According to Coweta-Fayette EMC Engineering Vice President Chris Stephens, the opportunity for international cooperatives in emerging markets and evolving municipalities to interact with an American cooperative is an invaluable experience.

"Although it was a bit of a challenge at first due to the language barrier, it was evident that they understood line work," he said. "Coopeguanacaste linemen, who work on energized lines on a limited basis, often miss the benefits of completing construction and maintenance without inconveniencing mem-



*Costa Rican linemen Christopher Zelaya (far left) and Marcos Adolfo (second from right) train with Coweta-Fayette EMC Construction General Foreman Ivan Cox (second from left) and General Foreman Underground Dwayne Howell (far right).*

bers. The safety and construction practices they learned here will be shared with their co-op in Costa Rica and will ultimately help their consumers."

In addition to training, Adolfo and Zelaya shopped, attended a fish fry, traveled to Lake Wedowee and visited Cheaha Mountain.

"It's important to continue working together to exchange information, ideas and differences in culture – a combination that makes us all better people" said Stephens. "The relationships and bonds that develop last a lifetime."

Coweta-Fayette and Coopguanacaste have been partners for several years, largely due to the EMC's involvement in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Foundation. NRECA has been involved in electrification programs in Costa Rica since 1963.

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Several energy reference tools are also available in the **Home**



**Energy Library.** It includes hundreds of pages of graphically rich and interactive resources for those of you who want to learn more about specific topics, like operation tips for your hot tubs, pool pumps and more.



You can also brush-up on your knowledge of the **Fundamentals of Electricity** by learning about circuits, generation, safety and basic electricity terms.

Be sure you check it out today at [www.utility.org](http://www.utility.org) and begin learning how to add up your possible savings.

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**POWER**lines

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**MEMBER APPRECIATION AND ANNUAL MEETING**

**WHEN: OCTOBER 13, 2012**

**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** just for attending.

**Entertainment** will be by Alvarado, a country band from Alvarado, Texas. They were here for the 2007 meeting 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, surge protection, green power, Operation Round-up, Touchstone, security and natural gas will be available at tents on the midway before the meeting begins.

**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 13 on your calendar and join us for a day of fun and valuable information at this year's member appreciation day and annual meeting.