



Forging Partnerships for Economic Development at Coweta Works' First Annual Career Expo

Groups of chatty eighth graders crowding around a “walk-through colon,” a mock film crew, or a bucket truck doesn’t sound like a typical career fair. But this is exactly what the Central Educational Center is pioneering with Coweta Works Career Expo as a way of investing in Coweta County’s economic future.

This first annual event allowed eighth grade students from all over Coweta County the opportunity to explore what adults do on a day-to-day basis. The expo featured exhibits in eight different areas:

- Agriculture
- Construction
- Health care
- Manufacturing and Engineering
- Media and Communications
- Public Safety
- Transportation and Logistics
- Utilities

Eighth grade students from six public middle schools, Coweta Charter Academy, Odyssey Charter School and Maggie Brown Middle School Alternative Program attended the two-day event. All in all, students numbered over 1,700, not including around 80 educators in attendance.

“This is the first time in the history of CEC that every eighth grader had a chance to visit,” said Cynthia Bennett, vice-president of the Newnan-Coweta Cham-



A drone's eye view of Coweta Works' utility section. (Inset picture) A couple of students turn the lights on and off at Newnan Utilities' pole exhibit.

ber of Commerce and co-chair of the Coweta Works Career Expo. Since this event was the first Coweta Works Career Expo, many students and teachers didn't know what to expect. “We’ve had people come out and give talks before, but when they actually get to go out and talk to people and get that hands-on experience, it gets them engaged and interested,” said Madras Middle School’s Eighth

Grade Assistant Principal Dr. Herbert Betts. Bennett highlighted the students from the alternative middle school, saying they “had a ball. I greeted them and they looked sullen, and by the end they all had smiles on their faces.” Aside from allowing eighth graders to explore career options, Bennett said “this is a clear example of how the business community and the education community work together to strengthen economic development in Coweta County.” “The availability of skilled talent is the first question a prospective company looking to relocate their business asks,” said Amanda Fields, “and an event like Coweta Works will help us paint the picture of the community coming together with an innovative approach to workforce development.” Fields is the Director of Existing Industries and Workforce Development at the Coweta County Development Authority.

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The President's Message

*Chris Stephens
President and CEO*

When Coweta-Fayette EMC was formed over 70 years ago, our primary goal was to bring electricity to underserved areas. While providing reliable, affordable electricity remains our primary responsibility today, we also embrace our responsibility to help build stronger, more enriched communities.

We take an active role in attracting new industries to our area. These businesses not only mean jobs for our neighbors, they also generate tax revenue necessary for our communities to thrive and expand. By being proactive in economic development, CFEMC helps create opportunities that enhance our members quality of life and the regional economy as a whole.

We have an economic development team who not only seeks to attract new business, but also works with existing commercial accounts to foster their prosperity. Our Senior Director of Economic Development currently serves and has served on various economic development boards within the southeast, at a state level and regionally here in West Georgia. He works closely with the local development authorities and our

statewide EMC, Georgia EMC, in helping promote our service area in order to recruit potential new businesses and industry.

We actively participate in three local Chambers of Commerce—Fayette, Coweta and Heard. Employees have served on these Chamber boards and committees helping secure a better future for our members' businesses.

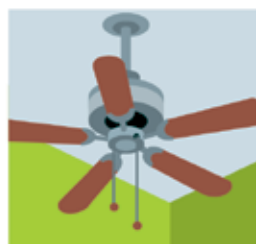
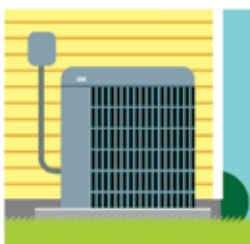
We also support our educational systems by offering scholarships and serving on boards and committees to help prepare the workforce necessary to meet the needs of existing and future industry.

It is a privilege to be a part of these groups and a role that Coweta-Fayette EMC takes seriously.

Affordable electricity is essential for a healthy, growing community, and CFEMC helps generate an environment conducive to economic growth. After all, we're part of this community, too, and we will work together to ensure a brighter future for us all.

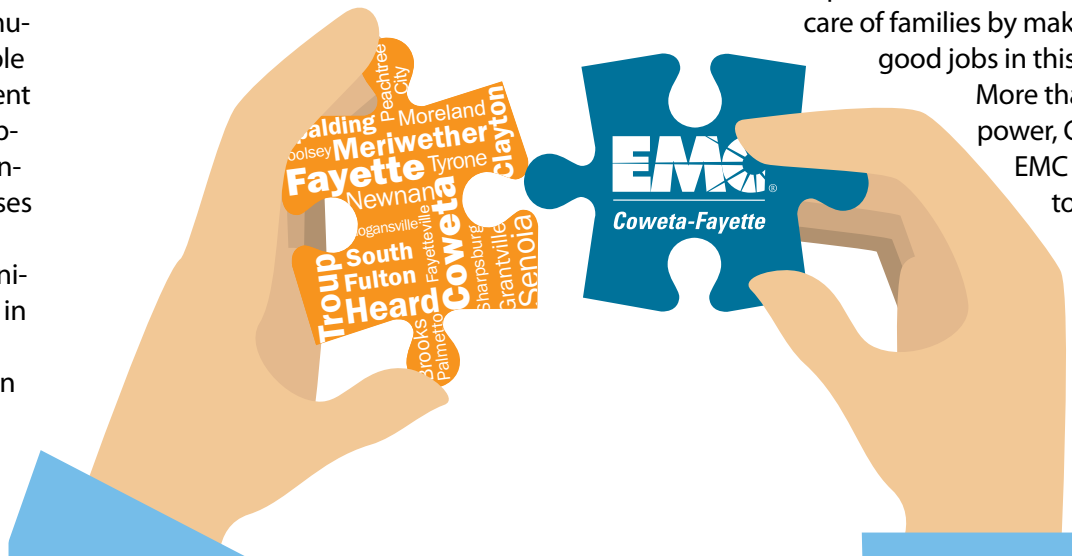
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The Power of Building Strong Communities Through Economic Development

Not everyone can say, "I love to drive by a business and see cars in the parking lot and know that I had a hand in keeping the facility open," but that is exactly why Greg Wright says he loves about his job.



Economic Development Partnerships *continued from cover*



Rusty Rainey coaches an eighth grader through opening a circuit.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Coweta-Fayette EMC strives to do all it can for our schools and businesses. For example, in 2016 and 2017, CFEMC provided two Coweta County schools with rebates for energy efficiency improvements.

"The Coweta County School System received a generous rebate through Coweta-Fayette EMC for energy upgrades

on lighting and HVAC systems at the recently renovated Northside Elementary and Canongate Elementary schools.

These upgrades have



improved the lighting quality in the classrooms as well as provided greater overall energy efficiency. Coweta-Fayette EMC continues to be a strong education partner in Coweta County," said Dr. Steve Barker, Superintendent of Coweta County School System.

Enabling our community's schools to get energy efficiency upgrades delivers two powerful things:

1. A more comfortable learning environment for young minds
2. More energy savings to use toward meeting educational needs

"The commercial energy efficiency rebates we paid to the local schools is just one of many areas in which we partner with the school systems to help them remain successful," said Jimmy Adams, CFEMC Vice President of Energy Services. "New and existing industries benefit when the local school systems are strong."

Education is a key component of ensuring future economic health and stability, and Coweta-Fayette EMC is proud to take part in strengthening our schools.

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

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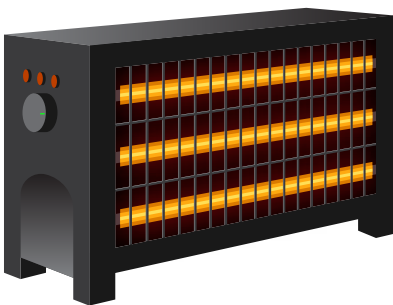
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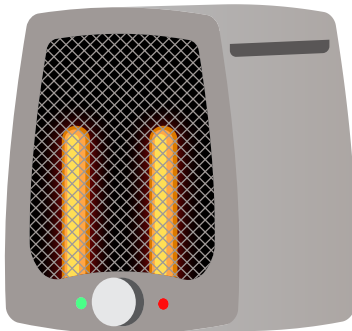


Space heaters can be expensive to run and are generally less efficient than central furnace heating. If you only use a single room of the house during winter and

do not want to heat up the entire home, then a space heater can cost less to operate. You can lower the temperature of the entire house and set up a space heater in a room if you have good insulation .

Space heaters can be dangerous if they are not carefully monitored. Always read the manual of your space heater and make sure you are using it properly. Unvented combustion units are not recommended for use inside your home, because they introduce unwanted pollutants into the living space.

If nothing else, grab a warm blanket or sweater along with your favorite warm drink!



Doing the Math!

For an idea of how much it may cost you to operate a space heater, our members pay on average 12 cents per kilowatt hour. A space heater that uses 1500 watts per hour uses 1.5 kilowatt hours. Therefore, each hour it is run will cost you 1.5 times 12 cents or about 18 cents per hour it runs. Running it 5 hours a day would cost 90 cents, \$6.30 weekly (7-day week), and \$25.20 monthly.

