



powerlines



Coweta-Fayette



COWETA-FAYETTE EMC AND TRUE NATURAL GAS MAKE SOLAR OPTION AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS



Michael C. Whiteside Solar Plant

The **Michael C. Whiteside Solar Plant** is nearing completion and CFEMC is proud to partner with True Natural Gas to bring another solar option to our members. The solar array is designed to help us meet the energy requirements of our members now, and in the future, while utilizing technology that makes solar energy an affordable addition to our power mix. By 2021, CFEMC's generation capacity requirements will be 10 percent renewable. The plant will also be a great educational resource for our community too.

The plant is located in Heard County on a tract of land already owned by our Generation Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation. Due to its location, the infrastructure and necessary connection to distribution lines were already in place. The ability to use this land and not invest in significant infrastructure makes the project economically feasible for the EMC.

Each of the 5,472 panels on average will generate approximately 55 kilowatt hours per month. The highest production is expected to occur from May through August.

"We're excited to offer this option to our members," **CEO Chris Stephens** said. "Coweta Fayette EMC was one of the founders of Green

Power EMC, so we've been committed to offering renewables for many years. In fact, Michael Whiteside (former CEO) served as the first president of Green Power EMC. We were one of the first 12 of the 38 EMCs in Georgia that participated. Green Power EMC was the first electric utility in Georgia to provide renewable energy.

"Our local solar plant will produce 1.68 megawatts of energy. Our members can purchase the output from up to 10 panels and use that energy to offset the energy they consume at their home. It's a cheaper option than rooftop solar installations."

Many of you have expressed an interest in solar energy, but due to permitting and zoning issues, or HOA restrictions, you aren't able to install the needed equipment at your home. Our **Smart Choice Solar** program will allow you to utilize renewable energy without roof or structural modifications to your home.

"This is really a win-win partnership," Stephens said. "Not only does it supply an alternative energy source for our environmentally conscious members, it will also allow for some great educational opportunities in our community."

770-502-0226

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Coweta -Fayette EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer /M/F/Y/D

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
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SmartChoice Solar

WE ARE MAKING THE CHOICE SIMPLE. CHOOSE GREEN TODAY!



Smart Choice Solar offers CFEMC members a zero emission, affordable, renewable energy solution for their home and business. By grouping solar panels together, costs can be shared, power output maximized and the hassle of rooftop installations can be avoided. Smart Choice Solar generates energy in a way that creates no pollution or carbon emissions. To purchase your clean renewable energy source or receive more information, fill out the form below.

Contact us today at **770-502-0226** to sign up for SmartChoice Solar!

offered by



1 EMISSION FREE

Enjoy clean energy from zero carbon solar panels.

2 AFFORDABLE

Members can purchase a portion of the energy output from our local solar farm for a monthly charge of \$7.00 per solar panel. Each panel will generate an average of 55 kiloWatt hours per month.

3 SIMPLE

Your monthly bill will show the portion of energy produced by your solar panels and the amount you paid for it at the solar rate.

4 EASY

Just call 770-502-0226 and say "Sign me up!"

How does a solar plant work?

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems are panels composed of numerous PV cells made of silicon and semiconducting materials. PVs convert solar rays from sunlight into electricity. The electricity generated exits the PV cell as direct current (DC) and passes through an inverter that converts electricity into alternating current (AC). Then the electricity is transmitted onto the electric grid and travels from the solar array to your home.



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The President's Message

Chris Stephens
CEO

I am excited about 2020. This excitement is for several reasons and includes building on the progress and success of 2019.

Among our cooperative principles is Concern for Community. Here at Coweta-Fayette EMC, we have always lived up to that principle, but in 2019 our employees took it a step further. One of their many accomplishments in 2019 was getting involved in Habitat for Humanity to construct a new home for a family in need. Seeing the employees from across the company come together and donate their time to construct this home was truthfully an inspiration that will carry into 2020.

Also, we made great strides in improving the use of technology to reduce our members' outage time. To date, we've installed over 70 devices across the system that automatically isolate damaged sections of our system. These damages can be caused by several problems such as storms, vehicle accidents and equipment failure. When a section of line is damaged, the installed devices detect the location of the problem, isolate it and redirects the flow of energy from another source. With great results in 2019, I am excited about the expansion of this solution to other portions of our system in 2020.

This past year we began the process of evaluating our long-term power contract. The cost of purchased power is 70% of our budget. CFEMC owns a significant portion of our generation assets which include nuclear, natural gas, hydro, renewables and coal. The contract not only sources our additional future needs, but it also incorporates how these resources are dispatched, i.e., what is the best source of generation to be used from an economic standpoint. This process will be completed in 2020 and will help shape our energy needs for years to come.

One project that really excites me about 2020 is our community solar field and our SmartChoice Solar program for our members. The project has been in the making for some time, and I am excited we were able to partner with our very own subsidiary, True Natural Gas, to deliver an emission-free source of energy for our members, one that they can participate in without having a long-term contract. Please be sure to read this month's cover story for more insight.

These are just a few of the reasons I am excited about 2020. When you consider our engaged Board of Directors who are looking out for your best interest and a group of employees who come to work each day to serve our members, it is easy to be enthusiastic. I look forward to the progress and accomplishments we will make in 2020 to better serve you.