



powerlines



Coweta-Fayette



COMMUNITY SOLAR ONLINE AND AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

The **Michael C. Whiteside Solar Plant** officially comes on line this month. After months of construction and testing, the facility is now generating approximately 7,000 kWh of electricity every day.



Scan this code to watch a time lapse of the solar plant construction:

CFEMC is proud to have partnered with True Natural Gas to make this plant a reality and assisting us in offering our members a community solar option.

With the addition of this plant, CFEMC's generation capacity requirement will be 10% renewable by 2021. 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 this location, the distribution lines to connect the plant to our system were already in place. The ability to use this land and not invest in significant infrastructure makes the project economically feasible for the EMC. It's the first plant connected directly to our distribution system with 5,472 panels, that track the sun's position, located on 10 acres.



(AC). That electricity is added to the electric distribution system and then travels to your home.

"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 C. Whiteside (former CEO) served as the first president of Green Power EMC. We were one of the first 12 of the 38 EMC's in Georgia that participated, and Green Power EMC was the first electric utility in Georgia to provide renewable energy.

"Our local solar plant will produce 1.68 AC megawatts of energy. Our members can purchase the output from up to ten 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. Rooftop orientation and shading can also be an issue. Our **Smart Choice Solar** program allows you to utilize renewable energy without roof or structural modifications to your home.

Smart Choice Solar provides you with access to renewable energy that is emission free and affordable. Members can purchase a portion of the energy output for a monthly fee of \$7.00 per panel. Your monthly bill will show the portion of energy produced by your solar panels and the amount you paid for it.

If you're interested in signing up, you can visit our website at www.utility.org or simply call 770-502-0226.

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



So how does the solar plant work?

Our community solar system is a solar photovoltaic (PV) system. The panels are composed of numerous PV cells made of silicon and semiconducting materials. The PV's convert solar rays from the sun into electricity. The electricity generated is direct current (DC). It then passes through an inverter where it is changed into alternating current

770-502-0226
WWW.UTILITY.ORG



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

A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
NEW OUTAGE TEXTING OPTION FOR MEMBERS - 1
WORKING FOR YOU - 2

REMEMBER TO #THANKALINEWORKER IN APRIL



Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on April 13, 2020, Coweta Fayette EMC, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, will honor the brave men and women who work hard to keep the lights on. However, we're asking you to help us celebrate this group of workers all month.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of our co-op.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

CFEMC is proud to honor the **62** lineworkers that maintain over 6,500 miles of power lines in our service territory.

We invite all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. You can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.



The President's Message

Chris Stephens
CEO

In April, we celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day. So I feel it is appropriate we take a moment to recognize the people that often work in brutal weather conditions to ensure we all have safe and reliable power. In fact, linemen are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety officers. However, while linemen work in highly visible settings, there are many behind the scenes that also labor tirelessly to help keep the lights on. However, they do so without a special month to highlight their contribution to our business. While linemen can do their job out in the open— whether it is restoring power after a natural disaster, maintaining the lines or building new service – there is a lot more work taking place behind the scenes.

So I want to take a moment and address the power behind your power too.

The linemen out in the field works with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep electricity flowing and maintaining the energy infrastructure. From our system operators and engineers, who are responsible for monitoring our system and planning for the future, to our CSR's who answer your calls and provide information, I'm pleased to say we have worked hard to put together an entire team of employees who know their roles and perform them at a high level while providing each of you with the level of professional service you expect.

Each area of our organization does this while still promoting a culture of safety. Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous task, and helping to foster a culture of safety for all workers is a major priority. I'm pleased to say our employees received 100 % on our latest safety accreditation.

Many different people and departments work closely together to serve you because you, the member, are at the heart of everything we do. Unlike other types of businesses, as a cooperative, our concern for community is one principle that sets us apart. From sponsoring a local school's baseball team to supporting new jobs and industry through our economic development efforts, we stand as a driving force in our community. The electricity we provide literally powers our communities. And it takes every person in the co-op, to deliver on this promise.

RECEIVE OUTAGE INFORMATION VIA TEXT



Opt in to receive a text message when there is an outage at your service address, and another text when power is restored.

Visit utility.org/text-an-outage/ and follow the instructions.

Use your smartphone camera to scan the QR code and follow the prompts to watch video sign-up instructions.

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