



Coweta-Fayette



powerlines

# THINKING ABOUT SOLAR? DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Considering purchasing a photovoltaic (PV)/ solar power system to help supply your home's energy needs?

Just as you would for any major home improvement project, doing your own research and finding the right contractor is key to a successful outcome. Will the end product be of high quality and will it perform as it should? What, exactly, is the company promising, and has it proven to be true with past clients?

Beyond those obvious questions, here are some other aspects to consider before signing on the dotted line:

- Know all the costs, not just those for equipment and installation. There are also "soft costs" which will set you back for more than the system itself according to Energy.gov.
- Those soft costs include permitting, financing, and "pass along" costs for marketing, advertising and research.
- Thoroughly research the solar installation company you are considering. Is it a local company? Is it backed by the Better Business Bureau? How long has it been in business? Is it contracted to do business in Georgia?
- Are the people installing the system employees or subcontractors?
- Have they been properly trained and are they certified in solar installation?
- Will there be a master electrician on-site?
- Does the company hold at least a \$1M general insurance policy for possible worker's compensation and liability claims, among other types?
- Is the company skilled at and does it have



a solid track record of advising the appropriate/ most advantageous type and size of system needed?

- If there are incentives, who completes the paperwork for the potential tax credits, rebates and other incentives? What are the tax credit requirements?
- How much energy will the system provide and is it enough? Too much?
- How will the installer consult staff from Coweta-Fayette EMC? Does the installer have experience coordinating/integrating solar systems with the electric grid?
- What does the bid include, exactly? Is it just for equipment? Does it include labor and installation? What about other costs?
- Does the bid and contract include breakdown costs for every component/part, as well as labor and other fees, and projected start and end dates?
- What are the complete short- and long-term costs and what will it save in the long run?
- What do objective (not stacked) reviewers

say about their experience with the company? About the pros and cons of solar versus electric?

- What happens to my power supply when it's cloudy?
- Do savings vary depending on geographic location?
- Does the company promise savings that sound too good to be true?
- Who maintains the equipment and how much does that cost?
- What are the safety issues surrounding solar? How is the power safely disconnected if needed?
- Should I buy or lease the system and what is the difference?
- What happens if I move?
- Is any additional insurance needed for owning and operating a solar array?

• What happens with the renewable energy credits produced from your solar array?

These are only some of the details to consider. Be sure to do your homework before agreeing to any major home project, including a solar/PV system installation.

Please contact us at 770-502-0226 prior to signing up for solar installation. We can provide a FREE solar audit so you can make sure the system quoted will meet your needs. We will coordinate energy grid hookup and answer any questions you may have.

Don't forget our SmartSource Community Solar allows our members the ability to utilize renewable energy without long-term contracts, with no local permitting or zoning issues, with no issues with their homeowner's insurance, and with no roof or structural modifications to their home. To learn more, visit [EMCSolar.ORG](http://EMCSolar.ORG).

770-502-0226  
[WWW.UTILITY.ORG](http://WWW.UTILITY.ORG)



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

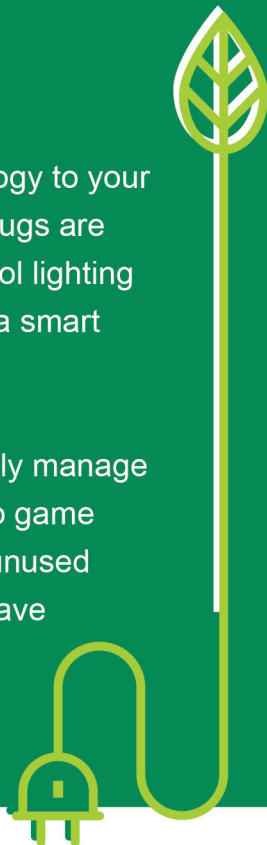
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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



## The President's Message



Chris Stephens  
CEO

I recently attended a conference with a number of my peers from across the country and heard a number of them talk about power supply. Simply put, that's the electricity generated to meet your needs. As I listened, it was clear we all have similar missions, to safely provide our members with clean, affordable, "and" reliable electricity. The takeaway is we must focus on "ALL" four factors: Safety, Clean, Affordable and Reliable.

I think of safety first because it is at the top-of-mind for all of us. We recently celebrated Linemen Appreciation Month, which recognizes the brave men and women who work in one of the most dangerous occupations. They are exposed to high voltage lines and work in the most extreme weather conditions. Safety must be a core value in everything we do.

Clean electricity is getting a lot of attention. It's electricity generated from zero-emission resources, like renewables or other carbon-free sources. Coweta-Fayette EMC has been providing our members clean renewable energy since Green Power EMC was founded in 2001. It was the first utility in the state to offer members renewable energy. Solar will make up 10% of our capacity by the end of this year. In addition, we are participating in two new nuclear units at Plant Vogtle that will increase our carbon-free electricity in 2023. These resources will reduce our need for coal and other fossil fuel generated electricity. We're committed to exploring ways to make renewable and carbon-free energy a part of our balanced energy mix.

Reliability ranks as one of the most important issues I hear from our members. We must continue to invest in upgrades and maintenance of our distribution system while also making sure our power suppliers have reliable sources of generation. Renewable generation sources are intermittent, the sun does not always shine and wind is not currently viable in Georgia. We must have sources that are reliable, available and can be put into use quickly to meet your needs. We must also have base load generation that is available 24/7.

At the end of the day, we must balance all of this with affordability. We are experiencing inflation just like you. We are seeing increases in the fuel, especially natural gas, and other materials used for generation. Coweta-Fayette EMC has managed very well through the hedging of natural gas and other fixed-priced energy programs.

However, even with these programs which have helped us save, we are seeing an increase in energy costs from our power suppliers which ultimately affects you. CFEMC will continue to manage every aspect we can to help keep the energy affordable.

Along with our Board, our staff carefully evaluates every dollar spent to ensure we make the most economical decisions on behalf of our members.

There's no one-size-fits-all solution. We all need safe, clean, affordable, AND reliable energy. All four pieces must work together so we ensure you always have power when you need or want it.

## Summer Rates

### Residential

Summer (June 1 - October 31)

Service Charge \$20.00/mo.

First 750 kWh/mo 7.80¢/kWh

Over 750 kWh/mo. 10.65¢/kWh

### Electric Water Heater Credit

(June 1 - October 31)

\$2.00/mo.

(One EWH credit per household)

### Residential Load Management Annual Credit

\$10.00 credit applied to the member's bill in

October for allowing the EMC to cycle the air conditioner and/or water heater during the months of June - September.



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