



Coweta-Fayette



powerlines

SPRING PLANTING SAFETY

Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

Over 40 ft.



Spring is when everyone gets excited about planting trees and flowers. It's optimal planting time to create your landscaping masterpiece.

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help to lower your energy bills.

But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard, especially if it's near a powerline.

If you have any doubts your spring planting might impact your future electric service, please call us at 770-502-0226. We'll be happy to talk

with you about options.

Also, don't forget if any of your planting projects require digging, remember to **dial 8-1-1 first**.

Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water, and electric lines, can be a shovel or post-hole digger away from a major disaster.

Play it safe and dial 8-1-1 to find out where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of

work you'll be doing. They'll notify any potential impacted local utilities at this time.

In a few days, a locator will arrive on your property and designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes or cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you can safely avoid them. Never assume you know where lines might be located. There's no need. 8-1-1 is free and can help you prevent unnecessary interruptions of service or avoid injury.

770-502-0226

WWW.UTILITY.ORG



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NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

While Coweta-Fayette EMC's service territory hasn't experienced extreme weather this winter, some of our sister cooperatives haven't been so lucky.

In January, our crews assisted Habersham EMC, located in north Georgia, after a winter storm swept across their system. After finishing there they continued north to Fredericksburg, VA where they worked at Rappahannock EMC after a snow and ice storm caused major damage to their system.

CFEMC crews included: Jimbo Boone, Jason Edmondson, Thomas Cook, Dell McWaters, Steven Robinson, Austin Clark, Corey Hendrix, Doug Worley, Jake Harrod, and Ben Daniel (not pictured).



In February, CFEMC sent 8 men and 4 truck to Blue Grass Energy in Nicholasville, KY to help out after ice and snow impacted electric service. Pictured from left to right are: Andrew Collins, Brandon Smith, Steven Robinson, Brett Bone, Zack Kent, Adam Warner, Josh Watson, and Jake Kierbow.



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The President's Message

Chris Stephens
CEO

As I've noted before in past columns, the energy industry is changing dramatically as the demand for more renewable energy sources grows.

As you have driven across the state, you may have noticed fields of solar panels owned by CFEMC along with an increase in solar panels on your neighbors' roofs. Maybe you've been hearing more about electric vehicles and seeing the new model options.

Interest in renewable energy is growing. In fact, Coweta-Fayette EMC has been a leader in the renewable energy field for over 20 years. As a founding member of Green Power EMC, we were the first renewable energy provider in the state of Georgia. We produce green power from facilities all over the state that includes solar, landfill gas, hydro, wood waste and wind.

Green energy is certainly not new. Solar, wind and hydro power has been around for decades. However, the recent innovations and advances in renewable technology have led to decreases in costs, making it more feasible and accessible.

While our primary function is to provide reliable and affordable energy to our members, we are more than an electricity provider. Because we are an EMC, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and to serve the long-term interests of our community. We feel we're doing both by investing in renewable energy sources and making them accessible to you.

You've probably seen our *Drive Free For A Year* program. This program is designed for our EV owners. It's also an encouragement for those interested in investigating this technology. If you are a member of CFEMC and purchase a new total electric vehicle, you can receive a monthly rebate equivalent to the amount of electricity a typical driver uses to charge their car for 12 months. If you feel you may qualify, simply go to our website - <https://utility.org/ev/> - and fill out the form. One of our energy services staff members will reach back out to you and get you set up.

You might also be interested in our *Smart Choice Solar* program.

CFEMC wants to make solar easy for all of our members. With *Smart Choice Solar*, you can participate in the community solar project without installing costly equipment at your home. This also allows our members to utilize renewable energy without long-term contracts, the need for permitting or making sure your homeowner's policy doesn't have restrictions. It's also a great way for our members who don't own their homes to participate in renewable energy, as well.

Smart Choice Solar offers CFEMC members a zero-emission, affordable renewable energy solution for their homes and businesses. Members can purchase a portion of the energy output from the Michael C. Whiteside Solar Plant located in Heard County for a monthly fee of \$7 per panel. Each panel generates an average of 55kWh per month. To sign up, simply visit our website at <https://utility.org/smart-choice-solar/>.

Renewable energy use is increasing, but we will continue to rely on multiple forms of energy to keep power flowing reliably to your home. After all, solar and wind energy is referred to as "intermittent" power since the sun does not always shine and the wind does not always blow. CFEMC will continue striving to take advantage of technology advances and market opportunities as they become available to meet the growing demand for renewable energy and to ensure the reliability of your power supply.