



Coweta-Fayette



powerlines

COWETA-FAYETTE EMC PARTNERS WITH COWETA SCHOOLS TO HOST ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SUMMER ADVENTURE

With hopes to provide a fun and educational experience centered around the growing demand of alternative energy options, Coweta-Fayette EMC (CFEMC) partnered with Coweta County School System (CCSS) to host its first-ever Alternative Energy Summer Adventure.

The summer adventure provided a three-day experience for local teachers, specifically in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Held in July, the hands-on program offered dynamic, in-person sessions with valuable insight into the future of green energy, sustainability, and innovation.

"This program has allowed us to grow as educators," said Elizabeth Lozano-Hensley, Newnan High School teacher. "Teachers enjoy being students because when we learn new things, we go back and teach it to our classroom. That's a very valuable experience to us – and to the students – because we're continuing to learn and pass it on!"

More than 30 educators from CCSS representing the following schools participated in the interactive tour, which focused on the rising demand for renewable energy: Arnall Middle School, Blake Bass Middle School, Central Education Center, East Coweta High School, Evans Middle School, Lee Middle School, Madras Middle School, Newnan Crossing Elementary School, Newnan High School, Northgate High School, Poplar Road Elementary School, Smokey Road Middle



Teachers from across the CCSS visited the Michael C. Whiteside Solar Plant as part of the Alternative Energy Summer Adventure.

School, Thomas Crossroads Elementary School, and Welch Elementary School.

During the first two days, teachers hit the road to learn about electric vehicles (EVs), solar energy, sustainability efforts, and battery storage capabilities, while the last day was spent analyzing the SPARK Energy Education Program from Green Power EMC. On the first day of the program, teachers visited the Georgia Tech Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design, Georgia's first-ever Living Building, to learn about how energy efficiency and innovative thinking can transform future generations. They also visited BMW Auto Sales, an (EV) dealership, to learn about sustainability efforts and clean and green energy.

"It was a pleasure to have this opportunity to see the innovative aspects of the world around us, such as the local lumber used at the Kendeda Building or the impact of the environment at the water treatment plant in the public park," said Tim Johnson, Lee Middle School teacher. "I can take that back to my kids and talk about modern Georgia."

While touring on the second day, teachers spent the day learning the importance

of solar energy in STEM education while visiting the Michael C. Whiteside Electric Solar Plant and Camp Southern Ground's Solar Farm. They also learned about green homes, energy efficiency, and geothermal capabilities at the Town of Trilith.

"I teach physical science, so this has given me new material to teach my students about

solar energy and be able to make it fun and interactive!" said Sharon Curtis, Smokey Road Middle School teacher. "I just want to thank Coweta-Fayette EMC for this experience and for giving me another way to impart tangible lessons. I've been teaching for 24 years, so this has helped me stay in the know and understand current topics."

Teachers wrapped up the third day with hands-on experiments from the SPARK Energy Education Program and learning how to incorporate them into future lesson plans before participating in an EV driving experience. Teachers also heard about CFEMC's mission and commitment to green energy initiatives from CEO Chris Stephens.

"The three-day Alternative Energy Summer Adventure provided the opportunity to exchange ideas on renewable energy and sustainability, as well as develop student curriculum focused on the future of energy production," said Jimmy Adams, VP of Energy Services. "This on-going partnership will benefit the students of the Coweta County Schools, as well as all members of Coweta-Fayette EMC."

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A LOOK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
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Switch today for **True** savings!

True Natural Gas, a subsidiary of Coweta-Fayette EMC, is one of Georgia's fastest-growing and least expensive natural gas marketers.

Now is a great time to check your gas rate. If you are on a variable rate, think about locking into a fixed rate plan. Variable rates fluctuate depending on the market and prices usually rise in the fall and winter months when demand increases.

If your house or business uses natural gas only for heat, then you may want to consider being a seasonal customer. Seasonal accounts can be turned off during the summer months to prevent being charged Atlanta Gas Light's base charge, marketer's service fee, and taxes when gas is not being used.

Atlanta Gas Light will charge a re-connect fee when you're ready to turn service back on. Some marketers will impose a fee to disconnect and/or reconnect service on top of Atlanta Gas Light's charge, but True Natural Gas does not.

Being a True Natural Gas customer can also lower electric rates over



time. That's right: True, a for-profit company, returns its dividends to Coweta-Fayette EMC to help keep cooperative members' electric rates low.

According to Consumer Investigator Dale Cardwell, True is the number one choice for natural gas in Georgia. On his business review and consumer advocacy site, TrustDale.com, Cardwell says thorough analysis shows True Natural Gas "at the top of the scale."

For consumers seeking an experienced hometown natural gas company staffed by well-trained professionals committed to providing low prices without gimmicks, True is the best option in Georgia.

To switch service and begin saving money, call 770-502-0226 or visit TrueNaturalGas.com today!



The President's Message

Chris Stephens
CEO

ACE Hardware, State Farm, REI, Land O'Lakes and Coweta-Fayette EMC all share something in common: we're all cooperatives.

We may be in different industries, but we all share a passion for serving our members and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first two cooperative principles.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Just like all co-ops, CFEMC was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1945, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee, any resident could get electricity brought their home. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history may be forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain—the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

Democratic Member Control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. CFEMC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Next month, this newsletter will contain a wrap-up for our 74th Annual Membership Meeting. This is the venue where you exercise your control. While the board election was uncontested this year, you'll still receive an update on the activities and financial strength of CFEMC and our subsidiaries. We're hopeful to return to an in-person format next year.

Our close connection to this community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on members' priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades, and electric vehicle programs.

Coweta-Fayette EMC is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place.

HOW SMARTCHOICE SOLAR WORKS

1 YOU PURCHASE A SHARE OF THE MICHAEL C. WHITESIDE SOLAR PLANT.
By grouping the solar panels together, costs can be shared and power output maximized. Shares cost \$7 per panel, up to 10 panels.

2 THE ENERGY GENERATED IS DISTRIBUTED TO THE POWER GRID.
Each of our 5,472 panels generates around 55 kilowatt hours per month. The energy goes to the grid so it can travel to your home.

3 THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY YOUR PANELS PRODUCE IS SUBTRACTED FROM YOUR TOTAL USAGE.
Your bill will show the amount of energy your panels produce. That number is subtracted from your total energy consumed that month. You pay for the remainder of your bill at the standard rate, plus the cost for your share of panels.

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