October 2021



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



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

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

Teachers from across the CCSS visited the Michael C. Whiteside Solar Plant as part of the

Alternative Energy Summer Adventure.

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 BMVW 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

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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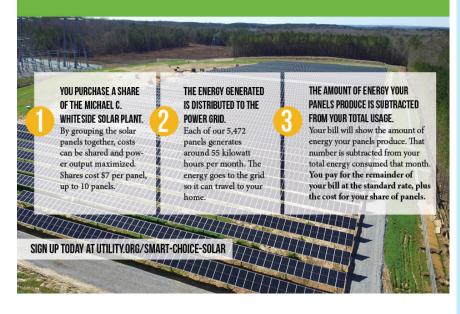
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The President's Message Chris Stephens CEO

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 Coop 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 longterm 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.