



Coweta-Fayette



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COWETA-FAYETTE EMC HOSTS AWARD-WINNING TEACHER TOUR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

Coweta-Fayette EMC (CFEMC) partnered with Coweta County School System, Fayette County School System, and Heard County School System to host the 2nd Annual Alternative Energy Summer Adventure, an award-winning opportunity for local educators.

The fun and educational tour provided a four-day experience for teachers, specifically in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Held from July 11-14, the tour focused on the growing demand of alternative energy options, offering dynamic, in-person lessons with valuable insight into the future of green energy, sustainability, and innovation.

This year, the program offered two days of touring with stops at the Georgia Tech Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, BMW Auto Sales (EV dealership), SMC3, Camp Southern Ground Commercial Solar Array, and the Town at Trilith to learn about electric vehicles, sustainability efforts, and energy efficiency, while the other two days were spent studying classroom curriculum and participating in hands-on lessons from Green Power EMC's SPARK Energy Education Program.

"Partnerships, like this one, between industry and school systems are mutually beneficial. Our teachers learn hands-on how to better prepare our students for the workforce of the future while also allowing students to engage in interesting, real-world challenges," said **Coweta County School System Superintendent Dr. Evan Horton**. "For Coweta-Fayette EMC, the benefit is the creation of a workforce pipeline. Students get to learn about the company in their classrooms and learn the skills necessary to be successful employees at Coweta-Fayette EMC. Education and industry partnerships



Coweta, Fayette and Heard County School System Teachers visited the Mercedes Benz Stadium as part of the Alternative Energy Summer Adventure.

like this one are a win-win!"

"A robust STEM education is becoming more and more important to our economy," said **Dr. Donald White, Director of STEM Education for Coweta Schools**. "STEM coursework challenges students to think critically and come up with their own solutions. As a result, students who receive a quality STEM education are primed to become the next generation of innovators. The goal of CFEMC's program is to bring dynamic STEM education resources to our teachers and their students. It allowed us to kick-start the school year with lots of excitement. CFEMC provides resources to teach the information in an engaging, interactive way, and has become a trusted resource for STEM teachers' positions. By exposing students early, it also ensures we have a well-developed workforce to choose from in the future."

More than 30 local educators participated in the interactive tour, including **Julie Eidson, East Coweta Middle School STEM teacher**, who also joined the tour in 2021. After visiting the Georgia Tech Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design

on the tour last year, Eidson pursued a summer internship with Georgia Tech.

"When I participated in the tour last year, I fell in love with the green energy concepts at the Kendeda Building! I enjoyed it so much that I pursued a summer internship with Georgia Tech through the Georgia Fellowship Internship of Teachers, where I'm designing a lesson plan for my students," said Eidson. "I can't wait to take these lessons back to my classroom and share them with other teachers in Georgia."

In May 2022, CFEMC was honored to receive the 2022 Edgar F. Chesnutt Award for Best Total Communication Program for its first-ever Alternative Energy Summer Adventure, held in 2021. Due to the success of the program last year, CFEMC expanded the tour this year to include teachers from schools in Fayette and Heard County, as well as Coweta County.

Educators from the following schools participated in the 2022 interactive tour, including: Arnall Middle School, Blake Bass Middle School, Bennett's Mill Middle School, Crabapple Lane Elementary School, East Coweta High School, East Coweta Middle School, Fayette County Board of Education, Fayette County High School, Fayetteville Elementary School, Flat Rock Middle School, Heard County High School, Henderson Middle School, Liberty Tech Charter School, McIntosh High School, Rising Starr Middle School, Sandy Creek High School, Spring Hill Elementary School, Whitewater High School, and Whitewater Middle School.

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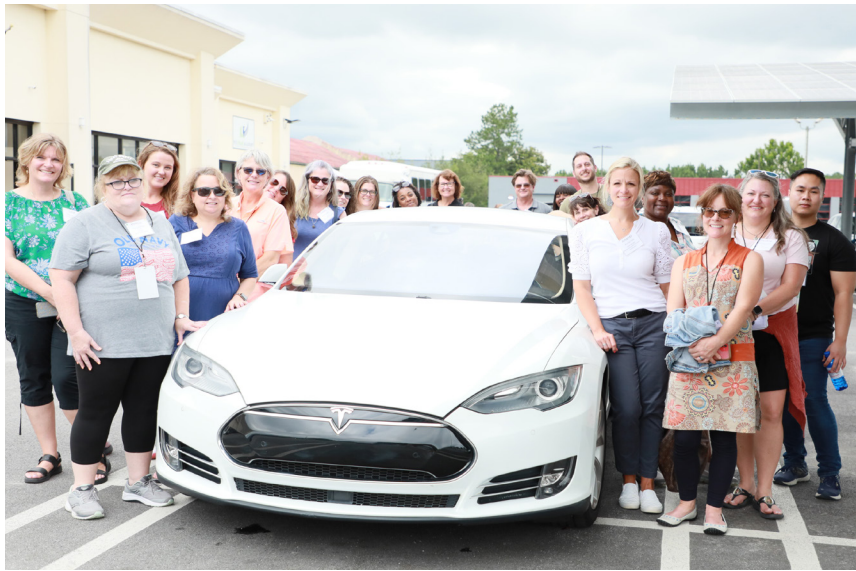
According to **Sarah Thompson, Flat Rock Middle School STEAM Teacher**, the tour allowed her to gain new ideas and appreciate what others are doing to promote sustainability. "I teach the principles of STEAM to approximately 180 kids every 9 weeks. I loved participating in the tour because it really helped me put some relevancy to what I'm doing in the classroom," said Thompson. "Sometimes as educators, we can get wrapped up in our own bubble. It was really inspiring to me, and I got a lot of good ideas that I hope to take back to my classroom."

CFEMC will continue to offer the Alternative Energy Summer Adventure program to encourage educators to learn about the importance and growing demand of alternative energy options.

"The 2022 Alternative Energy Summer Adventure Tour is a great program that many will choose to model. There are many benefits for the teachers, CFEMC, and ultimately the students," said **Chris Stephens, CFEMC President and CEO**.



Pictured above: Coweta, Fayette and Heard County Teachers learn about energy efficiency and sustainability during a tour at the Town at Trilith. **Pictured below:** Teachers from Coweta, Fayette and Heard County Schools visit BMWV Auto Sales (EV dealership) to learn all about electric vehicles.



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The President's Message

Chris Stephens
CEO

Fall is a busy time of year for everyone, and October seems especially so when you think about all the football games, hunting, school activities and community events that take place. But here at Coweta-Fayette EMC, it's even more special. Why? Because it's when we get to celebrate you - our members.

Don't forget on Saturday, October 8th, we'll be holding our 75th Annual Member Appreciation Day and Meeting. After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you.

Our core business is providing you with reliable electric power, but there's a larger mission for cooperatives and that is making our corner of the world a better place. So much so that it's included in our guiding principles. Concern for Community, is basis for the decisions we make. Being a responsible business partner means being a good neighbor.

Coweta-Fayette works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and a board made up of your friends and neighbors who live right here in the community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and are better positioned to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour, scholarships and school events. With your help, we offer Operation Round Up grants to provide assistance to our community's most vulnerable and to the multitude of non-profit organizations working to meet the needs in our community. We also assist area schools and teachers through our Bright Idea Grant program which funds innovative classroom programs and activities.

The word cooperative implies working together toward a common goal. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and board members are invested in this community.

Above all, we put you, our members first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you. That's why my staff works to keep expenses low and we provide you with numerous programs including our free energy audits, to help you accomplish that goal. You can log in to our member portal and monitor your daily energy usage. If you haven't already, I'd urge you to take a look at all of the information you can access and even download our convenient-to-use app. And of course, our friendly, knowledgeable staff is always here to help. So give us a call if you have questions about your energy bill.

Here at Coweta-Fayette EMC, we're continuously looking for ways to operate more efficiently while maintaining a high level of service and reliability you've come to expect and deserve. After all, we're your local electric co-op and we're built by and for the members we serve.