

JANUARY 2024

Coweta-Fayette **EMC**

POWERLINES

Coweta-Fayette EMC awards \$29,953.34 in Bright Ideas Grants to local teachers on behalf of Operation Round-Up

A NEWSLETTER FROM
COWETA-FAYETTE EMC



Pictured above: Kori Perez, Kedron Elementary School teacher, received a Bright Ideas Grant for her science project, "Can you see it now?"

Coweta-Fayette EMC awarded \$29,953.34 in Bright Ideas Grants to 28 deserving teachers across Coweta County Schools, Fayette County Schools, and Heard County Schools.

Local teachers submitted Bright Ideas Grant applications to assist with innovative classroom projects, and 28 were selected as grant recipients. Grants were approved by the Coweta-Fayette Trust Board and funded by Operation Round-Up.

Coweta-Fayette EMC's Operation Round-Up funds Bright Ideas. The pennies you contribute each month to Operation Round-Up benefit those in our local community when combined with the pennies of thousands of other members.

Please help support our local educators by signing up here:
<https://utility.org/operation-round-up-purpose/>.

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Congratulations to the following 2023 Bright Ideas Grant award winners:

Coweta County Schools: Arbor Springs Elementary School – Anna Beth Estabrooks and Staci Culbreth; Blake Bass Middle School – Tina Bouma; Carolyn Barron Montessori School – Charlotte McDonald; Elm Street Elementary School – Elizabeth Rance; East Coweta Middle School – Julie Eidson; East Coweta High School – Elizabeth Richardson and Lisa Redmon; Evans Middle School – Kira Sink and Hunter Lee; Glanton Elementary School – Jessica Anderson; Newnan High School – Carrie DeBilzan and Jamie Rambo; Welch Elementary School – Mary Thompson and Melissa King; Western Elementary School – Emily Taylor; White Oak Elementary School – Allison Morris

Fayette County Schools: Fayette Life Academy – Lisa Owens; Flat Rock Middle School – Sarah Thompson; Kedron Elementary School – Angela Thompson, Ansleigh Baxter and Kori Perez; The Foundry Academy – Allison Thorp and Sandra Wilkes; Peachtree City Elementary School – Brandi Thornton

Heard County Schools: Heard County Elementary School – Camille Prichard and LeAnn Benton; Heard County Middle School – Mallory Treadwell

The 2024 B.I.G. applications will become available in May 2024. For questions, please visit our website at utility.org.



CONTACT US: ☎ 770-502-0226 🌐 WWW.UTILITY.ORG

Youth TOUR



**Applications due by
February 16, 2024.**



SCAN ME



- **LEADERSHIP**
- **NETWORKING**
- **EXPERIENCES**

Experience and tour Washington D.C., meet with state and national leaders, make life-long friendships, and visit major landmarks, museums and monuments!

CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS!

Eligible entrants must be a high school junior who lives and attends school in one of the counties served by Coweta-Fayette EMC. These counties include Clayton, Coweta, Fayette, Heard, Meriwether, Spalding, South Fulton, and Troup.

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The President's Message



Chris Stephens, CEO

As we enter 2024, the energy landscape is changing. Over the past couple of years, we have all witnessed an increase in the cost of living. Groceries, dining out with family, and various other expenses have noticeably increased. At Coweta-Fayette EMC, we are not immune to these challenges, and I want to provide an update on how these changes will impact your electric bills in 2024.

Due to evolving environmental regulations and federal policies, natural gas has become our primary source of power generation. In 2022 and 2023, we were faced with significant changes in fuel cost due to a volatile gas market. Additionally, the prices of materials essential for maintaining and constructing our electric system experienced an increase. Lead times for crucial components like transformers, insulators and bucket trucks have stretched out significantly and risen in cost as well.

Despite these challenges, your Board and our dedicated staff exhibited steadfast leadership. We navigated the storm through strategic decisions, employing an aggressive hedging program and fortifying our purchased power contracts. As a result, CFEMC members benefited from some of the lowest energy prices in Georgia and the United States in 2023. These decisions will continue to help us as we move into 2024.

We had anticipated the impact and budgeted for adding Plant Vogtle Unit 3 in the first quarter of 2023. However, due to unforeseen construction delays in addition to reduced natural gas prices, our overall cost of purchased power was lower than our budget and we passed these savings on to you. In late July, Unit 3 entered commercial operation and began producing power. Unit 4 is expected to be online during the first quarter of 2024. However, with both units online in 2024, our expected cost of purchased power will increase over the actual cost last year.

This is not something CFEMC members are facing alone. Everyone who receives electricity in the state of Georgia is being impacted by these rising costs. Rest assured, we remain committed to structuring our rates equitably to recover costs as a not-for-profit electric membership cooperative. Although nuclear energy increases our overall cost, it is a long-term price-stable source of generation that will provide carbon free energy for 60-80 years. New nuclear also diversifies our fuel mix for generation, which means better reliability for our members.

I want to express our commitment to delivering safe, reliable electricity at affordable costs. Your support and understanding during these challenging times are greatly appreciated. Thank you for being a valued member of Coweta-Fayette EMC.