

current lines

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

In this issue:

Solar Project
page 1

Cooperative
Scholarship
Recipients,
page 2

Operation
Roundup
Grants and
Scholarships,
page 3

Vote Online,
Recipe Box,
page 4

Tri-County EMC to Participate in Solar Project

Tri-County EMC will soon receive energy from one of the largest solar energy projects in Georgia. Tri-County is one of 27 Georgia electric cooperatives that will purchase the output of the planned project for a 25-year period through Green Power EMC, the renewable energy supplier for 38 of Georgia's EMCs.

The ground-mounted solar array will be constructed near Hazlehurst, Ga., in Jeff Davis County, and will be one of the largest solar generating facilities in Georgia. The array will occupy approximately 135 acres—about the size of 102 football fields—and will incorporate over 87,000 solar modules. Once completed, the facility will generate more than 43,000 megawatt hours of clean, renewable electricity annually.

The project is being built by owner-operator Silicon Ranch Corporation, based in Nashville, Tn. Construction is scheduled to begin this year, and the facility will be ready to produce electricity by the end of 2015. According to C. Hill-Bentley, CEO of Tri-County EMC, the 20 MW project will produce enough electricity to serve about 3,000 EMC households. Of that total, Tri-County EMC will own 1 percent of the solar capacity, equaling .2 MW – enough to provide power to about 30 homes. (51728001)

Bentley said the Hazlehurst project is the result of a request for proposals issued in late 2013 to add more solar energy to Green Power EMC's portfolio. The company already purchases the output of two solar projects, a 115 kilowatt rooftop array near Athens, Ga. and a 150 kW ground-mounted array near Warner Robins, Ga. He said the Hazlehurst project will nearly double the total renewable capacity of

Green Power EMC – from the current 32 MW to about 52 MW.



“The addition of one of the largest solar projects in Georgia to our power generation portfolio demonstrates our commitment to help develop the state's renewable resources,” said Bentley. “We are excited to be a part of this major expansion of solar energy in Georgia.”

Silicon Ranch Corporation is a top 15 solar owner-operator in the U.S. and provides customized solar solutions based on the needs of its customers. Silicon Ranch also owns and operates Georgia's largest solar farm in Social Circle, Ga, pictured below.

To learn more about this and other projects from Green Power EMC, visit www.greenpoweremc.com

Greg Mullis, Senior Vice President, stands with a solar array in Social Circle, Ga. Silicon Ranch, the constructor of this array, will also develop the new solar project in Hazlehurst.



2014 Cooperative Scholarship Recipients

Each year, Tri-County EMC awards \$6,000 in scholarship funds through the Cooperative Scholarship. Three students from the Tri-County service area each received a \$2,000 Tri-County EMC Cooperative Scholarship last month. Funds were awarded based on academics, financial need and a demonstrated commitment to the community in which they reside. Recipients were chosen by an independent panel of judges based on anonymous applications. The Tri-County EMC Cooperative Scholarships are funded by House Bill 431, which enabled unclaimed capital credits to fund local education. Congratulations to our scholarship recipients.



Bernadette O'Donnell, District 1

Bernadette O'Donnell of Jones County is a senior at Mount De Sales Academy (MDS). She is member of FCA, Hard Copy Literary Magazine, the MDS News Team, and the National Honor Society. She also runs cross country and track. Bernadette plans to attend Georgia Southern University in the fall.



Laura Wade, District 2

Laura is a senior at Gatewood School in Eatonton and plans to attend the University of Georgia. She is an athlete and has been a member of her school's softball, basketball and soccer teams. Laura is also active in the Anchor Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Student Government Association. After obtaining her degree from UGA, she plans to become a pharmacist.



Justus Wood, District 3

Justus is a student at Georgia College & State University. He is an active member of First Baptist Church in Milledgeville where he volunteers for Vacation Bible School, teaches Sunday School, and preaches quarterly on Sunday evenings. He also participates in Habitat for Humanity. Justus plans to earn a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

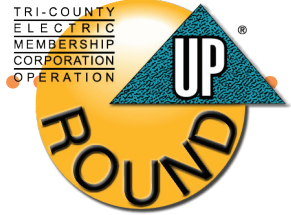
Tri-County EMC is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is C. Hill Bentley, CEO. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible. (80951001)

Did you know?

Lighting accounts for about 13% of the average household's electric bill. Using energy efficient bulbs can help you cut costs.

Foundation Grants \$21,200 in June



Last month, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board approved 11 projects, totaling \$21,200 in Operation Roundup funds, to benefit organizations or individuals in our local community. Applications for 32 projects were submitted requesting more than \$153,000. The organizations that received funds last month are:

Action Ministries: \$1,500 to help house homeless families in transitional homes within the Tri-County service area.

Chard Wray Memorial Food Pantry: \$1,000 to purchase food for a food pantry in Baldwin County.

The GCSU Foundation: \$1,000 to go towards the Potato Drop - an annual event to provide food to those in need in Baldwin County.

Gray United Methodist Church: \$5,000 to purchase materials and supplies for a youth home repair project in Jones and Wilkinson Counties.

Habitat for Humanity of Putnam County: \$2,500 to purchase materials to construct a Habitat home in Putnam County.

Jones County Senior Center: \$1,000 to provide food for a seniors congregate meal program in Jones County.

Plentitude Baptist Church: \$2,500 to prepare a home to accommodate an individual in Jones County who recently suffered a spinal cord injury.

Putnam County 4-H: \$3,200 to assist in the cost of sending low-income students to 4-H camp.

Ronald McDonald House of Central Georgia: \$1,000 to provide nights of stay for families in the Tri-County service area with family members in the hospital.

The Boys and Girls Club of Jones County: \$500 to sponsor youth to attend the after school and summer programs in Jones County.

Crossroads Baptist Church: \$2,000 to help cover medical expenses for an individual with colon cancer in Putnam County.



Habitat for Humanity of Putnam County received a grant for \$2,500 for construction on a home scheduled to be complete this fall.

Did you find your account number?

Find your complete account number in this issue of Current Lines and win a \$50 bill credit. Call 478.986.8126 to claim your credit.

Two students earn scholarships from the Tri-County EMC Foundation

In addition to awarding grants each quarter, the Tri-County EMC Foundation also awards scholarships to two deserving students in the service area twice per year. The scholarships, judged anonymously, are worth \$1,000 and are awarded based on academics, financial need and service to others. Special consideration is given to non-traditional students who are working full or part-time and have returned to school. Congratulations to our recipients!



Chaffin Coley

is a freshman at Georgia Military College. She has a love for volunteering and often visits with widows through her church and acts at a counselor during Vacation Bible School. Her true passion is cooking. After obtaining an Associate's Degree in Business, Chaffin plans to attend culinary school.



Leslie Albrycht

is a graduate student at the University of Georgia. She is an active member of her community and participates in Relay for Life, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and has attended numerous mission trips. With her Master's of Social Work, she plans to work with at-risk youth by working to prevent delinquency, homelessness and poverty.

Save paper, vote electronically

To opt out of paper ballots and vote online only during this year's annual election, visit tri-countyemc.com/voting.da and complete the form or give us a call at 1.866.254.8100. By opting out of paper balloting and choosing to vote online, you will be sent your logon information for the voting website via email. You will not be mailed a paper ballot.

If you have opted out before, there is no need to opt out again unless your email address has changed. In that case, please complete the online form with your updated email address or give us a call. (76849001)

If we do not hear from you before **August 30**, you will automatically receive a voting packet in the mail. In the voting packet, you will have the option to return your paper ballot by mail as in years past, or you can vote online using information provided in your ballot package.

If you have questions regarding online voting, please call us at 1.866.254.8100. Remember that Tri-County EMC is owned by its members, so member participation in the annual election is a crucial part of a successful cooperative.

Vote Online

Step 1

If you'd rather vote online than using a paper ballot in the Board of Directors Election, contact us at 1.866.254.8100 or tri-countyemc.com/voting.da by August 30.

Step 2

At election time, our online voters will receive an email with login and voting information instead of a paper ballot.

Step 3

**Cast your vote by
October 16!**

Recipe Box

Spicy Low Country Okra and Tomatoes Gumbo

Thanks to Fannie Batchelor for sharing this delicious recipe!
Did you know that your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to kimb@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

Ingredients:

3 T. olive oil
1 small onion, chopped
1 15 oz. can diced tomatoes
1 15 oz. can tomato sauce
1 can Rotel tomatoes
2 cups frozen or canned corn kernels
Salt and pepper to taste
1/2 cup cooked diced ham

Directions:

Saute onion in olive oil. Add all the other ingredients and simmer until okra and corn are cooked. If too thick, add water or broth as desired. Season to taste.

Note: Use Rotel to suit your taste; mild, hot, or habaneros



Tri-County
EMC

Owned by Those We Serve

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Monthly Publication for
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