

current lines

A monthly publication for Tri-County EMC members

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Tri-County EMC Joins the EV Movement- Purchases First Electric Car.....

In January, Tri-County EMC purchased the cooperative's first electric vehicle, a Nissan Leaf. The car will be driven primarily by our energy services and communications staff. With a range of 140 miles on a charge, the car is easily capable of being driven across the co-op's service territory or back and forth to district offices without recharging. It is also capable of being driven to Atlanta, recharging for the return trip home while the driver is in a meeting.

"It's an exciting day for our cooperative," commented Ray Grinberg, Tri-County's CEO. "For the past year, we've been working on educational materials and demonstration days to help our members. So now was the right time to put an electric vehicle to work every day for the cooperative. It's fun to drive and a great educational resource for our community but also a great way to save money on fuel."

While gasoline prices are at their lowest in several years, the cost per mile driven for a small to midsize electric sedan is still half that of a similar sized gas powered sedan getting 28 to 30 miles per gallon (mpg). Using mpg-e, a measurement developed by the U.S. Department of Energy to compare EVs to gasoline powered cars, that 28 mpg compares to about 113 mpg-e for the Nissan Leaf.

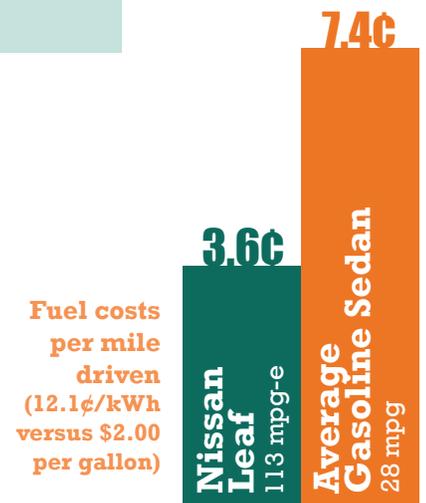
Based on a survey of nearly a thousand Tri-County EMC members, we learned that more than 75% of working commuters travel less than 60 miles round-trip each day. That distance easily fits into the range of every EV in production. It is also well within the ability of the car to recharge overnight in your driveway or garage. (49371001)

To help you find out if an electric vehicle could fit into your garage or your lifestyle, we have resources to help. Our energy auditors can analyze your daily commuting needs and fuel costs to help you better understand just how easily EVs already make sense for you and your budget.



Tri-County EMC's Jonathan Stewart, energy services representative, charges the cooperative's new Nissan Leaf while CEO Ray Grinberg looks on.

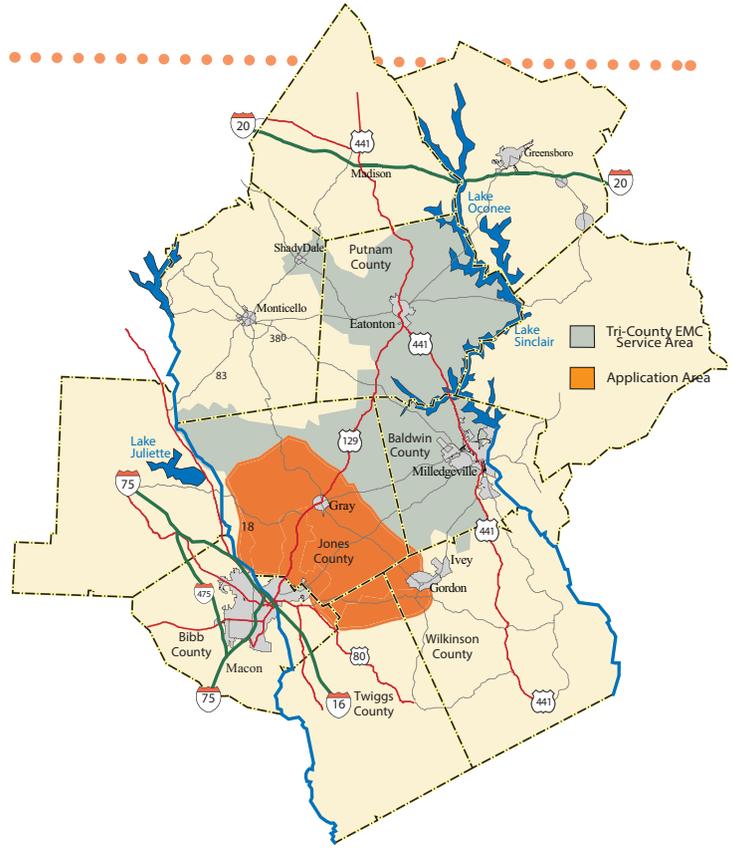
"It's fun to drive and a great educational resource for our community but also a great way to save money on fuel."



Right-of-Way Seasonal Maintenance Begins

Beginning in April, Tri-County EMC will work with NaturChem for herbicide application to keep trees, brush and foliage from interfering with the delivery of your electric service. Overgrown trees and other vegetation within 15 feet of overhead power lines are trimmed year-round. Herbicide is applied in five-year cycles. This year's herbicide application will occur in northern Wilkinson County, northern Twiggs County, and central and southern Jones County. The map to the right shows the general area where the maintenance will occur. For a full list of addresses that will be affected, visit tri-countyemc.com/rightofway.cms. Only non-restrictive, nonresidual chemicals are used. Landscaped areas such as lawns, streams or ponds will not be sprayed. (75334003)

When planting trees this spring, always be sure the width of the foliage of the mature tree will not grow within 15 feet of each side of a power line. It is important to keep trees, limbs and climbing plants away from power lines to prevent outages and power blinks.



Interested in solar energy for your home? Enroll in our Solar. Get the output of a block of solar energy for \$25 per month.

Walter Harrison Scholarship Finalist

Kelsi Schell was named Tri-County EMC's finalist for the Walter Harrison Scholarship. She will go on to compete in the statewide scholarship competition for one of eleven \$1,000 scholarships. Statewide scholarship winners will be announced in April.

Kelsi is a senior at Putnam County High School. She plans to attend the University of North Georgia in the fall and major in psychology. Upon graduation, she plans to be a child psychologist.

For more information on scholarships offered through Tri-County EMC, visit us online at tri-countyemc.com/scholarships-overview.cms. (62642001)



Power Pole Inspections Begin

Beginning this month, Tri-County EMC is contracting with Osmose Utilities to conduct pole inspections in our service area. Proper pole maintenance can reduce unnecessary replacement costs and add many years of durable service life to the power pole. Please be aware of their logo in the photo to the right to be able to recognize them in your area.



Automated Account Tools Save Time

For busy people, time is a valuable commodity. While our customer service representatives are always ready to help, there are times where a faster solution might be right for you. These automated tools help you skip to the head of the line.

Using the App:

Manage your account anywhere and anytime with the mytcemc app. Track usage, check account balances, set alerts, report outages or make payments, all with just a few taps on your smart phone. And while a 2.45% fee is charged on credit card charges, e-check payments are only a \$0.60 fee. Whichever you choose, it's a fast and convenient way to pay your bill. You can find the mytcemc app in the Apple or Android app store.

The Automated Phone System:

Our automated IVR, the voice response phone system, is the fastest way to do business by phone. If your phone number is up to date on your account, the system will recognize you from caller ID, speeding up outage reporting. Making payments is fast with the IVR, too. To pay with an e-check, you will need to have a profile set up. Using either the keypad or voice prompts, you can quickly take care of your account. For your protection, you'll need to enter your account number to check an account balance or make a payment.

Outage Texting:

You can report a power outage simply by texting us. You will need to enroll your account in the system prior to use. You can find all of the details on our website at <https://www.tri-countyemc.com/outagetexting.cms>.



Electric Pickup Trucks are On the Way

For rural EMC members, one of the big knocks on the practicality of electric vehicles has been the absence of an EV pickup truck for hauling loads or pulling trailers around the home or farm. The savings available on fuel costs from driving an EV every day cannot be achieved if there is not a vehicle configured to get the job done. That objection may be going away sooner than later. Rivian, a start-up EV manufacturer, has announced that their R1T will be in production in 2020. Rivian is describing their truck design as an “electric skateboard”, keeping batteries and most of the vehicle’s weight below the wheel height to maximize cargo capacity and maintain a low center of gravity to maximize performance. Amazon recently invested \$700 Million in the upstart’s truck project. In January, Ford confirmed that an electric F-150 is in the works. And Tesla is expected to reveal its electric truck, possibly sometime in 2019.

Electric pickups offer considerable savings on fuel and maintenance over gas-powered trucks for a multitude of commercial applications, from delivery or courier vehicles to construction or agricultural applications. Preliminary range estimates for Rivian’s R1T are as high as 400 miles, also taking range anxiety out of the equation.



Scholarship Applications Due April 15

Cooperative Scholarship

Each spring, Tri-County EMC awards three \$2,000 Cooperative scholarships to students residing within the cooperative's service area. One scholarship is awarded in each of the three Tri-County board districts. Applications are judged by an outside panel of education professionals based equally on academics, financial need and community involvement. (86648001)



Applications may be downloaded at tri-countyemc.com/cooperativescholarship.cms.

Operation Roundup Scholarship

In addition to funding community grants, the Tri-County EMC Foundation offers scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students (with preference given to non-traditional students) to help pay their college costs. Through Operation Roundup, a total of \$4,000 is awarded annually to students residing in the homes of Tri-County EMC members. The applicant must be enrolled in any U.S. accredited college or university and have maintained at least a 2.0 average.



Applications may be downloaded at tri-countyemc.com/roundupscholarship.cms.

Did you find your account number?

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

Recipe Box

Squash Casserole

This recipe was submitted by Fannie Batchelor of Milledgeville. Did you know 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:

- 1 1/2 lbs. yellow squash, cooked, drained
- 1/2 pkg. herb stuffing mix
- 1 small jar chopped pimiento, drained
- 2 medium carrots, grated
- 1 medium onion, chopped fine
- 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 can either cream of mushroom or cream of chicken soup
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- Salt and pepper

Directions:

Sauté onion and carrots in small pan with butter. Add squash and heat. Combine squash mixture with cheese, soup, stuffing and pimiento. Add salt and pepper to taste. Pour into greased casserole dish. Top with additional stuffing. Drizzle with margarine. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.



Tri-County
EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members
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