



Tri-County
EMC

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AUGUST 2024

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20 ANNUAL MEETING & 24 DIRECTORS' ELECTION

Ballots will be sent out by mail or email next month. Complete and return your ballot for a chance to win up to a \$500 bill credit.

CO-OP RECEIVES CLEAN ENERGY FROM NEW NUCLEAR UNIT

Tri-County EMC is now receiving safe, reliable, emission-free nuclear energy from Plant Vogtle Unit 4, the final unit to come online at the nuclear expansion project near Waynesboro, Georgia. Unit 4 reached commercial operation this May, following Unit 3, which went into service in July 2023. These new units will now help power Tri-County EMC members with reliable, clean energy for the next 60 to 80 years.

“Tri-County EMC strives to meet our members’ existing and expanding electricity needs with a diverse portfolio of safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy. Nuclear power represents a vital part of our energy mix as an essential source of around-the-clock clean electricity,” commented CEO Ray Grinberg. “With Plant Vogtle Unit 4 online and operating safely, I am proud that our members’ homes and businesses will be powered by reliable, emission-free nuclear energy for generations to come.”

Nuclear power is considered one of the most reliable energy sources. Now in service, Unit 4 can generate emission-free electricity at full power 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Plant Vogtle Units 1 and 2 have been providing safe, clean energy for Georgians for more than three decades. Among the largest clean energy projects in the nation, with Unit 4 in service, Plant Vogtle is now the largest generator of clean energy in the United States. The completion of the Vogtle expansion project represents a historic achievement as the first advanced commercial nuclear project in the nation in more than 30 years. (200209001)

2024 WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR RECAP



Delegates Delaney Johnston & Nichole Botsoe touring D.C.

On June 15, 112 delegates representing EMCs across the state set off for the 2024 Washington Youth Tour, a fast-paced, week-long leadership adventure in our nation's capitol. Among the Georgia delegates who attended this year's Youth Tour were Tri-County EMC representatives Nichole Botsoe of Jones County and Delaney Johnston of Baldwin County. Selected from a competitive pool of diverse and talented applicants in February 2024, both Nichole and Delaney expressed their gratitude for being chosen. "Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to attend the Washington Youth Tour," commented Nichole. "I learned to be a leader in numerous ways, and I am grateful for the experience!"

While in D.C., stops included Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Capitol, National Archives, Supreme Court, Library of Congress, Smithsonian Museums, and Kennedy Center. The students also toured the revered Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR, MLK, WWII, Vietnam, and Korean War Memorials. The group had dinner aboard the

Cherry Blossom Riverboat, which included sites of historic D.C., and ended with a lot of dancing. "I loved visiting Mount Vernon," commented Delaney when asked about her favorite part of the trip. "I am really into architecture and history, so I thought the experience at Mount Vernon was really cool and beautiful to see."



In addition to taking in the sights of the nation's capitol, students gained perspective on some of today's important issues and their role as involved citizens. Everyone had the opportunity to attend a congressional town hall meeting and visit with Senators Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff. (103272001)



Nearly 50,000 students across America have participated in the Washington Youth Tour since its establishment in 1965. Alumni have gone on to design airplanes, lead companies, and serve in the highest government ranks, including the U.S. Senate. "Tri-County EMC is a proud supporter of the unique, once-in-a-lifetime experience that is the Washington Youth Tour," said Communications Specialist Anna Smith. "Natural leaders with servant hearts, Nichole and Delaney were the perfect fit for this opportunity. I have no doubt that with the knowledge they gained while in D.C., they will continue to positively impact their communities." The 2025 Washington Youth Tour application will open later this year. Find more information at tri-countyemc.com/washington-youth-tour.

ENERGY SURVEY COMING THIS FALL



QUICK SURVEY

To manage our future energy needs, Tri-County EMC is conducting a residential Home Energy Survey. The purpose of this survey is to get an up-to-date picture of how Tri-County members are using energy in their homes. The survey contains questions on the type of appliances in your home, including heating, cooling, water heating, lighting, and other home energy uses. Your participation is essential as only a limited number of members will be selected. In the next few months, you may receive an email asking you to participate. Please consider completing the survey. Thank you in advance for your participation.

ACCOUNT NUMBER

Three random account numbers are hidden in this issue of Current Lines. Find your COMPLETE account number inside parentheses for a \$50 bill credit. Call 478.986.8126 to claim your credit.

LOCAL STUDENT ATTENDS YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Samuel Brimberry, an upcoming junior at Jasper County High School in Monticello, represented Tri-County EMC at the Georgia Cooperative Council's 2024 Youth Leadership Conference, held July 8-12 at the Georgia FFA/FCCLA Center in Covington. The conference's mission is to educate students about cooperatives, build their leadership skills, and promote teamwork through a series of activities, trainings, and presentations. To kick off the five-day conference, students engaged in personality assessments and the "Co-ops 101" program in which speakers discussed the cooperative way of business, including history, organization, member benefits, and current issues. Students also heard presentations from Georgia EMC, Go Energy Credit Union, Walton EMC, and many more. Other fun highlights of the conference included a high ropes course, mud obstacle course, pizza party, and slip and slide. To conclude the conference, students visited a local farm where they learned the daily tasks associated with maintaining dairy cattle. If you know a student interested in attending the 2025 conference, encourage him or her to apply next year at tri-countyemc.com/cooperative-youth-leadership-conference.



A MESSAGE FROM TRI-COUNTY EMC AND TRI-COGO

Power and fiber lines often serve as roosting spots for doves. Firing at these lines could result in lengthy power and internet outages and costly repairs. This hunting season, we urge you to think before you shoot.

Happy Hunting!



AVOID
FINES &
DON'T
SHOOT
THE
LINES



RECIPE BOX

SUMMER WATERMELON FETA SALAD W/ HIBISCUS VINAIGRETTE

Courtesy of Georgia Grown

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 cups arugula (1 7-oz bag)
- 1 cup diced watermelon
- ¼ cup crumbled Feta
- 2 tbsp pumpkin seeds

DRESSING

- 2 tbsp Pride Road Hibiscus Jelly
- 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2 tbsp pumpkin seed oil or olive oil
- ¼ cup thinly sliced Vidalia onions
- Salt and pepper

DIRECTIONS:

In a small bowl, whisk together hibiscus jelly, vinegar, and lemon juice. Gradually whisk in the oil. Add the onions, toss to coat with the dressing, and let them soften for 10 minutes. Fish out the onions with a fork and set aside. Season dressing with salt and pepper. Add more oil if desired. To serve: Toss arugula with some of the dressing in a large bowl. Transfer to a serving bowl and top with watermelon, feta, pumpkin seeds, and marinated onions.



Did you know your recipe is worth \$20 if chosen? Send your best recipes to annas@tri-countyemc.com or mail to P.O. Box 487, Gray, GA 31032.

BRIGHT IDEAS GRANT APPLICATION NOW OPEN

Welcome back, teachers!

It's that time of year again! We hate to see summer vacation come to an end. But as always, we are excited to see what is in store for the 2024-2025 school year. Through the Bright Ideas program, Tri-County EMC annually awards grants to teachers to improve education in local classrooms through innovative projects. Since 2008, the program has funded over \$400,000 in grants to support projects in schools throughout Tri-County's service area.



Funds come from unclaimed capital credits that, if not used, would have been surrendered to the state. "Tri-County EMC believes that community growth begins with a strong foundation of youth education," says Anna Smith, Communications Specialist at Tri-County EMC. "The Bright Ideas program was established to support teacher projects and initiatives that may not otherwise be funded." (84859001)

Georgia certified public or private school teachers in grades Pre-K through 12th grade in Baldwin, Jones, Putnam, Jasper, Twiggs, and Wilkinson counties qualify. Individual projects can be funded up to \$1,500. Teachers are limited to one grant proposal per round of funding. Judged by a panel of retired educators, grants are awarded based on innovation, goals, learning objectives, student involvement, and budget. Funds must be used within 18 months of the issue date.

Fill out a Bright Ideas grant application online at tri-countyemc.com/bright-ideas.cms. Applications must be completed and submitted by October 1.

Powering your bright Idea



Tri-County EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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CURRENT LINES

Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members

Tri-County EMC is an equal opportunity provider and employer