



Tri-County
EMC

CURRENT LINES

JULY 2023

THIS MONTH'S NEWS

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CONSIDERING ROOFTOP SOLAR?

Motivated by potential monthly savings, many homeowners are considering adding rooftop solar. Through the solar panels installed on the roof of the home, energy is generated from the sun to produce electricity. If solar panel output exceeds usage in the home, the excess energy is transferred to the cooperative's distribution system and purchased by Tri-County EMC at the net metering rate of \$0.0454. The net metering rate is set each year at Tri-County's avoided cost rate.

While there are benefits to generating your own power, there are many factors that determine whether or not your home is a good fit for rooftop panels. Shading, structural integrity, orientation, and roof obstructions are just some components that should be examined when thinking about going solar. A typical rooftop solar installation can range anywhere from \$15,000 to \$60,000 and according to Green Power EMC, Tri-County EMC's renewable energy supplier, the average investment payback period is 12.6 years.

There has been an influx of solar installation companies that are often seen going door-to-door making sales pitches to interested parties. Many of these companies are reputable, but it's important to be aware of the scams threatening our service area. Georgia lawmakers have recently passed solar regulation to help protect homeowners from fraudulent sellers. Senate Bill 149, the Georgia Door-to-Door Sales Act, requires sellers to furnish all receipts and contracts and allows buyers the right to cancel the sale within 30 business days. Solarreviews.com is a great resource for comparing different solar installation companies based on your location.

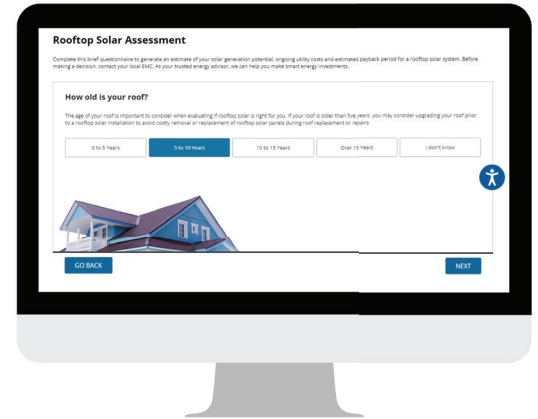
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CONSIDERING ROOFTOP SOLAR?

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As your trusted energy advisor, Tri-County EMC can help you make smart energy investments, including right-sizing a rooftop solar installation to best meet your needs, goals, and financial objectives. At tri-countyemc.com you will find multiple resources to aid your decision-making process, such as the Rooftop Solar Assessment Tool (RSAT). The RSAT, shown on the right, is a short questionnaire designed to generate an estimate of your home's solar generation potential, ongoing utility costs, and estimated payback period for a rooftop solar system.

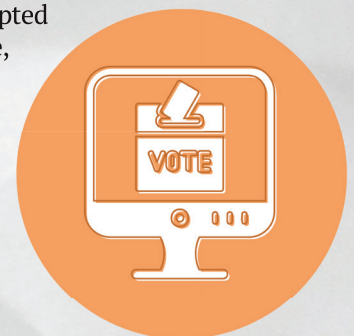
Even if rooftop solar panels are not the best option for your home, solar generation is still possible through Tri-County EMC's cooperative solar program, ourSolar. For \$25 a month for each 1.22 kW block, you will have all the energy generated by your block credited against the normal usage on that month's electric bill. Each block should generate approximately 160 to 250 kWh per month. Best of all, there is nothing to install or finance and no contract. If you are interested in solar generation, call and speak with a Tri-County EMC representative to better understand your electricity usage and make the best energy decision for your home.

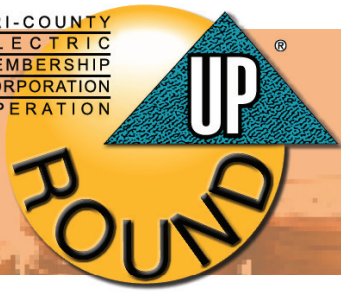


SAVE PAPER, VOTE ONLINE.

If you wish to opt out of receiving a paper ballot and want to vote online during this year's annual election, complete the online form at www.tricountyemc.com/voting.cms 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 login 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. If we do not hear from you before August 30, you will automatically receive a voting packet in the mail this fall. 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 and member participation in the annual election is a crucial part of a successful cooperative. (63186001)





TRI-COUNTY EMC FOUNDATION GRANTS \$11,790 IN JUNE

On June 13, the Tri-County EMC Foundation Board met to consider applications from 14 organizations to receive an Operation Roundup Grant. Seven projects were funded for a total of \$11,790. The Operation Roundup program is made possible through the generosity of our members who elect to have their bill rounded up each month.

BALDWIN CO EARLY LEARNING CENTER:

\$750 to purchase clothing items for children enrolled in the Early Learning Center.

NEW CITY EAST SIDE:

\$500 to help cover the cost of school supplies, underclothing, socks, and food items to distribute at the 2nd Annual Back-to-School Bash.

RESCUE MISSION OF MIDDLE GA:

\$2,500 to purchase beds and mattresses to accommodate children living with mothers in the Life-Recovery Program.

VELMA MCFADDEN WOMEN MISSIONARY FOOD BANK:

\$2,790 to purchase a six month supply of food for the pantry.

BURN FOUNDATION OF AMERICA, INC:

\$1,500 to support burn patient recovery.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS GA:

\$1,250 to help cover the expenses of 23 athletes in the State Competition and receive free healthcare screenings and wellness education.

MANUP MENTORING:

\$2,500 to help fund two college tours and other aspects of the mentoring program.



Operation Roundup Grants in Action

Last June the Foundation Board approved a \$3,000 grant to Ferst Readers, Inc. for a project to increase literacy in the Tri-County EMC service area. Ferst Readers, Inc. reported that the funding they received allowed them to distribute age-appropriate books and parent newsletters in English and Spanish to 75 local children and families for twelve months. (82907002)





RECIPE BOX

FRESH BLUEBERRY TORTE

Courtesy of Ms. Lynn Hobbs of Eatonton

INGREDIENTS & DIRECTIONS

Cake:

- 1 box Duncan Hines Butter Golden Cake Mix

Prepare and bake cake according to directions on box, using 4 round pans.

Sauce:

- 1 pint fresh blueberries, washed
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 tbsp corn starch
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1 cup water

Stir over stove burner in a saucepan until boiling, sugar dissolves, and mixture begins to thicken. Let cool completely.

Filling:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 8 oz Cool Whip, thawed
- 1/5 cup granulated sugar

Combine in a mixing bowl until smooth.

ASSEMBLY:

Place one cooled cake layer on a plate, spread cream-cheese filling only over the top of the cake layer, and then spoon blueberry sauce over it, completely covering the filling. Repeat with the other cake layers, allowing blueberry sauce to drip down sides of cake. Store covered in refrigerator.

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

TRI-COUNTY EMC SPONSORS TRAINING FOR LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

On June 10, Tri-County EMC was one of four organizations to sponsor the Lithium-Ion Battery Fires Response course hosted by the Gray Fire Department. During the course, firefighters from Jones, Baldwin, and surrounding counties were trained on the fire hazards associated with batteries found in electric vehicles and how to provide better assistance to the community in the event of an emergency.



Tri-County EMC Energy Services Representative, Jonathan Stewart (pictured right), gave a brief presentation on battery pack location and access, water suppression, and the disconnect loop on the Tesla Model 3. "With the rise of gas prices the number of electric vehicles being purchased has grown drastically in the last several years," says Stewart. "We believe EVs are here to stay and while they are less likely to catch fire than gas-powered vehicles, it's important that our first responders know how to safely engage in an emergency situation." (75825001)

If you're thinking about purchasing an electric vehicle, visit tri-countyemc.com for more information about EV function, benefits, and incentives.

ACCOUNT NUMBER

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



Tri-County EMC

Owned By Those We Serve

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www.tri-countyemc.com

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Monthly Publication for
Tri-County EMC Members