



Under the Golden Dome—Policy Update

The Georgia legislature is considering a bill that would include utility workers in Georgia's "Move Over Law", which requires drivers to move over and slow down when passing emergency personnel and construction workers. We are thankful to **Rep. Jay Powell**, **Rep. Darlene Taylor**, **Rep. Sam Watson**, and **Rep. Amy Carter**, our delegation in the Georgia House of Representatives, for their support of this important legislation. The bill has passed the House and is now awaiting action in the Georgia Senate.

Another important issue that will have an impact on your utility bill is legal action on the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's "Clean Power Plan". The plan has been challenged in federal court by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association as an overreach of what the Agency is authorized to do. The "Clean Power Plan" would force cooperatives to close power plants, which are producing affordable electricity for our members who were counting on them for decades to come. Our members would be saddled with higher energy bills as a result of this regulation. On February 9, the U.S. Supreme Court stopped the implementation of the plan until all legal challenges are resolved.



Notifying Georgia 811 before you do any mechanized digging is important for many reasons: your safety, and the safety of those near your digging project; preventing environmental damage and utility service interruptions; and, avoiding project delays, expensive repairs and legal problems. In Georgia, it's the law! For safety's sake, it's always best to notify Georgia 811 about any digging project you may have - even if your project is small.

Examples of homeowner digging projects include landscaping, fence installation, anchoring supports for decks and swing sets, planting trees, driving landscaping stakes into the ground, and installing a retainer wall.

2015 Capital Credits Retirements— In 2015, Grady EMC retired \$ 425,027.05 in patronage capital (capital credits) to eligible estates of Grady EMC members.

Grady EMC refunds Capital Credits to qualified applicants of deceased members. If you would like more information on Estate Refunds, please contact Customer Service at 229-377-4182, who will gladly assist you with this process. Under the bylaws of your cooperative, each dollar of payment by a member in excess of the cost of providing electric services is an investment in the cooperative by the member. Capital credits are used by your cooperative for the expansion of the plant and facilities. It is, in effect, invested in poles, wire, transformers, substations and other property owned by the cooperative. The use of capital credits helps lower the cooperative's needs for borrowed funds and reduces the overall indebtedness of the cooperative.



Grady EMC crew preparing to head north to assist Sawnee EMC in their restoration efforts after Winter Storm Jonas.

GRADY E.M.C. NEWS

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Aerial view of the new solar generating facility near Hazlehurst, Georgia.

Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Hazlehurst solar facility



Through our partnership with Green Power EMC, Grady EMC members are benefitting from multiple renewable energy generation plants producing a total renewable generating capacity of approximately 52 megawatts. Since its creation in 2001, Green Power EMC has brought online three landfill generating sites, a low-impact hydroelectric facility, a biomass plant that turns wood waste into electricity, and four solar facilities.

Recently, a new 20-megawatt solar facility in southeast Georgia near Hazlehurst was brought online. The new Hazlehurst solar facility is one of the largest energy projects in Georgia, sitting on 270 acres. The 87,000 ground mounted solar panels sit on 135 acres with another 135 acres of land to be preserved. It will produce enough electricity to serve about 4,000 homes in Georgia.

Another potential renewable energy source Grady EMC is actively researching is cooperative solar. Cooperative Solar would provide our members with the opportunity to purchase solar power generated at an off-site solar facility. This would allow members access to solar power regardless of the location of your home or whether you own or rent.

RENEWABLE ENERGY CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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Grady EMC congratulates Rebecca Jane White, a 2015 Grady EMC Washington Youth Tour representative, for her appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy!



**Don't forget to
"spring ahead" and
set your clocks
forward on Sunday,
March 13th!**

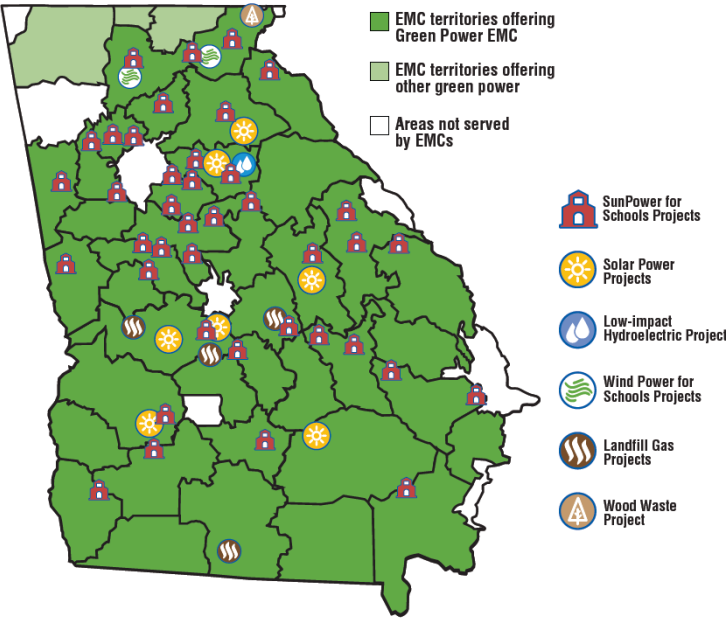
RENEWABLE ENERGY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As a cooperative solar subscriber, you would receive clean, renewable solar energy directly from Grady EMC's portfolio of solar energy without the hassle and expense of installation and maintenance. It would provide access for members with homes that are shaded or are part of a homeowners association with strict covenants that prevent rooftop panels.

Cooperative solar is a potential use of property that Grady EMC has purchased north of our office in Cairo.

Grady EMC is constantly exploring new renewable energy opportunities as we continue our quest to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy for our members.

GREEN POWER EMC MEMBERS RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS



For more information on Green Power EMC, check out their website at GreenPowerEMC.com.

March 4—Washington Youth Tour applications due

March 13—Daylight Savings Time begins

March 27—Easter Sunday

Dates of Interest

April 18 —Lineman Appreciation Day

May 8—Mother's Day

May 30—Memorial Day, Grady EMC office will be closed.

Home Energy Check-up

Use this checklist to examine your home's energy checkpoints & identify potential problems. Once you've completed the analysis, contact Grady EMC if you have any questions about improving your home's energy efficiency or scheduling a comprehensive energy check-up.

BIG TICKET ITEMS

Heating & Cooling Systems

- Is the ductwork airtight with no leaks?
- Are the ductwork joints connected?
- Are the ducts foil wrapped?
- Is flexible ductwork unrestricted?
- Has your filter been changed in the last month?
- Is your outdoor unit free of objects that can hamper air flow?
- Has your heating and cooling system been inspected by a licensed HVAC contractor in the last six months?

Water Heaters

- Is the water heater free of leaks?
- Is it wrapped with an insulating jacket?
- Is the temperature set no higher than 125 degrees?
- Are the water lines free of leaks?
- Are the water lines properly insulated?

THE THERMAL ENVELOPE

Attic

- Is blown-in insulation at least 12-14" deep?
- Is batt insulation at least 10" deep?
- Is blown insulation evenly spread, covering the ceiling joists?
- Is insulation compressed by storage items?
- Does roof structure have both low and high ventilation?

Living Area

- Do you have double-paned or storm windows?
- Are gaps and crevices around windows and doors sealed with caulk?
- Does your fireplace have glass doors?
- Is the damper closed when fireplace is not in use?
- Is the floor insulated?
- Does the floor insulation have the vapor barrier (paper side) facing in?
- Do you have foam gaskets behind light switches and electrical outlets?
- Have you sealed holes around pipes in the kitchen and bathrooms?

The board, management and employees of Grady EMC appreciate hearing your thoughts and concerns regarding your EMC. Input from our members plays a vital part in improving our service and helps us achieve our mission of providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to Grady, Thomas and Decatur counties!