

## Coastal Electric members to receive almost \$1.5 million in capital credits

If you were a Coastal Electric Cooperative member at any point from 2002-2004, the cooperative wants to give you money back.

In fact, this month, Coastal Electric will retire almost \$1.5 million in capital credits to members who received service in 2002, 2003 and 2004.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Coastal Electric operates differently from other businesses. One special practice of the co-op business model is retiring capital credits.

When member revenues exceed costs, those margins become the member's equity in the cooperative. When the financial strength of the cooperative allows, the board of directors can order the return of a portion of that equity.

Those who pay bills to Coastal Electric are more than customers—they are members. Coastal Electric has no need to generate profits, so members' electric bills collectively cover what is needed to supply power to their homes and businesses, from generating the power at plants and buying lines and poles that deliver electricity to maintaining equipment to keep service reliable and compensating employees who make it all happen.

When the co-op's elected board of directors determines it is financially feasible, Coastal Electric retires excess margins back to members who have paid their electric bills.

Checks will be mailed in

December to everyone receiving a refund of more than \$25. Amounts less than \$25 will be delivered in the form of bill credits.

To date, Coastal Electric Cooperative has retired more than \$11.5 million in capital credits to members.

Inactive or former members who no longer purchase electricity from Coastal Electric (but who purchased electricity during the years being retired) receive capital credits checks, too. So if you ever move off the Coastal Electric system, be sure to keep your address up to date in the co-op's records so you can receive capital credits when the time comes.

For more information on capital credits, visit [www.CoastalElectric.Coop/capital-credits](http://www.CoastalElectric.Coop/capital-credits).

## You get the credit

### How you get money back over time

As a not-for-profit cooperative, Coastal Electric operates differently from other businesses. One special practice of the co-op business model is retiring capital credits. Capital credits are allocated based on how much electricity you use in a given year.



Revenues



Expenses



Co-op margins

Capital Credits



### Co-op margins

When member revenues exceed costs, those margins become a member's equity in the cooperative. When the financial strength of the cooperative allows, the board of directors can order the return of a portion of that equity.

# Local school staff pave the way for bright futures

Thanks to the generosity of Coastal Electric Cooperative members, local teachers recently received \$40,000 in Bright Ideas grants to fund their innovative project ideas.

Funding for Bright Ideas grants comes from Coastal Electric members who allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar through Operation Round Up. Those nickels and dimes are pooled together and invested back into the community through the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation.

Since the Bright Ideas program's inception in 2002, close to \$450,000 has been awarded to give local teachers the power to put their creative teaching ideas into action.



Stefanie Whiten stands in the Richmond Hill High School TV studio with her \$1,993 Bright Ideas grant. Her project, Livestream Multi-Camera Production, will allow more students to take part in livestream productions, further preparing them for careers in film and TV. The school's Audio, Video, Tech and Film program livestreams football games, theater performances and other events for community viewing.

In addition, the foundation presented \$1,000 checks to 24 principals in Bryan, Liberty and McIntosh counties to be donated to their Principals Funds, with the intention the monies would be

used to meet students' and teachers' needs throughout the school year.

"These children are our future and most valuable resource," says Coastal Electric Cooperative CEO Chris Fettes, who presented donations on behalf of the Foundation. "We are here to support the dedicated people who work hard every day to provide a top-notch education and enhance our students' quality of life."

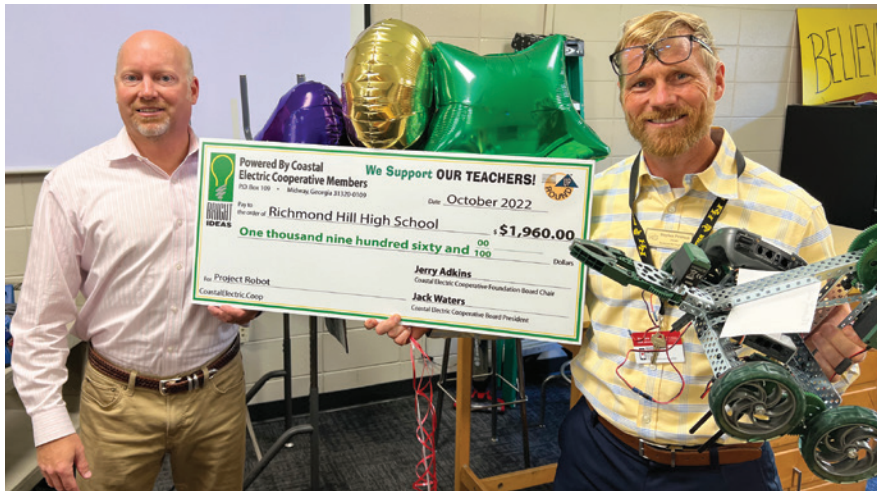
With eight winners, Richmond Hill Middle School received the most Bright Ideas grants of any one school this year. Among the winners was Lisa Tuttle's \$1,940 grant project, Exploring Energy Alternatives, which will allow students to investigate using alternative sources to power neighborhoods and then build a model of their community; and Andrew Robertson's \$1,007.86 project, The Effect of Color, which will allow students to research the effects different colors of lighting have on mood, attention and creativity.

Robert Todd at McIntosh County Academy (MCA) won a \$1,805.26 grant



Coastal Electric Cooperative CEO Chris Fettes presents a Bright Ideas grant to Lewis Frasier Middle School teacher Jeremy Meadows and Principal Torri Jackson, PhD, for *Meta Today, the Future ... NOW!!!* The grant will purchase virtual reality equipment, opening doors to learning possibilities beyond classroom walls—apps to explore the inner workings of the human body, geothermal vents and ocean depths, other cultures for social studies and engineering applications, to name a few.





**Coastal Electric Cooperative CEO Chris Fettes presents a Bright Ideas grant to Richmond Hill High School's Stephen Peterson for Project Robot. Grant funding will provide equipment needed for student teams to design robots and compete in advanced robotics competitions.**

to fund his project, Outdoor Classroom Dock with Fish Feeder. The project will enhance the outdoor classroom area, providing easier access to students studying water qualities and Georgia aquatic species. The project will also provide space for demonstrations of vessel/dock and marine water safety, which like the study of ecosystems, are major elements of the Commercial Fisheries Pathway curriculum at MCA. The project will help prepare students for occupations in commercial fisheries (one of the community's two biggest economic industries), along with possible opportunities with the Coast Guard, U.S. Department of Natural Resources and local/state extension agencies.

McAllister Elementary School's Sarah Chancey won a \$763.32 grant to fund her project, 3D Solutions, which will allow students to 3D-print designs they make in a science unit that focuses on erosion. As a culminating activity, students will design solutions to ease coastal erosion. By designing these prototypes, students become real-world problem solvers and can become part of something that can actually make a difference in the lives around them.

Tiffany Leon-Peterson won a \$1,894.83 Bright Ideas grant to fund her project, BOOST My Mindstorm. The project will allow Taylors Creek

Elementary School students learning English as their second language to develop in the content area of computer science through robotics, coding and problem-solving. Students will also enhance their English listening, speaking, reading and writing skills.

At the Bradwell Institute, Ashley Johnston won a \$913.70 Bright Ideas

grant for students to build a working, large-scale Roman aqueduct. Students will measure and construct the aqueduct, which will use gravity to allow water to flow into three cisterns that would, in turn, feed three areas of ancient Rome: fountains, public baths and plumbing for wealthy homeowners. The final product will measure approximately 30 feet long, 5 feet wide and 3.5 feet tall.

Joseph Martin Elementary School's Sarah Trawick won a \$1,985.83 grant for her project idea, 5th Grade's ExCELLent Museum. Students will explore the school campus to collect plant, insect and animal samples that they will use to create microscope slides. Students will then work in small groups and use the microscopes to study cells of their samples. The project will culminate with students researching an organism for which they have a cell sample and creating a corresponding art project of the cell they observed for a museum walk-through event.

To learn more about this year's Bright Ideas grant winners, connect with Coastal Electric on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



**Taylor's Creek Elementary Principal Kenyatta Gilmore accepts a \$1,000 donation to the school's principal's fund from Coastal Electric Cooperative CEO Chris Fettes. Local principals use funds in a variety of ways to help meet the unique needs of students and staff.**



# Working Together for A Brighter Future!



Coastal Electric Cooperative is working continuously to make this the brightest of seasons. From energy saving tips to programs that benefit our community, we are helping ensure the spirit of the season lasts all year long.

*Merry Christmas*  
and the happiest of holidays  
to you and your family!



(800) 421-2343

[CoastalElectric.coop](http://CoastalElectric.coop)



Coastal Electric will be closed for the  
holidays Dec. 23 and Dec. 26, and Jan. 2, 2023.