

## Coastal Electric members help bring new life to storm-damaged Bryan County

**A**fter an EF4 tornado destroyed hundreds of trees in north Bryan County, the tree canopy is being restored, thanks to a \$25,000 grant made possible by the generosity of Coastal Electric Cooperative members.

The powerful tornado with winds of 185 miles per hour that swept through north Bryan County on April 15 was the strongest to strike the United States in 2022. The deadly twister stayed on the ground for 14 minutes—taking a life, injuring 12 more, and destroying many homes and hundreds of trees. In response, the Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation launched an ambitious campaign to replace lost trees in the areas affected by the storm.

In July 2022, the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation donated \$25,000 to the Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation to purchase and plant new trees at Hendrix Park, near the Bryan County Courthouse and in Ellabell's Park Place Community. Phase I of the restoration project has now been completed.

The grant will go much further than just providing for the purchase of new trees. It also enables Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation volunteers to collaborate with local arborists and landscape engineers to craft a sustainable plan for the landscape design and planting that will prove most beneficial to the space and to the health of the trees far into the future.

New trees have already been planted near water features at Hendrix Park, and more will be planted near



the Bryan County Courthouse when construction to repair storm damage is complete. The Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation plans to facilitate a tree giveaway in the residential Park Place Community, which was largely destroyed by the tornado and left many slab foundations swept clean of their homes.

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

Cooperative Foundation.

The Coastal Bryan County Tree Foundation began in 2001 as a volunteer outreach of the Richmond Hill-Bryan County Chamber of Commerce. Today, the foundation is an environmental education nonprofit with a focus on restoring canopy shade trees to the community. Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation volunteers have planted and cared for more than 2,000 trees in parks, schools, and other public and residential areas. Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation also monitors the health of the newly planted trees.

To find out how you can help the Coastal Bryan Tree Foundation, visit [www.CoastalBryanTreeFoundation.org](http://www.CoastalBryanTreeFoundation.org) or find them on Facebook.

# It's scholarship season!

Don't miss these opportunities to fund your future!

Visit [www.CoastalElectric.Coop/scholarships](http://www.CoastalElectric.Coop/scholarships) for more info and to apply.



## Walter Harrison Scholarship

**Deadline:** Feb. 10

**Purpose:** One-time \$1,000 scholarships for undergraduate studies

**Eligibility:** Residents of south Bryan, Liberty and McIntosh counties who are graduating seniors, college students or adult students returning to school are eligible to apply. The recipient's primary residence must be the household of a Coastal Electric Cooperative member or employee.



## Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation Academic Scholarship

**Deadline:** March 31

**Purpose:** \$5,000 renewable scholarships for undergraduate studies

**Eligibility:** Graduating high school seniors who are residents of Liberty, Long, McIntosh and south Bryan counties are eligible to apply.



## Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation Technical College Scholarship

**Deadline:** May 1 for summer semester, July 15 for fall semester and Dec. 5 for spring semester

**Purpose:** Renewable scholarship amounts determined by number of credit hours for the next semester enrolled in technical college or lineman school

**Eligibility:** Scholarships are available to students of all ages pursuing a diploma, degree or certificate program from any of Georgia's technical colleges or recognized lineman schools. Applicants must have a home mailing address within Liberty, Long, McIntosh or south Bryan counties.



Educational opportunities like these are funded by Georgia's electric cooperatives and by Coastal Electric Cooperative members who want to invest in local students because they see the value they bring to the community. Funding for foundation scholarships comes from Coastal Electric Cooperative members who allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar through the Operation Round Up program. Those nickels and dimes are pooled together and invested back into the community through the Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation.



# Coastal Electric's workplace safety saves lives and money

Coastal Electric Cooperative was recently recognized for nine consecutive years without any employee missing work due to an injury in the workplace or in the field—an impressive accomplishment, given the complexity and inherent dangers of the electricity industry.

“Our business inevitably involves risk,” says James Thomas, training and safety coordinator at Coastal Electric. “We strive every day to minimize these dangers by investing time and attention to safety measures and careful work practices.”

To acknowledge the co-op's robust safety program, Coastal Electric received a No Lost-Time Award during a Georgia EMC Annual Meeting for electric co-ops on Nov. 7, 2022, in Savannah.

Nationally, electrical linemen suffered 18.6 fatalities for every 100,000 hours worked in 2020, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, compared to just 3.4 fatalities per 100,000 hours for the average American worker.

For the last nine years, Coastal Electric had no fatalities or injuries that required the worker to miss any time away from the job.

More than any other time in history, electric utility employees, including those with Coastal Electric, work in a much safer environment due to advances in equipment and safety techniques, along with stricter safety regulations and oversight. This leads to a significant reduction in accidents and time away from work for employees, according to Harry Reeves,

**While protecting the safety of employees and the public is the primary goal of workplace safety and training, Coastal Electric's stellar safety record also translates into significant savings for the cooperative and its members.**



**Harry Reeves (left), vice president of training, education and safety at Georgia EMC, and Wendy Sellers (right), Washington EMC president and CEO, present Coastal Electric Cooperative CEO Chris Fettes with an award commemorating nine consecutive years with no lost-time accidents.**

vice president of training, education and safety at Georgia EMC, the statewide trade association representing the state's 41 electric cooperatives.

Still, the nature of the electricity

business proves challenging to avoid an injury, no matter how many safety practices are in place, making it especially noteworthy when electric co-ops, such as Coastal Electric earns

a No Lost-Time Award.

“It's a testament to all our employees,” Thomas adds. “Success and safety depend on all of us. Our goal is to ensure that everyone returns

home to their families at the end of each day.”

While protecting the safety of employees and the public is the primary goal of workplace safety and training, Coastal Electric's stellar safety record also translates into significant savings for the cooperative and its members.

When an injury does occur, the total costs go beyond emergency room visits, doctor appointments and related medical costs. Indirect costs, such as administrative time dealing with the injury, increases in insurance costs, hiring replacement employees and even loss of reputation, can add up to four times the direct cost of the injury.

So safety is not only good for co-op employees, but is beneficial for co-op members and the community.

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### Find us online:

[www.CoastalElectric.Coop](http://www.CoastalElectric.Coop)

### Business office hours

Open 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and until 5 p.m. on Friday, except for holidays.

### Report outages

Call us at (800) 421-2343

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*Coastal Electric Cooperative, your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Partner, is a not-for-profit, member-owned power cooperative providing electricity to the people of Bryan, Liberty, Long and McIntosh counties.*



Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>  
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*The power of human connections*

# PURPA Hearing Notice: April 20, 2023

Coastal Electric Cooperative will hold a hearing to facilitate the consideration and determination of standards established by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA) of 1978, as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.

This hearing is held pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq., and particularly pursuant to 16 U.S.C. §§ 2621, 2622, 2631, and 2632. The hearing will be held at the Coastal Electric Cooperative Corporate Office, with participant sign-in beginning at 9 a.m. and the hearing commencing at 10 a.m. on April 20, 2023. The following standards will be considered at the hearing:

1. Demand-response practices, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 2621(d)(20).
2. Electric vehicle charging programs, pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 2621(d)(21).

The hearing will be governed by the Rules for Conducting Proceedings Required by the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021) (the "Rules"), which was adopted by the Board of Directors of Coastal Electric Cooperative on Oct. 26, 2022.

A copy of the Rules may be obtained at Coastal Electric Cooperative's headquarters during business hours. The headquarters is located at 1265 S Coastal Highway, Midway, GA 31320, and is open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST/EDT).

A copy of the Rules also may be downloaded below from Coastal Electric Cooperative's PURPA website at [www.coastalelectric.coop/PURPA](http://www.coastalelectric.coop/PURPA).

In accordance with 16 U.S.C. § 2631, the United States Secretary of Energy, any affected electric utility and any electric consumer of an affected electric utility has a right to intervene and participate as a formal party of record in the hearing. Please see Rule 4 concerning the procedure for intervention.

Any member of Coastal Electric Cooperative that does not desire to intervene and participate as a formal party of record nonetheless will be given the opportunity to make an oral or written statement expressing his position and views on the foregoing standards. Please see Rule 5 concerning the procedure for making such statements.

All persons must sign in not later than 10 a.m. to ensure that they are able to participate in the hearing. Please see Rule 11 concerning the conduct of the hearing.

## Holiday Office Closing

All Coastal Electric offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

