

## Coastal Electric Cooperative “flips the switch” on new 68-megawatt solar project

Coastal Electric Cooperative recently participated in a dedication event to “flip the switch” on the new 68-megawatt (MWAC) Houston Solar Project. Coastal Electric is among 30 Georgia electric cooperatives that will collectively share in the Houston County site’s power production.

State and local elected officials, including Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black and members of the Georgia Public Service Commission, were in attendance at the May 11 event to celebrate the project and learn about the positive benefits it delivers to the local community and citizens across the state.

Green Power EMC, the renewable energy provider owned by 38 Georgia electric cooperatives, including Coastal Electric, is purchasing all



**Solar switch:** State and local officials, including Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, Commissioner of Agriculture Gary Black and members of the Georgia Public Service Commission, “flip the switch” on the new Houston Solar Project.

the energy and environmental attributes generated by the Houston Solar Project site on behalf of its member cooperatives.

As a clean energy source, the solar site’s environmental offset is equivalent to approximately 124,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually. The Houston Solar Project site also co-locates renewable energy production with regenerative agriculture practices on the same land, including land management using planned sheep grazing.

“We serve our members with a diverse portfolio of reliable, affordable and environmentally responsible energy, and solar power has become an increasingly important part of our strategy,” says Chris Fettes, Coastal Electric Cooperative CEO. “We are proud that through our participation in this innovative renewable energy project, we can help serve our members’ power needs

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### About Green Power EMC

Green Power EMC is a not-for-profit cooperative founded in 2001 to support 38 of Georgia’s electric cooperatives in their search for renewable resources. The primary efforts of Green Power EMC have been to find, screen, analyze and negotiate power purchase agreements with Georgia-based renewable resource providers. In addition to sourcing renewable energy, Green Power EMC provides education programs that help member-consumers learn both the challenges and opportunities of utilizing renewable energy. For more information, visit [www.GreenPowerEMC.com](http://www.GreenPowerEMC.com).



# Coastal Electric members fund \$30,000 in scholarships to local students

Coastal Electric Cooperative members are helping six local students pursue their dreams by way of \$30,000 in scholarships.

Bailey Middleton from McIntosh County Academy, Andrew Mills from Savannah Christian Academy, Theresa Santos from Bradwell Institute and Richmond Hill High School's Annabelle Hartley, Maya Giorgianni and Ryan Wiebold each earned \$5,000 Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation scholarships for their first semester of college. Each scholarship is renewable for up to four years for a total of \$20,000.

"Our members' generosity is making a big difference in the lives of young people," says Chris Fettes, Coastal Electric Cooperative CEO. "We're thankful that so many people in our area value the importance of investing in bright students like these. Our members continue to take action



to make our community a wonderful place to live."

The foundation's main funding comes from Operation Round Up, a volunteer program through which Coastal Electric members allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar and invested back into the community to meet the food, health, safety, education and shelter needs of citizens in Bryan, Liberty, Long and McIntosh counties.



## Holiday office closing

Coastal Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, July 4. We wish our members a safe and happy Independence Day!



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with cost-effective solar energy.”

Energy received from the Houston Solar Project will be available to Coastal Electric members through the Cooperative Solar program. Members can contact Coastal Electric Cooperative at (800) 421-2343 or visit [www.CoastalElectricCooperative.com/affordable-solar-energy-for-your-home/](http://www.CoastalElectricCooperative.com/affordable-solar-energy-for-your-home/) for more information.



**Living lawnmowers:** Hundreds of sheep have been deployed around the Houston Solar Project array as a living example of regenerative agriculture practices on the same property used for generating renewable energy. The sheep will enrich the soil and help restore the land to a functioning grassland ecosystem.



**Houston solar:** As a clean energy source, the Houston Solar Project site's environmental offset is equivalent to approximately 124,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

## Join the team at Coastal Electric Cooperative!

**W**hether you are starting your career or are a seasoned professional, there is a place for you to work in an exciting environment with opportunities for personal and professional growth. We offer diverse employment opportunities set in a family-friendly employee culture, all while serving our members in Bryan, Liberty, Long and McIntosh counties. To see current career opportunities, visit [www.CoastalElectric.Coop/careers](http://www.CoastalElectric.Coop/careers).



# Dreaming of a technical career?

**W**e'd love to help you get there. The Coastal Electric Cooperative Foundation Technical College Scholarship could put money into your pocket to help you achieve your dreams. Apply by July 15 for the fall semester or Dec. 15 for spring 2023. For more info, scan the QR code or visit [www.CoastalElectric.Coop/scholarships](http://www.CoastalElectric.Coop/scholarships).



# Fireworks and power lines don't mix!

If your family enjoys lighting sparklers or other legal fireworks on the Fourth of July, stay away from power lines.

Light fireworks only in areas where there are absolutely no power lines—even in the distance.

When any kind of firecracker touches a power line, it can cause a fire, a power outage or injuries.

If in doubt, take the family to watch a fireworks display supervised by professionals in a public location away from your home.

