

Plugged in to Altamaha EMC

AUGUST 2015

The Official Newsletter of Altamaha Electric Membership Corporation

Serving: Toombs, Montgomery, Emanuel, Treutlen, Laurens, Johnson and Tattnall

Altamaha EMC to Receive Energy From Solar Project

Construction is scheduled to begin on a 20 MWAC solar facility in Hazlehurst, Ga. in Jeff Davis County. The facility will be among the largest solar energy projects in Georgia. Altamaha EMC is one of 27 Georgia electric cooperatives that will purchase the output of the planned project for a 25-year period through Green Power EMC, the renewable energy supplier for 38 Georgia Electric Membership Corporations (EMCs).

Once completed, the ground-mounted solar project will include over 87,000 solar modules and sit on approximately 135 acres. The facility is expected to generate more than 43,000,000 kilowatt hours of clean, renewable electricity annually, offsetting nearly 30,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. That number is equivalent to the annual CO2 emissions from burning nearly 32,000,000 pounds of coal or the emissions from more than 6,000 automobiles.

The project is being built by owner-operator Silicon Ranch Corporation, based in Nashville, TN. Construction is beginning and the facility will be ready to produce electricity in approximately six months. The 20 MW project will produce enough electricity to serve about 3,000 EMC households.

The Hazlehurst project is the result of a request for proposals issued in late 2013 to add more solar energy to Green Power EMC's portfolio. The Hazlehurst project will nearly double the total renewable capacity of Green Power EMC – from the current 32 MW to about 52 MW.

“We are excited to be a part of this major expansion of solar energy in Georgia,” said Romanous Dotson, Altamaha EMC General Manager/CEO. “The addition of one of the largest solar projects in Georgia will allow us to provide competitively priced, renewable solar energy to our members.”

Silicon Ranch Corporation is a top 15 solar owner-operator in the U.S. and provides customized solar solu-

tions based on the needs of its customers. Silicon Ranch has been instrumental in assisting many of its customers accomplish numerous firsts in their marketplaces. Silicon Ranch also owns and operates Georgia's largest solar farm in Social Circle, Ga.

Matt Kisber, President and Chief Executive Officer of Silicon Ranch Corporation, said, “The leadership and membership of Green Power EMC deserve tremen-



dous credit for their vision and commitment to provide competitively priced, renewable power to their membership and to the state of Georgia. As long-term owners of our projects, we take great pride in being excellent neighbors and active members in the communities where we do business and we are excited about the benefits this project will bring.”

Green Power EMC was the first green energy provider in the state. It was created by Georgia's EMCs in 2001 and has been selling green energy since 2003. Green Power EMC obtains green power from renewable facilities all over the state, including low-impact hydroelectric, landfill gas generation, biomass from wood waste and solar power. EMCs that own Green Power EMC serve more than 4.1 million Georgia residents.

For more information about renewable energy efforts in Georgia visit www.greenpoweremc.com.

Shield your home from energy loss with adequate insulation

Walls. Floors. Ceilings. Attic. These are some of the prime areas of a home that need insulation in order for you to maximize energy efficiency. According to the Department of Energy (DOE), adding insulation to your home is a sound investment that is likely to quickly pay for itself in reduced utility bills. In fact, DOE estimates that you can reduce your heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home.

If your home is more than 20 years old and was not specifically constructed for energy efficiency, additional insulation can likely reduce your energy bills and increase the comfort level of your home. The actual amount of savings for each home depends upon several factors—the current level of insulation, your climate, efficiency of your heating/cooling system and your utility rates. On average, older homes have less insulation than homes built today, but even adding insulation to a newer home can pay for itself within a few years.

So, where do you start?

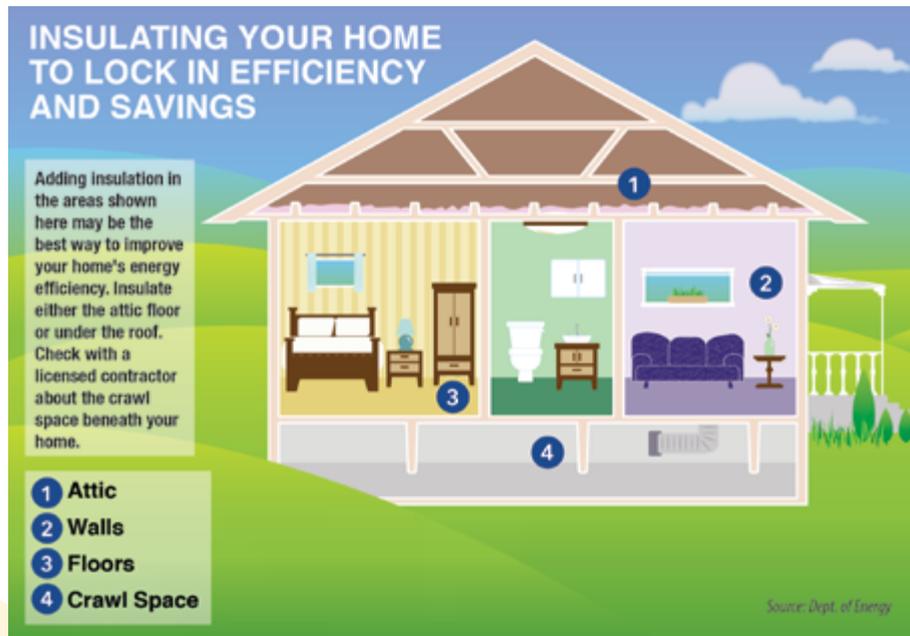
You first need to determine how much insulation you already have in your home and where it is located. If you need assistance, Altamaha EMC conducts energy efficiency audits for the home and will check insulation as a routine part of the assessment. For those with the DIY spirit, you can conduct an insulation audit yourself. Here is what you will should be looking for:

- Where your home is, isn't, and/or should be insulated
- The type of insulation in your home
- The R-value and the thickness or depth (inches) of the insulation

A prime area that is chronically under-insulated is the attic. Attic insulation is essential to help keep warm air inside in the winter and prevent hot attic air from heating your living spaces in the summer. If you have R-19 or less insulation in your attic, consider bringing it up to R-38 in moderate climates and R-49 in cold climates. For flooring in cold climates, if you have R-11 or less insulation, consider bringing it up to R-25.

How does insulation work?

Heat flows naturally from a warmer space to a cooler space. During winter months, this means heat moves directly from heated living spaces to adjacent unheated attics, garages, basements and even outdoors. It can also travel indirectly through



interior ceilings, walls and floors—wherever there is a difference in temperature. During summer months, the opposite happens—heat flows from the exterior to the interior of a home. Proper installation of insulation creates resistance to heat flow. Heat flow resistance is measured or rated in terms of its R-value—the higher the R-value, the greater the insulation's effectiveness. The more heat flow resistance your insulation provides, the lower your heating and cooling costs will be.

Save green by going green

Today, you have choices when it comes to selecting insulation for the home, including an environmentally-friendly option made of recycled materials, such as scrap blue jeans. It looks similar to chopped up blue jeans and is treated for fire safety. With an insulating R-value similar to fiberglass insulation, this blue-jean insulation is a great option.

Get started and get saving

While an older home will never be as efficient as a new home, an insulation upgrade will make a noticeable difference in your energy use and wallet. A well-insulated home is one of the most cost-effective means of saving energy and decreasing heating and cooling bills. For more information, contact us at 912-526-8181.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using a rigid venting material - not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Source: energy.gov

Holiday Closing Notice

The offices of Altamaha EMC will be closed Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

In the event of a power outage or other related problems, standby personnel will be on duty. You can report a power outage by calling 912-526-8181 or toll-free at 1-800-822-4563.



September 12th, 2015
at 3:00p.m.

Featured Bands:

Trick Pony featuring Heidi Newfield

Deanna Johnson featured on
this year's season of "The Voice"

Trea Landon

Wristbands: **Ages 11 and up are \$5.00**
Ages 10 and under are \$1.00

Great Music & Food • Fashion Show • Car Show • Activities for kids

For more info call Kelly Wingate at 912-293-1656
or Community Hospice 912.537.0063

Annual Meeting Information and Director Election Process

Altamaha EMC will hold its 2015 annual meeting at the Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia, Georgia, on Wednesday, November 4, 2015. Official notice of the time, date and place will be provided to each member in advance of the meeting. Director elections will be held at the annual meeting for District 1, comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Toombs and Tattnall Counties; District 2 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Treutlen County and District 4 comprised of the cooperative's service territory within Emanuel County. The following is a summary of the provisions of the cooperative's bylaws pertaining to the process for election of directors:

Section 3.03 Qualifications of directors.

Qualifications to become or remain a nominee or a director of the cooperative: Must be eighteen (18) years old or older on the date of election. Must be a member and bona fide resident of the district represented and receive service from the cooperative at his or her primary residence. May not, within five (5) years prior to the election, have been an employee of the cooperative. May not be a close relative of any person who is an employee or director of the cooperative. May not be employed by or hold a financial interest in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative. May not be the incumbent of or candidate for a salaried elective public office. May not have been convicted of a felony.

Section 3.04 Nominations by nominating committee.

The Board of Directors appoints a nominating committee comprised of independent members of the cooperative. The nominating committee meets not less than sixty five (65) days prior to the annual meeting and nominates one or more candidates for the directorships that are to be filled at the annual meeting. Written notice of the names of the members of the committee and the meeting date for the committee will be provided to the members prior to their meeting and shall be posted at the cooperative's headquarters.

Section 3.05 Nominations by petition. Other nominations for director elections may be made by written petition signed by not less than one hundred (100) members which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the cooperative or his nominee not less than forty five (45) days prior to such meeting.

Section 3.06 Posting of the notice of nominees. The Secretary shall be responsible for posting at the headquarters of the Cooperative the nominees for the election made by the nominating committee and by petition and if feasible, shall include same in the notice to the members for the meeting at which the election is to be held.

Section 3.07 Restrictions on other nominations.

Except in the event that all candidates nominated by the nominating committee and petition are deceased, or withdrawn in writing from candidacy prior to the election, no other nominations shall be in order.

Section 3.08 Election procedures. Directors shall be elected by a plurality vote of those members from the applicable voting district, or those authorized to vote for them pursuant to Section 2.05 of these bylaws as set out below, at the meeting in which the election is to be held. Should two or more candidates tie for the highest vote, then run-off ballots shall be taken among them.

Section 2.05 Representation of members. Unless it is made to appear otherwise by writing executed by the member and filed with the Secretary or his designate prior to a meeting of the members, a person eighteen (18) years of age or older residing in the primary residential abode of the member, who presents himself or herself to the Secretary, or his designated registrar(s), prior to a meeting of the members, as a representative of such member, shall be deemed to act and vote for the member he purports to represent and in as full and ample manner as if the member had been present and personally acting at the meeting. The presence of the member purported to be represented by such person shall, however, revoke the authority hereby created and only the member shall be entitled to act and vote at such meeting. Except as is expressly provided for herein, no other person shall have the authority to represent, act or vote for any member at a meeting of the members.

Section 2.07 Credentials and Election Committee.

Section 2.07 of the bylaws provides for a committee of not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) independent members to oversee the nominating, registration and election processes and to resolve disputes relating to same.

2015 Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet at the headquarters office in Lyons on Wednesday, August 19, 2015. This committee consists of the following members: Gary J. Walden, Wayne Braddy, Billy G. Holder, Harold Ricks, James R. Jones and Chris Hopkins.



Member RECIPES



Shepherd's Casserole Pie

Ingredients

1 pound ground hamburger meat
1 onion, chopped
1 can (15 oz.) whole kernel corn, drained
2 cups cooked pasta
1 can (10 oz.) cream of chicken soup
1 cup sour cream
1 ½ cup shredded cheddar cheese
Salt and pepper to taste

Brown hamburger meat with chopped onion, salt and pepper until done. Drain excess fat. Place cooked meat in large casserole dish. Add corn over meat. Top with cooked pasta. Place one cup of cheese over pasta. In a large mixing bowl, stir together sour cream and soup. Pour over top of casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until golden brown. Top with remaining cheese and return to oven for another 3 – 5 minutes until cheese is melted.

Tip: You can substitute cooked, shredded chicken in place of hamburger meat.

– From the kitchen of Anita Shepherd

Each month, our newsletter features recipes submitted by our members. If you have a favorite recipe and would like to share it with other readers in the Altamaha EMC service area, send a copy, complete with name, address and daytime phone number to: Tammye Vaughn, Altamaha EMC, P.O. Box 346, Lyons, GA 30436. Each month, a recipe will be selected for publication. The member who submitted the featured recipe will be given a \$10 credit on their next Altamaha EMC bill. Due to limited space, not all recipes received will be featured. Recipes printed in *Plugged In* are not independently tested; therefore, we must depend on the accuracy of those members who send recipes to us.