

A great place to work

Flint Energies was recently named one of the 10 Best Places to Work in Georgia for 2009 by *Georgia Trend* magazine (www.georgiatrend.com) in a November 2009 article by writer Jerry Grillo.

The story focuses on employees who are encouraged “to bring an added spark to the communities they serve.” According to Flint Energies CEO Bob Ray, last April more than 100 of the 234 Flint Energies employees were involved in volunteer community activities across the co-op’s service territory, which ranges from Warner Robins to Columbus. Some activities included working with Rebuilding Together in Warner Robins, the Run for Literacy and the Taylor County Strawberry Festival.

In 2009, Flint Energies’ Linemen for Little Ones held an online cake auction, raising, more than \$3,000

through two online auctions to provide food and toys for needy children at Christmas.

Each year, *Georgia Trend* publishes an invitation online and in its monthly magazine to give all Georgia employees an opportunity to nominate their companies. In its online archives, *Georgia Trend* says, “Sometimes it’s the benefits, sometimes it’s the educational opportunities. But sometimes it’s the atmosphere, the community involvement or the sense that what you’re doing is important that make a company a good place to work.”

Georgia Trend has been naming “Best Places to Work in Georgia”

since 2006. Carroll Electric Membership Corp. (EMC) in Carrollton, another electric co-op, made the list in 2008.



KELLY TRARNELL, FLINT ENERGIES

Flint Energies employees, from left, Terrance Searcy, Danny Bell and Adam Gossett deliver Christmas cheer, gifts and food to a needy family during the holidays.



Before REA

Georgia’s electric co-ops gear up for 75th anniversary of REA

On May 11, Georgia’s electric membership corporations will join electric cooperatives throughout the nation to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA, now known as the Rural utilities Service or RUS), the grassroots effort that gained government support and ultimately brought electric power to America’s rural homes and farms.

At the time President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the agency in 1935, millions of homes across the country’s rural landscape lacked electric power. While city residents enjoyed electric appliances and indoor running water, their country counterparts continued to toil on washday, hauling water from the creek or well to wash and rinse the family’s clothes. Other habits common to rural America but deemed archaic by city residents included reading by lamplight or candle flame on nights warmed by burning embers in the fireplace.

“We split logs for the stove wood and cut firewood to heat with,” says Dan Murphy, a Diverse Power consumer in Troup County. “We had Aladdin kerosene lamps for light and used the fireplace for heat. You’d stand in front of the fireplace and freeze on one side while you burned on the other. You’d keep turning around and around to try and keep warm.”

When private companies failed to bring electricity to rural homes and farms, the U.S. government was enlisted, and neighbors throughout the American heartland worked together to set up electric cooperatives to power the countryside. Three-quarters of a century later, the REA is hailed as one of America’s most successful government endeavors.

Throughout 2010, *GEORGIA Magazine* will revisit events and emotions leading to the establishment of the REA and its impact on rural America in the 75 years since.

—Jackie Kennedy

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Touch a Truck Day

Touch a Truck Day was the main attraction during a recent career week at Sweetwater Elementary School in Lithia Springs.

Line workers from GreyStone Power Corp. in Douglasville let students hop in the cab and try on gloves. "They love the air horn," says lead lineman Keith Bailey.

With older students, the line workers discussed electrical safety issues.

Appearances at schools and shopping centers are popular outreach tools for many electric co-ops. Plus, GreyStone Power has received more calls from homeowner associations wanting to spice up block parties with safety demonstrations.

"They're looking for fun and educational things to do that are inexpensive and close to home," says Vicki Harshbarger, manager, public relations and communications at GreyStone Power.

—Victoria A Rocha,
Electric Co-op Today



Lead lineman Keith Bailey, right, and apprentice lineman Cameron Kearns help students climb into a bucket truck.

EMCs boost smart grid

Three Georgia electric membership corporations (EMCs) have been chosen to receive grants from the federal government to install smart grid technology in their service areas. Cobb EMC in Marietta will receive \$16.5 million from the Department of Energy; Flint Energies in Reynolds and Snapping Shoals EMC in Covington will receive grants of \$5 million and \$2.4 million, respectively, for smart grid demonstration projects through the Cooperative Research Network (CRN).

Snapping Shoals EMC will use the grant for a self-healing distribution system to help reduce outage areas and for exploring demand-side management in several subsets, such as utilizing load control switches and in-home notification systems. Flint Energies will use its \$5 million grant to replace the remaining 54,000 meters in its service area; 28,000 are already in place. Cobb Energy has announced it will install a combination of smart meters and load control devices.

The grants represent about half of the total dollars EMCs will invest in smart meter programs; the rest will come from each participating EMC.

"What we're most excited about in the state is EMCs showing continued leadership in deploying

energy-efficient technologies and innovations, allowing consumers the ability to see and compare their usage of energy in real time," says Ben Taube, executive director of the Southeastern Energy Efficiency Alliance.

Earlier this year, \$3.4 billion in grants was allocated for more than 100 energy-saving projects funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. CRN received \$33.9 million for nationwide projects involving 27 EMCs in 10 states.

Installation of smart grid components is part of a national initiative to test and develop technologies to make the grid more efficient and reliable.

Smart meters allow customers to access real-time information about their electricity use and costs and, armed with that information, take action to allow the co-op to raise or lower rates depending on demand. A consumer might also use the information to make his own energy-saving decisions, such as cutting off a water heater during a hot summer day when energy use is at its peak, or postponing a shower.

Approximately half of America's electric cooperatives have installed at least some advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) on their systems, and some 30 percent of cooperatives have begun to integrate their AMI with other systems on their grid.

Nationwide, the demonstrated technologies for all 27 participating cooperatives will impact more than 130,000 meters, including more than 18,000 demand-response switches, and nearly 4,000 in-home displays or smart thermostats.



Smart meters enable consumers to participate in cost-cutting programs by shifting some energy use to off-peak periods.

EMCs promote safety at Sunbelt

Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMCs) and Touchstone Energy welcomed thousands of visitors to their exhibit during the 32nd Annual Sunbelt Agricultural Expo, held Oct. 20-22 in Moultrie.

While always focused on getting out the message of electric safety, this year the exhibit also promoted awareness of the metals theft issue (and reward). Georgia EMC also partnered with the Georgia Forestry Commission to remind visitors to keep utility poles out of harm's way when burning their fields.

The exhibit offered visitors a place to sit down, relax and enjoy a cold bottle of water and a free bag of popcorn, a bounce house for the kids, a "climbing pole" photo opportunity for kids of all ages, a solar panel, high-voltage demonstrations and the ever-popular Oscar the Robot. The Touchstone Energy hot-air balloon carried the U.S. flag above the expo each morning during the national anthem.

For the second year, Marathon



CHUCK CUTLER

Oscar the Robot entertains the crowd.

Water Heaters donated an \$800 water heater as a door prize, and Gresco Utility Supply Inc. coordinated shipping to the winner's EMC. This year's winner was a member of Okefenoke REMC. Co-ops involved in the event included Canoochee, Coastal, Colquitt, Coweta-Fayette, Diverse Power, Flint, Grady, Habersham, Hart, Irwin, Jefferson Energy, Little Ocmulgee, Mitchell, Okefenoke, Planters, Satilla and Southern Rivers Energy.



BILL DURDEN, WASHINGTON EMC

Scouting for repairs

Washington Electric Foundation at Washington Electric Membership Corp. (EMC) in Sandersville recently presented Boy Scout Troop 74 of Sandersville with a check in the amount of \$2,400 to assist them in making needed repairs to the troop's Scout hut. Funding was provided through voluntary donations from Washington EMC member-consumers through the cooperative's Operation Round Up program. Back row from left, Nathan van Loenen, Assistant Scoutmaster Mark Riner, Scoutmaster Paul van Loenen, Bill Banthrip and Taylor Veal. Front row, Sean Taylor, Joshua Lemon and D'Andre Storey.



Before REA

Living without electricity

Georgia's electric cooperatives this year celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA, now Rural Utilities Service, or RUS), established May 11, 1935, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to bring electricity to rural farms and homes.

While those in America's cities had experienced the benefits of electricity since the late 1800s, their country cousins remained in the dark three decades into the 20th century.

Prior to the REA, rural folk relied on candles or the glow of a kerosene lamp for light. Street-lamps sparkled along city sidewalks, but farms remained isolated and dark according to the sun's schedule, and hot or cold, depending on the season.

As city residents enjoyed

water from an indoor faucet and washed clothes in a rotating machine, their rural neighbors hauled buckets filled with water from a stream or backyard well. Cleaning clothes was relegated to one day a week due to the extraordinary effort that went into the back-breaking chore, which called for beating clothes on tree trunks to loosen grime before boiling them in iron pots.

Ironing clothes consumed the bulk of another day, according to Lillian Champion of Pine Mountain. "We'd wash and iron on Friday and Saturday to be sure to have a clean shirt for church on Sunday," she recalls.

Rural residents hoped for electricity to ease the burden of their daily chores.

—Jackie Kennedy



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Electric membership corporations: Just the facts

America's electric membership corporations (EMCs) are rapidly approaching the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Rural Electrification Act by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and Georgia EMC will join their members in celebrating the remarkable contribution EMCs have made to their states and communities.

**Georgia's EMCs operate
182,184 miles
of electric power lines.**

Nowhere has the growth of EMCs been greater than in Georgia, birthplace of the rural electric movement. Here, member-owned utilities serve approximately 4.48 million of the state's 9.5 million residents.

The system covers 73 percent of Georgia's land area in 157 of 159 counties.

With 182,184 miles of electric power lines, EMCs operate by far the largest distribution network in the state.

From the beginning, EMCs have served customers in areas investor-owned utilities refused to serve because it was not profitable to do so. EMCs today average 8.9 consumers per mile of distribution line, as compared to 35 customers per mile for investor-owned electric utilities and 46.6 customers per mile for municipal electric utilities.

The cooperative business model's true strength is found in its not-for-profit status. There is a two-fold purpose for this business model. Operating as a not-for-profit cooperative helps

offset the cost of serving large land areas. Additionally, it reinforces the commitment to remain as close as possible to the members who own the cooperative and elect its leaders.

Evidence of the success of the not-for-profit cooperative is found in the records of EMCs that return millions of dollars in capital credits (margins earned above actual cost of providing service) to consumer-members each year.

More than \$35.3 million in capital credits was returned to consumer-members in 2008. Georgia's 42 EMCs pay millions of dollars in local state and federal taxes each year.

The 42 electric membership corporations in Georgia employ altogether more than 4,763 workers, and all of those workers pay income taxes. More importantly, those employees can be found in volunteer work that strengthens every aspect of community life in their EMC's service area.

Multiply the economic impact of EMCs by all the states where they are found and you will discover an extraordinary return on investment in one of the nation's most successful federal programs.



FRAGILE KIDS FOUNDATION

Bridging the gap for medically fragile kids

Kelli received a van lift for her family's van.

The Fragile Kids Foundation in Atlanta was able to expand its services to Georgia's medically fragile children in 2009 due in great part to the generous support of several electric membership corporations (EMCs) around the state.

For nearly 20 years, Fragile Kids has assisted more than 400 children each year with medical equipment they cannot afford and that Medicaid and private insurance companies do not cover. Many of the children are cared for by single mothers, grandmothers and foster mothers.

Much of the funding that has helped specific children in each EMC's service area has come from Operation Round Up programs, which allow EMC members to round up their electric bills to the next highest dollar for charitable purposes.

Fragile Kids received approximately \$30,000 in contributions, which helped reduce its waiting list for items such as wheelchair van lifts, specialized bath seats, strollers, ceiling and stair lifts, as well as gait trainers, seating and standers for children.

The following EMCs have sponsored children on waiting lists in their service areas: Coastal Electric Cooperative in Midway, Coweta-Fayette EMC in Palmetto, Flint Energies in Reynolds, GreyStone Power in Douglasville, Jackson EMC in Jefferson, Oconee EMC in Dudley, Sawnee EMC in Cumming, Southern Rivers Energy in Barnesville and Sumter EMC in Americus.

Lights, camera, YouTube

For all the dancing cats and cute babies on YouTube, there's also a wealth of useful information. Walton EMC in Monroe is doing its part and getting an enthusiastic response, though it might not be from the demographic one might expect.

"With social media, the first thought that comes to mind is that you're going to reach young people," says Greg Brooks, communications coordinator at Walton EMC. "But YouTube has something called Insight, which allows you to see some demographics of your viewer. I think, right now, ours is running 80 percent male, and 44- to 55-year-olds are the biggest audience."

The electric co-op created EMCTv, a section on YouTube featuring more than 20 videos for consumer-members. Baby boomers might not be the audience that most

people would associate with YouTube. Indeed, Brooks calls it "a different demographic than I first envisioned." But the more he thought about it, he realized that it made sense.

"Young people are not paying electric bills yet," he says. "They're still in college. They're not established homeowners who maybe are more concerned with cutting their power bill."

Headquartered 45 miles east of Atlanta, Walton's service area is more suburban than rural. With high-speed Internet access widely available there, Brooks says many older consumer-members are computer-savvy, including his 71-year-old mother, who trades videos with her friends.



HEATHER MAYNARD / WALTON EMC

Walton EMC Communications Coordinator Greg Brooks works with intern Savannah Chandler to produce a short video detailing how to make sure a refrigerator is energy-efficient. The video is shown on the cooperative's YouTube channel, EMCTv.

While EMCTv features a range of topics, Brooks has started focusing on how-to videos, which are among the most popular. To promote EMCTv, the co-op put the link www.youtube.com/user/emctv in its newsletter and on its home page, www.waltonemc.com.

—Michael W. Kahn,
Electric Co-op Today



Before REA

Lighting the cities

Although Thomas Alva Edison is often credited with the feat, it was actually German watchmaker Henricg Globel who invented the first lightbulb in 1854.

Edison, however, perfected it.

In 1879, he crafted a carbon filament that, placed in a bulb without oxygen, burned for 40 hours; the following year, an improved lightbulb burned 1,200 hours with a filament he formed from bamboo. This achievement offered the world's first practical, safe and affordable incandescent electric light.

Edison's next mission was to spread the light, a goal that led him to develop the world's first central electric generating system, opened in New York City in 1882, which distributed electricity to 85 customers within a one-square-mile area. With reliable central generation, efficient distribution, a successful end use in the lightbulb and affordable rates, the modern electric utility industry was born.

By 1890, cities across the

nation were lighted, at least to some degree, including Atlanta where residents joined in 1883 to form Georgia Electric Light Co., which eventually became Georgia Power Co. In 1884, the company built a 940-kilowatt generation plant that, by 1889, powered 800 streetlights.

In Atlanta, lights were beginning to dot the landscape, bright as beacons to residents there, yet twinkling like faraway fireflies to rural folks living beyond the city limits. While Edison's work brought city dwellers out of the dark ages and into the brightness of a new world, it would be almost a half-century more before their country counterparts enjoyed the luxury of artificial light.

Georgia's electric cooperatives this year celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA, now Rural Utilities Service, or RUS) established May 11, 1935, to bring electricity to rural farms and homes.

— Jackie Kennedy

Electric lights illuminate city streets in the late 19th century.

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PHOTOS.COM

Upgrade to state's power grid introduces new design

Georgia Transmission Corp. (GTC) in Tucker recently completed a 39-mile, 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission power line connecting substations in Thomson and Warthen. The line marks the company's first project of this size in two decades, its first of many new lines in a major upgrade of the state's power grid and a new design for 500-kV power lines.

GTC, a not-for-profit cooperative that builds and maintains high-voltage infrastructure on behalf of 39 of the state's 42 electric membership corporations, began planning for the \$48 million project in late 2004. The 500-kV line, to be energized in the summer of 2010, is the largest type of power line built in Georgia. The state's electric co-ops are not-for-profit utilities that provide power to more than 4.5 million Georgians.

"Georgia's energy demand has nearly doubled since 1990 due to growth in population and per-capita energy use," says John Raese, GTC vice president of project services. "By fortifying the power grid, Georgia's utilities are reducing the risk of power outages and blackouts



Georgia Transmission's first 500-kilovolt line in more than 20 years introduces to the electric industry a Delta Cat design with a narrower footprint and improved access for maintenance.

for all Georgians."

The transmission line runs 38.7 miles, stretching through portions of Glascock, McDuffie, Warren and Washington counties. More than 366 miles of wires span across 158 latticed steel structures that average 140 feet in height. The transmission line right of way is 150 feet wide, encompassing 704 acres of land at a cost of more than \$4 million.

HOPE HATCHER / GEORGIA FFA

ED THOMPSON / GTC



Gale Cutler receives the Honorary American FFA degree from Riley Branch, 2008-2009 National FFA Western Region vice president.

Cutler receives FFA degree

Gale Cutler, public relations coordinator with Georgia Electric Membership Corp. (EMC) in Tucker, was presented with an Honorary American FFA degree, the highest honorary degree bestowed by the National FFA organization. The presentation took place in October at the 82nd National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind.

The degree recognizes individuals who have rendered outstanding service and made a tremendous impact on agricultural education and the FFA, according to Ben Lastly with the Georgia FFA Association.

"With the resources that Gale helps to secure through local EMCs and Georgia EMC, more FFA members and chapters not only have the ability to participate in the wiring event, they are learning the value of electrical wiring and safety," he says.

Cutler serves as Georgia EMC's representative to the agriculture community at events like the Georgia Farm Bureau convention and the Sunbelt Agricultural Expo. She also manages the company's statewide youth programs, including the state's oldest youth leadership program—the Washington Youth Tour.

Honoring veterans

Cobb Electric Membership Corp. (EMC) in Marietta recently held its annual Veteran's Day Breakfast honoring employees and retirees who served in the armed forces. Military branches included the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. Board members Al Fortney and Don Barnett, who served in the Army, also attended. Each veteran was given a tumbler with the seal of the military branch in which he or she served.

Approximately 70 current Cobb EMC employees, 20 retirees and two board members have served in the military, many during wartime. Some of the veterans who attended include, front row, from left, Cobb County residents Frank Myers, Rick Prichard, Bob Elsberry and Lamar Horton. Middle row, Harold Richardson, Mark Justice, Elaine Haynes, Bill Ellis, David Gravett, Don Poole, Chip Miller and Anthony Tatum. Back row, Aaron Newman, Bernard Mathis, Don Barnett, John Mobley, Mark Moon, Greg Rooks, Gary Bates and Roger Brubaker.

—Source: Marietta Daily Journal



COURTESY COBB EMC

Take the Governor's Energy Challenge

The state of Georgia has launched a new Web site that every consumer of electricity will want to bookmark right away: www.governorsenergychallenge.org.

The fully interactive site encourages visitors to explore ways to improve energy conservation and efficiency. Consider these highlights: If you bought an Energy Star appliance after Feb. 12, 2010, you are eligible to apply for a rebate, but you will have to hurry. The federal government has allocated each state a fixed dollar amount. Apply directly for your rebate from the Web site.

Learn how to save money on your monthly gas and electric bill. Use the calculators on the Web site to determine how much you could save, and receive a list of recommendations for reducing your monthly bill, as well as estimates of the dollars that could be saved.

Learn how to purchase renewable energy for your home or business. You may even sign up for renewable energy through links provided on the site.

Take a virtual tour of a typical home and learn specific steps to reduce energy consumption and increase efficient use of electricity. You can also determine eligibility for low-

income, weatherization assistance.

Sign up your business for on-site assistance to determine how to improve energy use and efficiency. Check out the Department of Energy's "Zero Energy Homes" initiative to learn how new homes are being designed and constructed to produce as much energy as they consume.

The Web site was created by the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority and launched under a partnership with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Sustainability Division, Southface Energy Institute, Conserve Georgia, UGA Engineering Outreach Services, Association of Energy Engineers, U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Months of preparation by the partners have produced a site that offers maximum ease of navigation to its many features. At the very least, visitors to the site will learn how to increase the value of their property and improve resale potential.

"Visit this new Web site and take the Governor's Energy Challenge," says Phil Foil, executive director of Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, "your monthly energy bill may never be the same."

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Governor's Energy Challenge website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo on the left and two buttons: "Take the Challenge" and "Manage Account". Below the navigation bar is a secondary menu with links: "ABOUT US", "TAKE THE CHALLENGE", "SUCCESS STORIES", "NEWS", "RESOURCES & LINKS", and "CONTACT US". The main content area features a large green banner with the text "Save Energy. Save Money. Take the Challenge." Below the banner is a 3D rendering of four buildings: a small house, a two-story house, a classical building with a dome, and a modern multi-story office building. The Georgia state logo is centered below the buildings. At the bottom, there is a section titled "Georgia Incentives and Tax Credits" with a sub-header "Database of Incentives and Policies for Renewables and Efficiency" and a "View Details" button. The footer contains copyright information: "Copyright © 2010, GEFA. All Rights Reserved." and "Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) | Privacy Policy | Terms".

From mill to biomass, everybody wins

Clayton native Bill Gravley's relationship with the Rabun Gap Plant, a new biomass energy facility in North Georgia, dates to the mid-1970s, when it was the boiler room for a Burlington Industries manufacturing plant. Gravley started in the maintenance department in 1974 and had worked his way up to maintenance manager when then-owner Fruit of the Loom closed the cotton facility in 2006.

"I was the only person here for several months," says Gravley, who's now plant manager of Multitrade Rabun Gap LLC, which bought the boiler house, wood yard and shop facility at the sprawling 1 million-square-foot plant to produce electricity from biomass.

Green Power EMC has contracted with Multitrade for 17 megawatts of green power. Power production began in January, followed by a dedication at the plant on Earth Day, April 22. Green Power EMC is Georgia's first and largest green power program. Participating EMCs across the state—Carroll, Cobb, Coweta-Fayette, Irwin, Jackson, Middle Georgia, Oconee, Okefenokee, Sawnee, Tri-County and Walton; as well as Diverse Power, Flint Energies, GreyStone Power and Southern Rivers Energy—will purchase the power generated at Rabun Gap.

Gravley now has a staff of nearly two dozen, with an additional 75 jobs

for those who gather and transport biomass to the facility.

The Multitrade facility represents a \$21.5 million investment in Rabun Gap. Power is produced by burning biomass to turn a steam turbine. An electrostatic precipitator removes particulates from the boiler exhaust, so minimal pollutants leave the facility. Forestry byproducts, which include limbs, tops, bark and other unmarketable portions of trees, are bought by the ton and taken to the facility.

Gravley says that biomass is sourced as close as possible to the plant, but can come from as far as 120 miles away. The plant keeps a 30-day supply of wood on hand to deal with inclement weather or times when forestry byproducts are not for sale.

According to Michael Whiteside, president/CEO of Green Power EMC, Rabun Gap is part of Green Power EMC's mission to research and deliver renewable energy options from Georgia resources such as biomass, solar, wind and low-impact hydro.

Green Power EMC, founded in 2001, has an extensive renewable energy education effort through its Sun Power for Schools program at high schools statewide and its Go Green presentations for elementary schools. Find out more at www.greenpoweremc.com.



Rep. Don Parsons, chairman of the Georgia House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee, center, is joined by officials from Multitrade/Rabun Gap and Green Power EMC for the facility's April 22, 2010, ribbon-cutting.

Georgia's EMCs focus on saving energy

Efficiency, conservation and demand side management efforts continue to grow

Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMCs) remain on the leading edge of energy conservation, energy efficiency and demand side management (DSM) programs, increasing energy savings over 2008 figures. The recently released "EMC Demand Side Management, Energy Conservation & Energy Efficiency Report," the fourth annual statewide report of EMC efforts, records how the electric co-ops and their members strive to save electricity and use it wisely.

Georgia's EMCs offer a variety of efficiency and conservation services and programs to residential, commercial and industrial customers. Approximately 89.9 percent of Georgia EMCs' consumers are residential. Residential programs offered include home energy audits, compact fluorescent lightbulbs, electric water heater incentives, heat pump incentives, energy-efficient new home programs, Energy Star appliance promotions, loans or financing options, air-conditioning direct load control, water heater direct load control, ceiling insulation, weatherization, programmable thermostats and green power.

Georgia EMCs also offer DSM, energy efficiency and conservation services to commercial and industrial customers, including energy audits, lighting programs and plan review services.

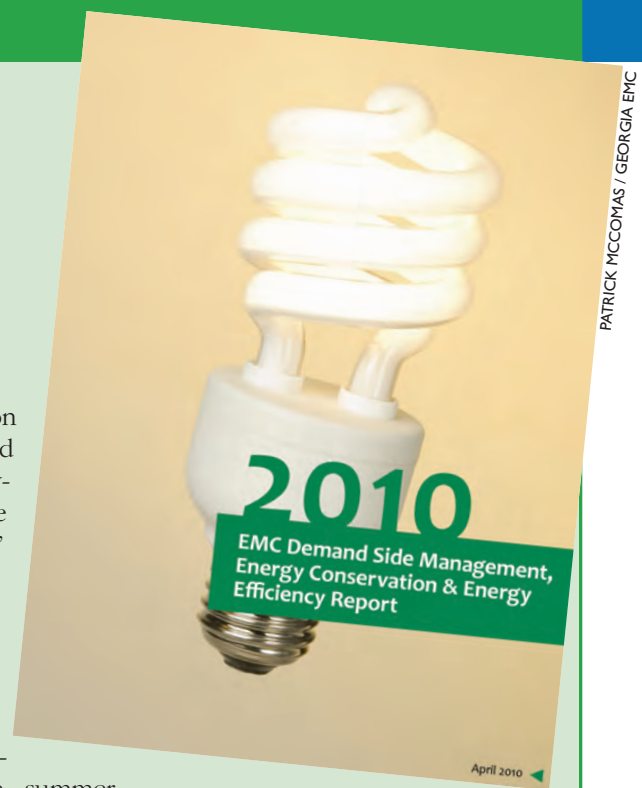
Active load-management programs avoid the need for a medium-size, peaking power plant. More than 160,000 load-management switches have been installed on customer air conditioners, water heaters and irrigation systems, an increase of 10 percent over the previous year; 8.4 percent of Georgia's EMC customers have a load control switch. Georgia EMCs have invested

more than \$16 million in their load-management systems, which can reduce summer peak load by approximately 162 megawatts (MW).

Automatic meter reading (AMR) and advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) benefit nearly 1 million EMC consumers. Thirty-two EMCs have AMR/AMI installed, and the remaining EMCs are investigating AMR/AMI systems. This technology provides co-op members with more detailed billing information and allows EMCs to offer more rate-based options such as time-of-use, curtailable, interruptible and real-time pricing. Large commercial/industrial customers currently have the most rate options available, including curtailable and interruptible rates, which are both designed to reduce demand during peak times.

Georgia's EMCs actively promote DSM, energy conservation and efficiency programs. EMCs spent approximately \$18.6 million in 2009 on these initiatives. DSM, energy efficiency and conservation are promoted through EMC websites, newsletters and *GEORGIA Magazine*.

Georgia's EMCs represent the first and largest voluntary green



PATRICK MCCOMAS / GEORGIA EMC

power program in Georgia, with a total output of 24.3 MW.

Statewide 39 of 42 EMCs participate in Green Power EMC, a nonprofit cooperative formed in 2001 to promote green power from Georgia-based renewable resources. The other three EMCs participate in a similar program through Tennessee Valley Authority. Green generation resources include landfill gas-to-energy projects, a low-impact hydro facility, a wood waste plant, a biomass generation plant and several solar demonstration projects. Many of the Georgia EMCs offer a green power rate option to their members, while others include their green power resources in their overall generation mix. Education plays a vital role in Green Power EMC.

The Sun Power for Schools Program has facilitated the installation of solar photovoltaic educational demonstration projects at local middle and high schools across the state, and a Go Green Power curriculum is available to elementary and middle schools.

For more information or to see a copy of the full report, please click on www.georgiaemc.com.