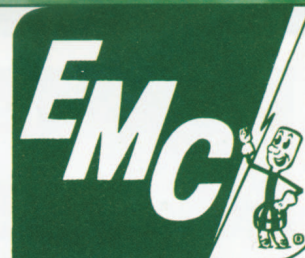


# Electric News

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## Adams Competes in Area IV Wiring Contest

**K**aleb Adams, son of Becky and Michael Adams, of Alamo, and a senior at Wheeler County High School in Alamo, participated in the recent Area IV EMC/FFA Agricultural Education Career Development Event (CDE) at Treutlen County High School in Soperton. The program introduces agriculture students to electrification programs while teaching safe, efficient use of electricity. Any active FFA member enrolled in a ninth- through 12th-grade high school agriculture education class in Little Ocmulgee EMC's service area is eligible to participate.

The Georgia FFA Association and electric membership corporations (EMCs) in Georgia, including Little Ocmulgee EMC, have offered this educational initiative for more than four decades. Regional winners from throughout the state competed Jan. 9, 2016, at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Camp in Covington. As in their local competitions, state contest participants complete a written exam, a practical wiring problem testing their knowledge of the National Electrical Code and an oral presentation on steps to complete a specific electrical task.

The top two individuals in each area contest participated in the state competition. Advancing to the state level this year were Cejay Heath, from Treutlen County High School, who placed first in the Area IV contest, and Ethan Bragg, of Screven County High,



Kaleb Adams demonstrates his wiring skills at the recent Area IV EMC/FFA wiring contest at Treutlen County High School in Soperton.



Contestants must complete a written exam and a practical wiring problem testing their knowledge of the National Electrical Code. They also must address the judges, as Kaleb Adams is doing, to demonstrate and explain a specific wiring exercise.

who finished second. Heath placed third in the statewide competition and Bragg came in sixth.

As an added incentive to participate in the CDE, students can earn scholarships for use at any college, university or vocational school in Georgia.

"We are certainly proud of Kaleb for representing our EMC service territory so well in the region competition," says Lewis Sheffield, General Manager at Little Ocmulgee EMC. "The FFA wiring contest is one of the most demanding, yet rewarding, FFA competitions and teaches students the practical skill of electrical wiring, combined with the life skills of problem solving and public speaking."

According to Bryant Oliver, ag teacher at Wheeler County High School and a mentor to students preparing for the competition, the EMC/FFA wiring event is a comprehensive tool for student learning. "This contest is a complete package that takes the student through several areas related to electrical wiring," Oliver says. "Kaleb is to be congratulated for the effort he put forth while competing in his last wiring contest among the Area IV contestants."



# LOEMC to Receive Power from New 20 MW Solar Facility



Elected officials and representatives of Green Power EMC and Silicon Ranch Corp. flip the switch on the newly energized, jointly owned 20-megawatt solar generating facility near Hazlehurst.

**L**ittle Ocmulgee EMC is one of 27 electric cooperatives in Georgia that will receive power from a new 20-megawatt (MW) solar generating facility, dedicated recently in Jeff Davis County in south-east Georgia near Hazlehurst. Construction has been completed on the ground-based solar facility, which is situated on a 135-acre tract and includes about 87,000 solar panels. This makes it one of the largest solar generating facilities in Georgia.

The Hazlehurst solar facility was developed by Silicon Ranch Corp. in partnership with Green Power EMC, a renewable-energy provider owned by 38 Georgia electric membership corporations (EMCs). The full output of the facility is being sold under a 25-year contract to Green Power EMC and will be distributed to EMCs participating in the project.

The solar facility is expected to produce more than 43,000 megawatt-hours of clean, renewable energy annually, enough to offset 30,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

Silicon Ranch and Green Power EMC are also planning a second solar facility in Jeff Davis County.

That project, which will produce about 52 MW of power, is expected to go into service in 2016.

General Manager Lewis Sheffield says, "Little Ocmulgee EMC is pleased to participate in this large solar project, which will help produce enough energy for about 3,000 EMC households. Solar production is a rapidly developing source of renewable energy in Georgia, and our participation in this project allows our members more access to this important new supply of power."

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. In addition to solar power, Green Power EMC obtains green power from renewable facilities all over the state, including landfill gas generation, low-impact hydroelectric and biomass from wood waste. EMCs that own Green Power EMC serve more than 4.2 million Georgia residents.

For more information about renewable energy efforts in Georgia, visit [greenpoweremc.com](http://greenpoweremc.com).



## Claim Undeliverable Capital Credits by Sept.1 Deadline



A current list of members with unclaimed capital credit checks issued in 2010, marked as “undeliverable” by the post office, is located for review at LOEMC’s offices in Alamo, Dublin and McRae. This list can be viewed online at [www.loemc.com](http://www.loemc.com).

The last possible date to claim these funds is Sept. 1, 2016. If not claimed by this date, they

will be donated for charitable uses, as permitted by O.C.G.A. 44-12-236.

Our corporate office in Alamo and the branch office in Dublin are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The McRae branch is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed for lunch from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

## Change Your Clocks; Change Your Batteries

The second Sunday in March will trigger daylight saving time, when we “spring ahead” and set our clocks one hour later.

That’s also the best day to change the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors—even if the batteries aren’t dead.

If you don’t have fire alarms and CO detectors, your family is at risk. The alarms will loudly warn you

if smoke or gas is present in your home, so you can get out.

Carbon monoxide is a clear, odorless gas that is deadly but hard to detect. If you don’t have an alarm, it’s unlikely you will know if your home has a CO leak.

Carbon monoxide doesn’t come just from cars. Your gas furnace

or stove is a potential source of the gas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers these tips for poison prevention:

- Keep gas appliances properly adjusted.
- Use electric space heaters, not gas space heaters.
- Install an exhaust fan, vented to the outdoors, over a gas stove.
- Open flues when wood-burning fireplaces are in use.
- Choose properly sized wood stoves with tight-fitting doors that are certified to meet EPA emission standards.
- Have a trained professional inspect, clean and tune up your central heating system—including furnaces, flues and chimneys—annually. Repair leaks promptly.
- Do not idle your car inside the garage.



## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Little Ocmulgee Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a civil rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to

request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



# Enjoy Springtime—with Energy Savings

**A**fter a mostly mild winter, the weather is beginning to improve. Put the mild temperatures to work for your energy bill.

## Here are 10 easy ways to save energy this spring:

- 1. Hire a heating and air-conditioning pro to check out your air-conditioning system and window A/C units.** Annual spring maintenance can keep your A/C running smoothly and catch any problems in the making. Ask the pro to change or clean the filters while he's there.



- 2. Open the windows.** As soon as it's warm enough to feel comfortable indoors without heat, turn the heat off and invite the warm, outdoor air inside. The natural breezes will freshen a stuffy house that's been closed up all winter. And keeping the heat and A/C turned off for a few weeks—or longer—will save you a bundle on energy.
- 3. Let the sunshine in.** Throw open the drapes or blinds during the day to let bright, warm sunrays into your rooms on mild days. Then, turn off the lights and the heat. When summer arrives, close those drapes during the day to keep the sun from overheating your house.
- 4. If you have a programmable thermostat, use it to its potential.** Set it to automatically lower the heat before everyone leaves the house in the

morning and again when the family turns in for the night. Once air-conditioning season starts, program it to conserve the A/C in the same way.

- 5. Switch the direction of ceiling fan blades.**

During the spring and summer, the blades should pull warm air up toward the ceiling, rather than push it down into the room. Using ceiling fans will allow you to lower your thermostat setting by up to 4 degrees.

- 6. Have a cookout.** Prepare dinner on your outdoor grill on nice evenings rather than using the stove or oven. Appliances that create heat tend to heat up the whole house.

- 7. Run the dishwasher and clothes dryer after dark.** No need to add that heat to your home's air during the day when it's warm outdoors.

- 8. Caulk and weather strip windows and doors.**

You read about this every spring because you should do it again every spring. Caulking doesn't last forever.



- 9. Dress for the weather.** Shed the sweaters and socks when it's warm outside so you can delay the start of air-conditioning season inside.
- 10. Turn down the water heater.** If you snuck it up a couple of degrees during the winter to make your showers extra-steamy, lower it to 120 degrees. Not only is that hot enough, it's a safer temperature than anything higher, especially if children or older family members are showering in your home.

## Good Friday Holiday Closing



Our offices will be closed Friday, March 25, 2016, in observance of Good Friday. In case of an electrical emergency, please call (912) 568-7171 or toll-free in Georgia at (800) 342-1290.

For your convenience, night deposit boxes are available at our main office in Alamo and the Dublin branch office. Or you may pay your bill online at [www.loemc.com](http://www.loemc.com).

## Dates to Remember

March 13 ..... Daylight saving time begins;  
spring forward

March 17 ..... St. Patrick's Day

March 20 ..... First day of spring

March 25 ..... Good Friday

March 27 ..... Easter

April 1 ..... April Fool's Day

April 22 ..... Earth Day

April 27 ..... Administrative Professionals Day