



Powerlines

May 2018 | Volume 31 • Number 5 | www.powersouth.com | info@powersouth.com

CHELCO launches community solar program

CHELCO members can buy a portion of their electricity from solar generation without shifting costs to others, thanks to a subscription-based community solar program created through a partnership that includes PowerSouth.

CHELCO began working last summer on the Cooperative Solar project to serve members who expressed interest in renewable resources.

"We thought community solar would be a good way of offering that option as opposed to a program where the cost of solar would be put into our rate base for all members," said CHELCO

Vice President of Member Services Steve Wolfrom. "We wanted to do a program where only those who want solar would pay for it."

The result is a partnership between CHELCO, PowerSouth and Atlanta-based Radiance Solar. Through the agreement, CHELCO leases the roof of its operations center to Radiance Solar, which installed a solar array and sells the generated energy to PowerSouth. PowerSouth then sells that energy back to CHELCO.

While CHELCO considered buying land for the solar array, the limited demand for solar energy from its members has not made

that purchase necessary, Wolfrom said.

"It turned out that putting it on the roof at the size we did was probably just about right," Wolfrom said. "I think it will be a few years down the road before we would consider anything more."

A different approach

CHELCO's solar array came online in March. April was the first full month of production, so May bills will be the first to include the additional solar costs. Based on the array's average output, the cooperative estimates solar subscribers will pay an extra \$11-12 monthly for one block of

solar, or the amount produced by approximately five solar panels.

Initially, that extra cost was unattractive to members who thought renewable energy would lower bills.

"But part of our pitch was that if you want solar, we can do this the same way co-ops were born: members banding together to make it happen," said Wolfrom. "We started taking an approach that the people interested in being leaders in terms of bringing solar to northwest Florida could participate in this program."



CHelCO Chief Executive Officer Steve Rhodes addresses attendees at CHelCO's community solar project powering-up ceremony on March 20.

Community Solar, continued from previous page

That strategy helped CHelCO reach its subscriber goal two weeks before a November deadline, and the effort showed there was enough interest in solar to make the project viable.

Solar balance

Other questions, such as whether members will shoulder the higher cost of solar power long-term, remain. Wolfrom expects CHelCO to adopt a wait-and-see approach until they learn if those who signed up for the program renew after one year.

"Overall it's positive because the people who are subscribing are not looking for a bargain; they're looking to support solar," he said.

One thing the community solar program has made clear is that solar energy does not offer a

significant benefit to the system during times of peak load.

Both PowerSouth and CHelCO experience the highest demand during winter mornings, when there is limited sunlight.

"Not every member has a need or desire for solar generation, but PowerSouth understands each distribution system may have individual needs," said Matt Diamond, PowerSouth Fuels & Energy Resources Manager.

"Even though we like to build projects and generate power as a single entity, with unanimous support from the membership, we understand that differences between distribution members mean that PowerSouth needs to be flexible to meet the individual needs of members when it makes

Co-opSolar

A CHelCO SOLAR PROJECT

sense for the membership as a whole," Diamond said. "This project is a perfect example of that. We were able to support CHelCO with their solar goals without impacting the other members' costs."

Wolfrom considers community solar a success as an option for their members who want to invest in solar without purchasing expensive equipment themselves.

"We received feedback from some of the more environmentally

conscious members in our area that they were interested in investing more in renewable resources," he said.

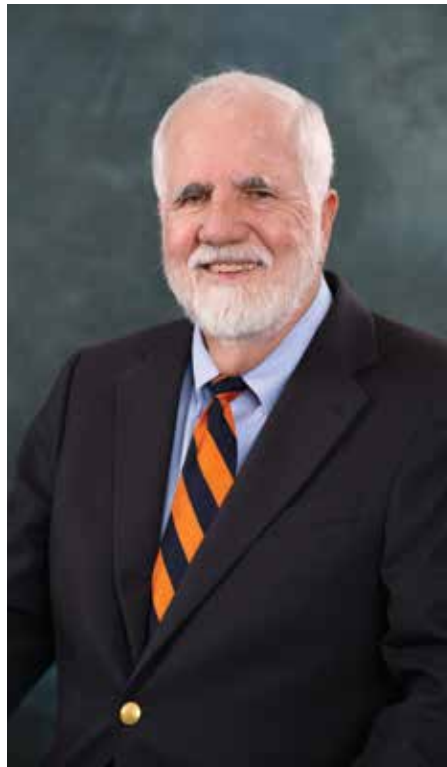
"This is a viable program that has generated a lot of member interest and a lot of public interest," Wolfrom said. "We feel like we have satisfied that need for the members who are most passionate about renewable energy." ■

Daugherty to represent Clarke-Washington EMC on PowerSouth Board of Trustees

Howard R. Daugherty Jr., of McIntosh, Ala., has been elected to represent Clarke-Washington EMC on the PowerSouth Board of Trustees. Daugherty's appointment was approved at PowerSouth's April Board meeting.

A native of Washington County, Daugherty is a graduate of Leroy High School. He earned a bachelor's degree from Auburn University and a master's degree from the University of South Alabama.

Daugherty is a member of McIntosh Methodist Church, where he serves as a trustee and as Chairman of the Cemetery Committee. ■



PowerSouth sponsors 43rd annual conference

Want to learn more about the cooperative difference in Alabama? PowerSouth will sponsor one couple — 45 years of age or under — to attend the Alabama Council of Cooperatives' 43rd Co-op Couples Conference.

The sponsorship covers lodging, program expenses and meals during the conference at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Orange Beach, Ala., July 16-18.

The conference is designed to give young couples a better understanding of the co-op way of doing business. Attendees will gain additional knowledge and insight into the economic and service opportunities afforded by co-ops. They will have the opportunity to learn how co-ops can benefit them in everyday life and exchange ideas, experiences and leadership needs.

The conference also allows cooperative personnel to learn what young couples are thinking so that they can better serve their needs.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Lisa Haney at ext. 3712 by June 1.



PowerSouth's Covington County team raised approximately \$9,500 to benefit the Covington County Relay For Life. At this year's event, participants enjoyed activities like tug of war and a moon pie eating contest.

PowerSouth praises delegation on passage of nuclear production tax credit

A recent budget bill, with strong support by the Alabama and Florida Congressional delegations and signed into law by President Trump, modified the nuclear production tax credit, a measure that benefits the expansion of the Vogtle Power Plant's units under construction near Augusta, Ga.

"Our legislators recognize the importance of nuclear generation and support our mission of delivering safe, dependable and economical energy to communities across Alabama and northwest Florida," PowerSouth President and CEO Gary Smith said.



Plant Vogtle Units 3 and 4 will consist of two 1,100-megawatt nuclear reactors. PowerSouth, through an agreement with MEAG Power, will purchase a portion of the output from the two new units.

The new legislation suspends the deadline for receiving advanced nuclear production tax credits, and it allows electric cooperatives and municipal electric systems to utilize the credits intended to incentivize construction of new nuclear facilities in the U.S.

Smith praised the positive efforts of the Alabama and Florida Congressional delegations in supporting the legislation.

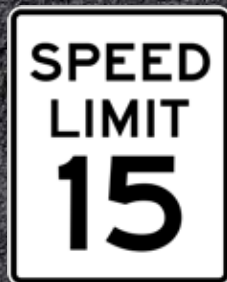
"We are extremely grateful for our House members' leadership on this issue and, in particular, the leadership shown by Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Alabama) to ensure PowerSouth members benefit from this important energy legislation," Smith said.

U.S. Rep. Martha Roby, R-Alabama, said, "Development of our

American energy resources is vital to keep energy costs low. I am proud that PowerSouth is participating in the Vogtle Project, as the nuclear plant will be a generation asset for the next 80 years. With this partnership, Plant Vogtle will provide reliable and affordable energy for the people who live and work in Alabama's Second District." ■



PARKING LOT SAFETY RULES



Failure to observe safe driving rules in the Headquarters parking lot will result in the reinstallation of speed bumps.

Moving to Iceland

Last December, in my article “Big Mike’s Bean House,” I attempted to demonstrate how misguided studies and impractical solutions impair the serious discussion of climate change. In particular, eliminating beef from our food sources is not a credible solution to mitigating climate change. It just will not happen.

Putting aside the argument of the credibility of climate science, the serious discussion of potential damage resulting from climate change is also impaired by unrealistic studies and bizarre results that researchers and the government actually stand behind.

Last fall the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a summary of research entitled The American Climate Prospectus (Prospectus), which attempts to quantify the future cost of climate change for the U.S. The Prospectus predicts an extremely large detrimental economic impact and serious health impacts from unmitigated climate change. The Prospectus, which predicts doom and gloom from unmitigated climate change, utilizes dubious studies with conclusions sometimes in conflict with common sense and elementary logic.

For example, a study sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) relied on by the GAO in the Prospectus concludes Pittsburgh’s extreme heat mortality rate in 2100 will be 75 times higher than Phoenix’s 2000 rate. Yet the same study acknowledges Pittsburgh’s climate in 2100 will not be as hot as Phoenix’s in 2000.

Another study utilized by the Prospectus — using data as old as 1968 — led to the conclusion that unmitigated climate change will kill tens of thousands of people due to more globally-widespread temperatures above 90 degrees. However, the Prospectus ignored a newer study by the same researchers showing mortality rates on hot days have dropped substantially with the higher adoption of air conditioning.

Studies of economic damage resulting from climate change produce equally bizarre results. A study paper conducted by



professors at Stanford and the University of California – Berkeley and published in Nature found that warm countries tended to experience lower economic growth in abnormally warm years while colder countries benefit.

Interestingly, the study finds colder countries will achieve unbelievable wealth and warmer countries will pay a devastating price as the global economy declines under the weight of unmitigated climate change. For instance, by 2100 the annual per capita income in Iceland will soar to \$1.5 million. That is more than double the projected per capita income for any country other than Finland, which is projected to be \$860,000. Mongolia (which currently ranks 118th in national per capita income) will rise to seventh and will be four times greater than the average American’s. The Canadian national economy will be seven times larger than China’s.

Of course, the results of the studies are nonsense. However, the GAO relies on such garbage to reach conclusions on the direction of the United States economy and publish serious-appearing prospectuses on the damage to be inflicted by climate change. Environmentalists use the studies and reports to support their demands for immediate change to reduce the health and economic damage of climate change.

The obvious flaw is that most of the models rely on past human behaviors and results as well as small sample sizes to extrapolate predictions of future outcomes from the large, slow shifts in climate change.

Humans and societies have an incredible capacity to adapt when faced with high economic or health cost pressures. The question of human adaptation is not an inconsequential factor for the study of the cost of future action or inaction. Yet, it is often ignored.

The 1960s’ overpopulation scare was logical unless one assumed human adaption to a larger global population, improved farming methods, and expansion of a seemingly finite supply of resources. All of which occurred, and the overpopulation scare is rarely heard of today.

I could expound on the reasons the GAO would rely on obviously flawed data to paint an extreme picture on the ravages of climate change. I could discuss similar flaws associated with the basic climate change models and studies themselves. However, I don’t have time. I need to start packing my beach clothes to move to Iceland.

I hope you have a good month.

This article is influenced by an article entitled “Doomsday Climate Scenarios are a Joke,” written by Oren Cass of the Manhattan Institute and published in the Wall Street Journal. ■



Gary Smith

PowerSouth President and CEO

Service anniversaries



Michael Byrd
Transmission O&M
34 years, May 21



Lisa Veasey
Planning, Reg. & Compliance
32 years, May 12



Teri Lowery
Transmission O&M
31 years, May 18



Gail Blackmon
Substation O&M
30 years, May 2



Flint Harrelson
T&D Technical Services
30 years, May 31



Michael Mitchell
Telecom Services
29 years, May 1



Earl Henderson
Comp. Info. Services
28 years, May 7



Cindy Bozeman
Finance & Accounting
28 years, May 19



Craig Kilpatrick
Comp. Info. Services
28 years, May 30



Lisa Haney
Communications
27 years, May 28



Tim Whatley
Legal Affairs
24 years, May 2



Chuck Dutton
Transmission O&M
17 years, May 7



Waylon Dunn
Central Generation
17 years, May 14



Kenny Shiver
Central Generation
17 years, May 14



Michael Harkins
Central Generation
16 years, May 6



Terry Hall
Energy Services
16 years, May 13



Eric Copeland
Safety Services
16 years, May 28



James Taylor
Transmission O&M
14 years, May 17



Cory Bryan
Substation O&M
12 years, May 8



Gary Goldman
Lowman
12 years, May 22



Carl Sherrouse
Transmission O&M
11 years, May 1



Tabitha Wiggins
Finance & Accounting
11 years, May 17



Josh Beverly
Substation O&M
10 years, May 12



T.J. Harrison
Substation O&M
10 years, May 19



Anna Stephens
Member Services
10 years, May 27



Blake Odum
Planning, Reg. & Compliance
7 years, May 16



Merrill Davis
Safety Services
7 years, May 26



Greg Bennett
Central Generation
6 years, May 15



Clay Carter
Central Generation
6 years, May 15



Neil Howell
Central Generation
6 years, May 15



Matthew Fowler
Central Generation
6 years, May 29



Thomas Smith
Central Generation
6 years, May 29



Wesley Pearce
Environmental
5 years, May 20



Mitch Pugh
Fuels & Energy Resources
5 years, May 22



Kim Bowers
Human Resources
5 years, May 28



Charles Gunter
Telecom Services
4 years, May 12



Hunter Dubose
Telecom Services
4 years, May 19



Chris Dunbar
Communications
3 years, May 28



Johnny Wilson
Comp. Info. Services
2 years, May 23

Comings and goings

Welcome

Kayci Donald, Work Study at McIntosh, effective March 26.

Emilee Hudson, Work Study in Human Resource Services, effective March 12.

Promotions

Heath Mills was promoted to Senior Systems Analyst in Computer Information Services, effective March 1. His previous position was Systems Analyst.

Michael Hudson was promoted to Substation Maintenance Supervisor in Substation O&M, effective March 26. His most recent position was Crew Leader - Substation.

Transfer

Corey Bryan is now Substation Maintenance Supervisor in Substation O&M, effective March 26. His most recent position was Principal Engineer.

Retirements

Best wishes to **Lee Davis**, McIntosh Plant Manager, who retired March 14 after 30 years of service.

Best wishes to **Delores Bush**, who retired March 21 after 19 years of service. Her most recent position was Senior Systems Analyst in Computer Information Services.

Good-bye and good luck

Hannah Colvin, Work Study in Communications, effective March 21.

Happy Birthday!

- May 1 Terry Bedsole
Lamar Crowe
Ethan Hall
J.P. Milstead
Chris Moseley
Al Mosley
David Purvis
- May 2 Craig Anderson
Brian Reeves
- May 3 Matt Diamond
Casey Jackson
- May 6 Bill Blount
Wayne Harrison
- May 7 Clay Carter
- May 10 Kevin Bryan
Flint Harrelson
Donovan Smith
David Tarpley
- May 11 Lisa Dodd
Paul Dubose
- May 12 Tommy Averill
Joey Cooper
- May 13 Wayne Phillips
- May 14 Jason Stearns
- May 15 Tresa Middleton
- May 17 Ashley Barefoot
Hunter Dubose
Dewayne Jackson
- May 18 Sammy Hogg
- May 19 Marty Chesteen
Sherry Criswell
Johnny King
Buddy Reynolds
- May 20 Jessica Singleton
- May 1 Jonathon Ballard
- May 22 Courtney Bowers
Brian Fleming
- May 23 Kim Bowers
Mark Dayton
Clark Sanders
- May 24 J.R. Harrell
- May 25 Kevin Breland
Chad Jenkins
- May 26 Cindy Bozeman
- May 28 Robert Beckham
- May 29 Debbie Bracewell
John Wiggins
- May 30 Avery Driver
Percy Harris
Kevin West
- May 31 Baynard Ward

NEW arrival



Congratulations to **Tiffany (Blake) Johnson** (Telecommunications) on the birth of their son, Conley Reed, on Feb. 13. He weighed 6 lb. 3 oz. and was welcomed home by big sister, Charlotte.



May is
ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

PowerSouth is committed to safety excellence for all employees, both on and off the job.

Why do you work safely?



May photo contest
winner: **Steven King**

Congratulations to **Steven King** (Central Generation) for winning this month's photo contest. May's photo contest theme was, "The Skies of Co-op Country."



June's photo contest theme is **"Plant" Life.**

IMPORTANT: When sending photos taken with a mobile device (cellphone), be sure to send the highest quality possible.

The submission deadline for the June contest is May 25.

Send entries to Christi Scruggs at christi.scruggs@powersouth.com or via interoffice mail. ■

Powerlines is published monthly for the employees and members of PowerSouth Energy Cooperative.

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