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OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Monday through Friday

Speak to a Member Service Representative by
phone Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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"OWNED BY THOSE WE SERVE"

What to Consider When Considering Rooftop Solar

"Free energy from the sun and lower electric bills... Where do I sign up?"

The benefits of installing rooftop solar panels may seem like a no-brainer, but the reality is, not every home (and homeowner's situation) is always right for solar. Investing in solar for your home is a major decision. If you're considering rooftop solar, check out OREMC's free solar assessment tool at oremc.com/rooftop-solar. It will help you consider if rooftop solar is right for you by asking:

- **What are my solar goals?** Is it to save money on electric bills? Do you want to use renewable energy and help the environment? Consider signing up for our Cooperative Solar program oremc.com/cooperative-solar. You can help power renewable energy, without having to invest and maintain a home system. Or are you wanting to go off the grid? That would require major lifestyle changes... not just installing rooftop solar.

- **Is my roof suitable for solar?** Your roof should be in good condition before installing solar panels. How old is your roof? Does it face south? Solar panels perform best when facing south, so keep this in mind as you think about where the panels will be mounted. How much sun (shade) does it get? Will any trees will need to be removed?

- **Do you own your home?** If you're considering rooftop solar, you're likely planning to stay in the home for several

years. Does your HOA allow rooftop solar installations? Will your insurance company cover it? Some insurance companies in Florida won't provide homeowner's insurance if rooftop solar is installed. Check with yours before you install.

- **Can the contractor provide up-to-date documentation?** It may seem obvious, but get several estimates and be sure to request proof and documentation of the contractors' licensing, permitting and other credentials. Comb through company reviews, check the contractor's status with Better Business Bureau, etc.--do your homework on the front end before signing a contract.

Finally, but equally important, you should contact OREMC's Member Services at 800-262-5131 before you decide to install solar. The system must be connected to the electric

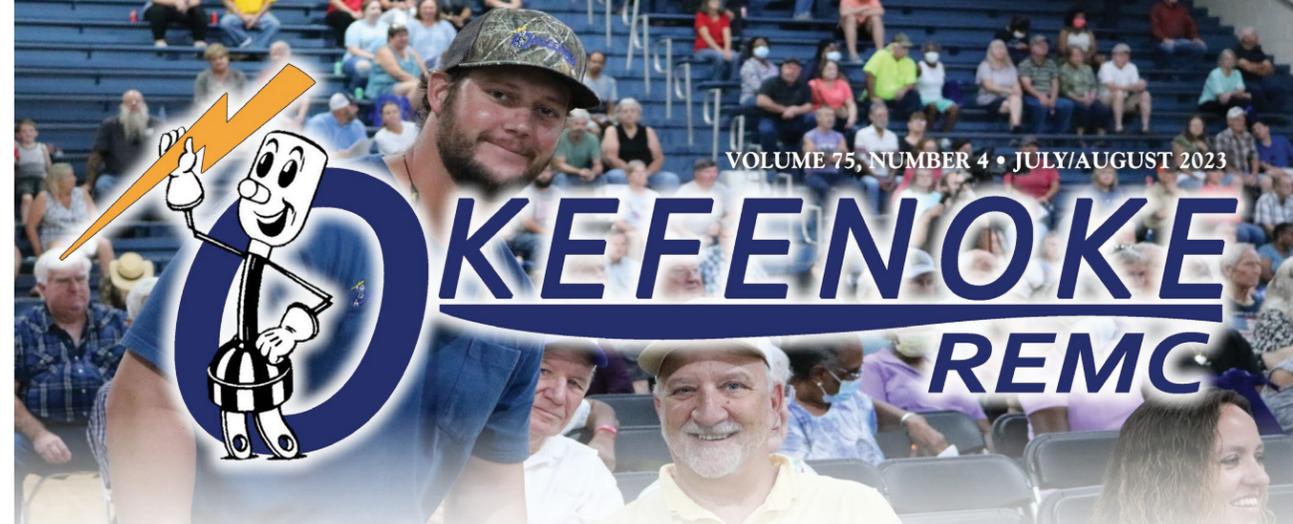


IS ROOFTOP SOLAR RIGHT FOR YOU?

VISIT OUR ROOFTOP SOLAR RESOURCE CENTER



grid, so you'll need to sign an interconnection agreement. Visit oremc.com/rooftop-solar for all the necessary documents and an overview of how you can work with us on connecting your new rooftop solar system. We're here to be your trusted energy advisor.



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KEFENOKE REMC

You're Invited: 2023 Annual Meeting Annual Gathering of Members Set for September 9

It is the backbone of our cooperative form of business—the annual meeting of members. This is your opportunity to meet and mingle with your elected Board of Directors, the leadership team and employees, as well as learn about OREMC programs, initiatives and business updates.

The 2023 OREMC Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, September 9, at the Brantley County High School, Highway 82 West, Nahunta.**

- Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will be drive-thru with access through the Middle School gate.

- Please bring the preprinted registration card you will receive with your official annual meeting notification letter to register and receive your attendance gift.

- Attendance gifts will be presented to members at registration. **Please note:** Just as there is only one vote per member regardless of how many accounts are in your name, there will also **only be one attendance gift per member.** As the name suggests, it is a thank you gift presented to those members who choose to attend the Annual Meeting.

- Proceed forward to the refreshment stop where you will be offered donuts and choice of water and Coke® products. Additional beverages and coffee will be available at the refreshment counter located just outside the gym in the high school.

- You will be directed to follow the road around toward the high school for parking.

- Musical entertainment will be provided 8:30 -10 a.m. Activities will be available for the kids throughout the morning.

- Official business meeting will start at 10 a.m. During the business meeting, members will hear reports from OREMC's Board President and General Manager. Elections will be finalized for three members of OREMC's Board of Directors to serve for three-year terms representing: District 3 – East Brantley & Wayne counties (Georgia) District 7 – Charlton County (Georgia), District 9 – Southeast Camden County (Georgia).

Raffle prizes, superlative prizes and a grand prize will be awarded to those in attendance at the conclusion of the business meeting; you must be present to win.

Please contact us about any special needs or requirements for your participation in the Annual Meeting by calling our office at (800) 262-5131 or emailing us at member.service@oremc.com prior to September 9, or by contacting one of our employees at the meeting.



*James 1:17
King James Version*

¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning.

“Live in each season as it passes: breathe the air,
drink the drink, taste the fruit.”
—Henry David Thoreau

Going Green: What it Really Means

On almost a daily basis there is a new headline about the transition to electric vehicles, new battery plants being built to support the increased production of EVs, the decommissioning of coal plants and the continued growth of utility scale solar. There are also headlines expressing concerns about the state of our national electric grid and its ability to handle increased demand for electricity.

So what is driving our national energy policy and initiatives? Are the timelines realistic? Are we ready for increased electric demand nationally? OREMC General Manager tackles these questions and more in the most recent episode of our podcast *Plugged In* "Going Green: What it Really Means" chatting with OREMC Communications and Marketing Coordinator Michele Hutchins.

(MH) "Let's start with EVs. Between federal incentives, tax credits and auto makers converting some of their plants to just produce electric vehicles, there is some idea that we might fully convert to EVs by 2050, and California is hoping to be there even sooner. . .2035. However, it is not quite as easy as it sounds. Talk a bit about that."

(JM) "Well, for a number of reasons: first of all, with the individual incentives to purchase EVs, they are still very expensive compared to

and the metals needed for batteries—nickel, cadmium, the copper— and talking about the need for 100s of millions of batteries in this county alone, where does this increase in these commodities come from?

The issue is two-fold. We don't have many of the minerals here. But those we do have, it is unlikely, due to the regulatory environment driven by environmental policy, that we will be able to extract them as needed. Given it is unlikely we will be mining large swaths of land in this county—and even if one was greenlighted today, it would be 10 to 15 years before it would actually produce the raw materials necessary for battery production—who, as a nation, will we rely on to supply us with these raw materials.

On the flip side, China has moved aggressively in the world marketplace to lock up supplies of minerals ores necessary for this conversion to EV. With the current geopolitics, it begs the question: Will we have access to those materials?"

Don't misunderstand, I believe EVs and renewables are a big part of our solution going forward. My concern is how aggressively we are being pushed by government mandates, coupled with incentives. I have real concerns about reliability and the cost to meet seemingly arbitrary timelines."

(MH) "One of the other issues we talk about is solar. Georgia is one of the leading states in the development of utility scale solar. OREMC has solar in our power supply mix. Can you elaborate on that"

(JM) "We are a member of Green Power EMC which is an entity formed by the cooperatives in Georgia to provide renewable energy solutions. Green Power

has done a number of utility scale solar projects across the state that we have participated in. It is a fairly significant portion of our power supply portfolio and growing. And I see that continuing to grow over time.

Reliability is my main concern driving a reasonable transition to renewables. We have seen a tremendous number of coal plants retired for both economic and environmental reasons. Some of that coal capacity has been replaced with renewables, but most with natural gas fired generation and there are some constraints, particularly in the Southeast, to deliver natural gas during peak demand times.

Renewables are an important part of the solution going forward, but they alone cannot replace fossil fuel generation. Until we get

large scale battery storage capacity—and we already discussed the challenges around battery production—renewables cannot directly replace traditional generation. And on the grid side, the problem of batteries is almost a double whammy. We have the need for batteries to replace fossil fuel generation, but we also have the fact that demand on the grid is going to grow as we transition the transportation sector."

(MH) "What is happening at the national level to get the electric utility industry ready for the transition and increased demand."

(JM) "The conversion to renewables begs the question where do you site, or build, utility scale wind and solar? For wind it is where the wind blows, which is not typically where the load centers—where most of the electricity gets used—are. And for solar you need large land

You can listen to the whole conversation on OREMC's Plugged In podcast on Amazon, Apple, Google or Spotify. You can also watch on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/2Gb2yCU696E>.

areas which are typically in the rural areas. To get the power from where it is generated to where it is consumed is going to take a tremendous amount of increased transmission infrastructure to accommodate that. It is going to be expensive and not a short, or near-term solution.

When you get right down to it, reliable, affordable energy is the backbone of our economy, our livelihood, and will continue to be so. That's why it is so important to make the transition to greener energy in a reasonable, well-thought manner that doesn't compromise either of those touchstones of service."



gasoline vehicles. The charging infrastructure is not currently in place, particularly in our rural areas, therefore these vehicles are not convenient for people to utilize. And I think some politicians have set some overly aggressive timelines for this conversion to EVs."

(MH) "As you and I have discussed previously, it is not just about the conversion to EVs, but getting the raw materials for batteries. Batteries are not just made of one mineral, but several."

(JM) "Yes, raw materials for batteries are one issue. Where will those come from? And when you look at the motors



Tee Time With OREMC

Get ready to chip, putt and drive your way around the The Lakes Course at Laura S. Walker State Park on **Saturday, October 14 for the 32nd Annual Okefenokee REMC Golf Tournament** benefiting the Southeast Cancer Unit, Inc. A sold-out event the past two years, the tournament has grown into a premiere event for sponsors and players looking to make a difference in the lives of cancer patients undergoing treatment and in need of financial assistance for medical expenses. Nearly \$60,000 has been donated to the Southeast Cancer Unit in just the last four years.

Information and registration for sponsors and players is available online at oremc.com/golf. Registration deadline is Monday, October 2. Gather your foursome of duffers and make plans to enjoy a day of fun, fellowship and fundraising.

PREPARATION MATTERS.

65%

of Americans don't feel prepared for a natural disaster

91%

of Americans have/will experience a natural disaster

WHAT YOU AND LOVED ONES CAN DO TO PREPARE.

1. Make a family emergency plan.
2. Build an emergency supply kit.
3. Sign up for local weather and emergency alerts.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH | #NPM2023



Church of the Month

Brandy Branch Church

1906 Brandy Branch Church Pl.
Bryceville, FL 32009
Pastor Deryle Adkinson

Sunday Bible Study	8:50 a.m.
Sunday Worship	10 a.m.
Sunday Evening	6 p.m.
Wednesday	7 p.m.

To nominate your church, contact Dewayne Johns at 1-800-262-5131 Ext. 1143 or email dewayne.johns@oremc.com