

GEMC

GreyStone Power brings you

# Georgia<sup>®</sup>

MAGAZINE

Save on  
summer travel  
page E

Ceiling fan tips  
page G

JUNE 2022

Is rooftop  
solar right  
for you?  
page C

[www.georgiamagazine.org](http://www.georgiamagazine.org)



**GREYSTONE**  
POWER CORPORATION  
Making Life Better



Photo Credit: Robb Maag

## MILLER'S MINUTE

# SOLAR LEADERS

Georgia's electric membership corporations (EMCs), including GreyStone Power, are leaders in solar energy. Since 2001, Green Power EMC has supported Georgia's EMCs in their search for renewable resources. This co-op negotiates power purchase agreements with Georgia-based renewable resource providers, including solar, landfill gas, hydro, wood waste and wind.

With a portfolio of generating resources that includes nearly 1,000 megawatts of solar energy produced across the state, Georgia's EMCs are heavily invested in green power. That's enough low-cost, renewable power to help serve more than 158,000 EMC households annually.

GreyStone's solar portfolio includes the Cooperative Solar farm located at the co-op's headquarters in Paulding County. Our Cooperative Solar program is a good option for many members who want an affordable way to meet some of their electricity needs from solar power. For those members who want more information on installing solar in their home or business, our trusted energy advisors are here to help. Visit [greystonepower.com/rooftopsolar](http://greystonepower.com/rooftopsolar) to learn more. We can assist you in making smart energy investments that will best meet your needs, goals and financial objectives.

- Gary

Gary Miller,  
President/CEO

*The GreyStone Connection, which wraps Georgia Magazine, is a quarterly newsletter published by GreyStone Power to keep you informed about the cooperative you own.*

---

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jim Johns, Chairman, District 8, Douglas County

Genevieve Cole, Vice Chairman, District 1, Paulding and Bartow counties

David Hagenow, Secretary-Treasurer, District 3, Douglas and Paulding counties

John Walton, District 2, Paulding County

Neal Dettmering, District 4, Carroll and Douglas counties

Billy Mayhew, District 5, Carroll and Douglas counties

Maribeth Wansley, District 6, Fulton, Fayette and Coweta counties

Milton Jones, District 7, Fulton County

Lucy Andres, District 9, Cobb County

---

#### LOCATION

3400 Hiram Douglasville Hwy.

Hiram, GA 30141

---

#### CONTACT US

Main 770-942-6576

Outage 1-866-GREYSTONE (473-9786)

---

#### OTHER WAYS WE SERVE YOU

Co-op Connections® Card, 770-370-2436

EMC Security, 770-370-2030

Gas South, 1-855-802-2768

Go Energy Financial Credit Union, 470-514-3000

Operation Round Up®, 770-370-2080

SurgeMaster Plus, 770-370-2070

Cooperative Solar, 770-370-2252

---

#### DOWNLOAD OUR APPS

The GreyStone Power app allows you to pay your bill, view billing history and electricity use, and verify payments. The Outage Helper app lets you report an outage, receive live restoration times and view an outage map. Download both apps from the App Store or Google Play on your mobile devices.

---

#### FIND THE BOLT AND ENTER TO WIN!

Find the hidden lightning bolt (⚡) in the following GreyStone pages and send us an email to [MemberMatters@greystonepower.com](mailto:MemberMatters@greystonepower.com) with the subject line: Find the Bolt!

Include the following information in the email: the page you found the lightning bolt on, your full name, your phone number and your member account number. You will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card.

*GreyStone Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Not available in the EU*



# GREYSTONE NEWS

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GreyStone Power Corporation has always been involved with promoting economic development with the communities we serve. The co-op is actively involved with its local chambers of commerce and is constantly working with the industrial building authorities to attract new industries and grow existing ones. This provides jobs for the members and communities GreyStone serves.

Commercial members, YOU have the power! The Georgia Territorial Electric Service Act of 1973 resulted in the assignment of exclusive power supply areas throughout the state. The Georgia electric membership cooperatives were assigned 71% of the state's land area, but there are exceptions to these assignments that offer some new customers/members the choice of their power supplier, regardless of the assigned territory. Once a commercial member chooses a power supplier, that commitment is made for the lifetime of the facility to be served.

GreyStone Power was recently selected as the provider of electric service for Harmony at Douglasville, an assisted living community.

For more details and to see if your commercial project qualifies for customer choice, contact Wayne Glover at 770-370-2296 or contact the commercial marketing team at 770-370-2072.

## Save the date for Annual Meeting!

Mark your calendars and save the date for the GreyStone Power Annual Meeting of Members, which will take place on Saturday, Oct. 8! The co-op plans to host the event in person at the new headquarters located at 3400 Hiram Douglasville Hwy., Hiram. Members can expect food, games and entertainment, as well as a few new surprises!

The business portion of the meeting starts at 11 a.m. and will include reports of officers, directors and President/CEO Gary Miller. To learn about the latest updates and registration information, stay tuned to our website and Facebook page.





# CONSIDERATIONS

## IS ROOFTOP SOLAR RIGHT FOR YOU?

Considering a rooftop solar system? Ask yourself these questions to determine if a rooftop solar installation will meet your needs, goals and financial objectives.

### What is your main goal for adding a rooftop solar system to your home?

#### ELIMINATE MY ELECTRIC BILL

In most scenarios, this is unlikely. Unless you have a rooftop solar and battery storage system large enough to meet all of your electricity needs during every hour of the day, you'll need reliable electricity from GreyStone Power when solar is not available. While the amount of electricity you purchase from GreyStone may decrease, we will still be providing you with electricity at night and on cloudy days.

#### REDUCE MY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Every kilowatt-hour of solar energy produced offsets a kilowatt-hour from an emission-generating energy source. You can also achieve this through GreyStone's Cooperative Solar program, which allows you to eliminate the cost, installation and maintenance of rooftop solar while still receiving the environmental benefits of solar energy.

#### SELL POWER BACK TO GREYSTONE

Call us at 770-370-2042 to learn about GreyStone's buyback policy and rate. While it's possible for your rooftop solar system to generate more electricity than your household used, it's typically not economical to invest in a larger system than you need.

#### DISCONNECT FROM THE GRID

Unless you have a rooftop solar and battery storage system large enough to meet all of your electricity needs during every hour of the day, GreyStone will still be providing you with electricity at night and on cloudy days. The use of battery storage can help meet your electricity needs; however, it will add a significant expense to your total system cost.

### Have you considered energy efficiency improvements you can make to your home?

#### YES

Great! By making your home more energy efficient, you've likely reduced your electricity use. Be sure to contact GreyStone to understand your current electricity use so you and your solar installer can size a rooftop solar installation to best meet your electricity needs and financial objectives.

#### NO

You should consider energy efficiency improvements, such as using energy-saving LED lightbulbs or installing a smart thermostat. Making your home more energy efficient will help reduce your electricity use while also lowering your electricity costs. As a result, you'll also reduce the size needed and total cost of a rooftop solar system.

## Does your roof face south?

### YES

Outstanding! A south-facing roof orientation with minimal shading offers the greatest solar energy potential.

### NO

While a south-facing roof is the most ideal orientation for rooftop solar, homes that face other directions will still produce electricity, just not as much. With GreyStone's Cooperative Solar program, you can subscribe to receive electricity from off-site solar facilities that are constructed in the most ideal conditions to maximize their solar energy output.

## Is your roof free of shade from trees or nearby structures?

### YES

Great! Your solar energy potential is higher with no shading or sunlight obstructions.

### NO

Solar panels perform best with direct sunlight. Obstructions that block direct sunlight, such as trees or nearby structures, will limit solar energy production. With GreyStone's Cooperative Solar program, you can subscribe to receive energy from off-site solar facilities that are constructed in the most ideal conditions, in open land areas with no shading.

## Is your roof less than five years old?

### YES

Excellent! Installing a rooftop solar system on a roof less than five years old is ideal because of the potential long life of solar panels.

### NO

Your roof should be less than five years old to avoid costly removal or replacement of rooftop solar panels during roof repairs. With GreyStone's Cooperative Solar program, you can subscribe to receive energy from off-site solar facilities, eliminating concerns about the age and condition of your roof.

## Do you own your home?

### YES

Great! You have a few options for solar energy, including a rooftop solar system and GreyStone's Cooperative Solar program.

### NO

With GreyStone's Cooperative Solar program, you can still take advantage of the benefits of solar energy without having to gain approval from the homeowner and your neighborhood homeowners association.

## Now that you have answered these questions, have you determined that rooftop solar might be a good fit for you?

### YES

Visit [greystonepower.com/rooftopsolar](http://greystonepower.com/rooftopsolar) to review helpful resources that can support your rooftop solar evaluation process. Be sure to also review and complete GreyStone's interconnection agreement *before* installing rooftop solar to ensure that your system meets important safety and reliability requirements.

### NO

Consider GreyStone's Cooperative Solar program, which allows you to purchase solar energy directly from GreyStone's portfolio of off-site solar energy resources. You can eliminate the cost, installation and maintenance of a rooftop solar installation while still receiving the benefits of solar energy for your home.

# Wish you were here?



Save money as you travel this summer!  
Enjoy discounts that will help make your trip  
memorable with package deals, savings on  
hotels, cruises, car rentals and more.

## The experience is waiting for you!



Find all the ways to save at [connections.coop](http://connections.coop).



# BOARD ELECTIONS

Three seats on the GreyStone Board of Directors are up for election in 2022. The winners will be announced Saturday, Oct. 8, at the Annual Meeting of Members.

## HOW TO BECOME A CANDIDATE

Eligible members may become a candidate by being selected by the GreyStone Nominating Committee or by nomination by petition of members. Directors seeking re-election this year are David Hagenow in District 3 and Billy Mayhew in District 5. The board solicited candidates to apply to fill an upcoming vacancy in District 9. Director Lucy Andres plans to retire from the board when her term ends on Oct. 8.

The deadline has passed to be nominated by the Nominating Committee, but eligible members may still run by petition. An eligible member may be nominated by submitting a petition signed by 50 or more GreyStone members of record (the name must appear on the electric bill). The petition, along with a Candidate Affidavit, must be submitted by Thursday, June 30. Forms for petitions and the affidavit can be found at [greystonepower.com/board-elections](http://greystonepower.com/board-elections).

## NOMINEE REQUIREMENTS

All nominees are subject to a criminal and financial background check, must live within the geographic boundary of the district they seek to represent, have no more than three late payments in the last two years and must meet all other conditions of eligibility.

Candidates desiring to have their name and biographical information included in the Annual Meeting ballot edition of *Georgia Magazine* must submit information in the format and manner required by the Credentials and Elections Committee by Thursday, June 30. If you are unable to determine the district in which you reside, or need additional information, call GreyStone's independent legal counsel, Steve Minor, at 770-214-5108.



## DIRECTORS NOMINATED FOR RE-ELECTION THIS YEAR

David Hagenow, District 3, Douglas, Paulding; and Billy Mayhew, District 5, Carroll, Douglas. Visit [greystonepower.com/board-elections](http://greystonepower.com/board-elections) to learn who was nominated for District 9, Cobb.

## MEMBERS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Tony Wilson, District 1; Glenn Richardson, District 2; James S. Smith, District 3; Pat Skinner, District 4; Barry Tysor, District 5; Susan Calderon, District 6; Harold Reid, District 7; Ed McCray, District 8; and Kathy Boehm, District 9.

## EFFICIENCY 101

# Ceiling fan TIPS

If you are like most Americans, you have at least one ceiling fan in your home. Ceiling fans help our indoor life feel more comfortable. They are a decorative addition to our homes and, if used properly, can help lower energy costs.

Most ceiling fans have a switch near the blades. In warm months, flip the switch so that the blades operate in a counterclockwise direction, effectively producing a “wind chill” effect. Fans make the air near them feel cooler than it actually is. Regardless of the season, try operating the fan on its lowest setting.

In the summer, when using a fan in conjunction with an air conditioner, or instead of it, you can turn your thermostat up 3 to 5 degrees without any reduction in comfort. This saves money since a fan is less costly to run than an air conditioner.

Make sure your ceiling fan is the right size for the room. A fan that is 36-44 inches in diameter will cool rooms up to 225 square feet. A fan that is 52 inches or more should be used to cool a larger space.

When the room is unoccupied, turn the fan off. Fans are intended to cool people—not rooms.



## Cooperative Solar

Cooperative Solar is a program that will allow our residential members, who care about reducing their environmental impact, an affordable way to meet some of their electricity needs from a large solar facility in GreyStone’s solar portfolio, including a site that GreyStone has built, manages and maintains in Paulding County. The program makes the benefits of clean, green solar power more widely available to GreyStone residential members at a reasonable price compared to the purchase of a home rooftop or ⚡ yard solar system. Sign up today at [greystonepower.com/cooperativesolar](http://greystonepower.com/cooperativesolar).



# improving service

## FOR GREYSTONE MEMBERS

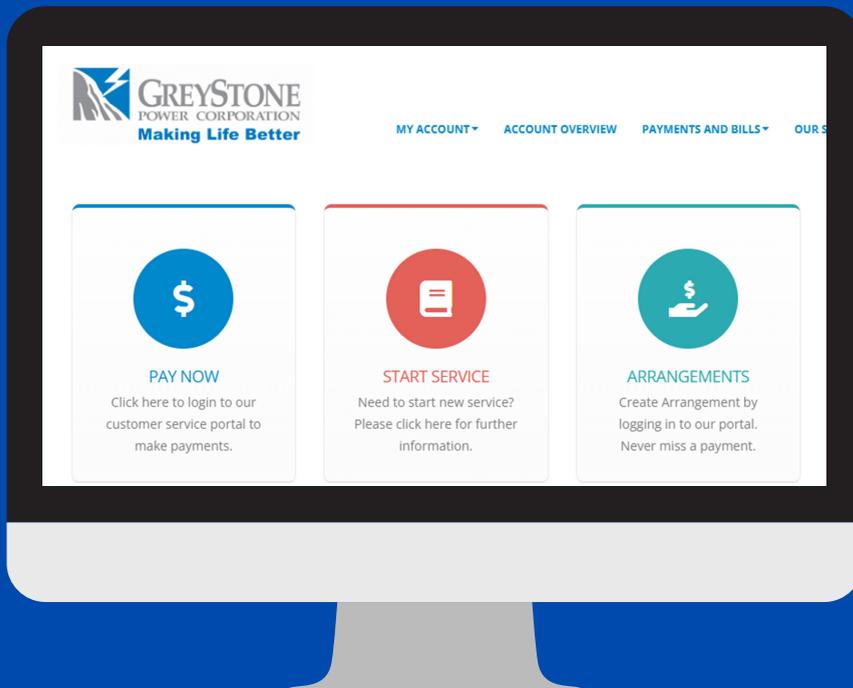


### New virtual agent

Have you seen what's new on the website? GreyStone Power is excited to announce the new virtual agent available at [greystonepower.com](http://greystonepower.com).

GreyStone's virtual agent can help you check your balance, learn your kilowatt-hour use, and you can even make a payment using your saved card profile!

To use the virtual agent, click the speech bubble icon in the bottom right-hand corner of the website. Be sure to have your account number handy. Try it out today!



### Our member portal has a new look!

The new portal offers the same great features, including allowing you to request new service, make a payment, request payment arrangements or even submit an outage ticket. We hope you will find the sleek, new look easier to navigate. Check it out for yourself at [greystonepower.com](http://greystonepower.com).



# Local nonprofit impacted by GreyStone grant

## CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

For Tara Nichols, Making Life Better isn't just the mission of GreyStone Power. It's the reality of her nonprofit organization, the Nichols Center, made possible by receiving a grant from the GreyStone Power Foundation, Inc.

The Nichols Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides mental health services to Douglas County and surrounding areas. In 2022, the Nichols Center launched their Guardians Program, which is a monthly veteran and first responder support group that includes online suicide intervention training and a monthly first responder breakfast.

"Our goal is to develop a meaningful relationship that provides educational awareness and training to our first responders," says Nichols. "This allows them to connect with resources and have the awareness to provide a peer-to-peer response in times of crisis."

With the support from the GreyStone Power Foundation, Inc., the Nichols Center can expand the Guardians Program in multiple ways. They will be able to expand their comprehensive six-hour peer-to-peer suicide intervention training to all firefighters in Douglas County, as well as continue their monthly first responder breakfast. They will also collect donations for a monthly station stock program that allows the community to provide edible goodies to every fire station.

The Nichols Center will also be building a Guardian's Shed that will be a peer-to-peer, project-oriented connection point for first responders and other at-risk community members. Nichols says that many first responders struggle with reaching out for support in times of crisis, and the Guardian's Shed will allow them a safe place to meet one-on-one with individuals who walk a similar journey.

"With the help of GreyStone Power, we will be able to continue this great work and fill this gap in our community," says Nichols.

The GreyStone Power Foundation, Inc. is built upon the strength of GreyStone's members volunteering to round up their electric bills to the next dollar to provide monetary assistance for nonprofit organizations. It makes a tremendous difference in the lives of those who need help in our community.

As a member of GreyStone Power, you have the opportunity to help organizations like the Nichols Center by participating in Operation Round Up, the foundation's fundraising arm, by simply checking the "Yes" box on your power bill statement. To learn more about Operation Round Up or to sign up online to participate, visit [greystonepower.com/oru](http://greystonepower.com/oru).

*Tara Nichols, Nichols Center program coordinator, left, and Susie Nichols, the founding director, right, pose with GreyStone Power Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors Chairman, Marcus Carter, center. The Nichols Center plans to use the funds from Operation Round Up to expand on their initiative to help veterans and first responders.*



# EM POWERING

## OUR COMMUNITIES



Your cooperative offers much more than reliable, affordable electricity. We help local students learn to be careful around electricity using a demonstration called Safety City.

Using our portable safety trailer setup, linemen demonstrate real-life scenarios of electrical hazards to first responders.

GreyStone Power cares about YOUR safety.

Visit [greystonepower.com/safety](http://greystonepower.com/safety) today for helpful lifesaving tips.

**Your cooperative is going beyond energizing local communities.**

***WE'RE EMPOWERING THEM.***

