

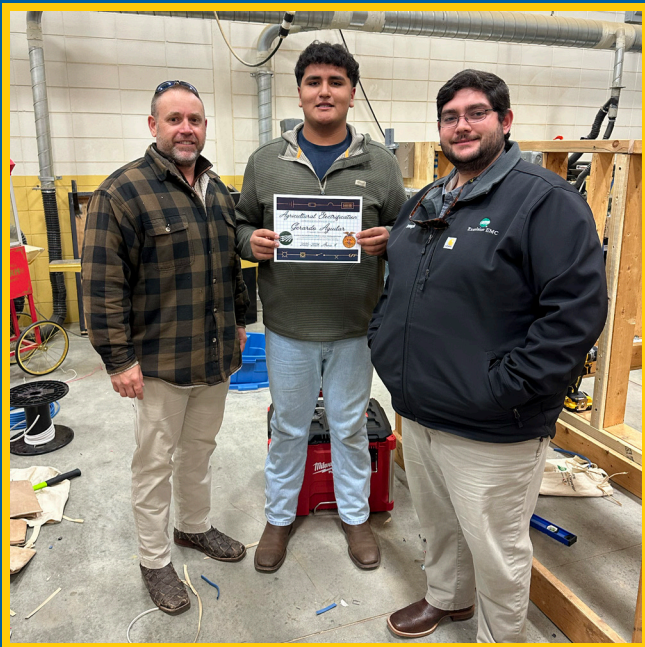


Line Items

The Official
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LOCAL STUDENT COMPETES IN AREA EMC/FFA WIRING CONTEST



Pictured from left to right:

Tyler Cason

Statesboro High School Agriculture Teacher

Gerardo Aguilar

Statesboro High School FFA Member

Joseph Jones

Excelsior EMC Marketing and Communications Specialist



A local student recently competed in the EMC/FFA wiring contest, held at Treutlen County High School in Soperton on January 13th, 2026. The competition is designed to promote electrification programs for agriculture students. The student was Gerardo Aguilar of Statesboro High School's FFA Chapter.

Sponsored by the Electric Membership Corporations of Georgia, including Excelsior EMC, the EMC/FFA wiring contest is a program of the Agricultural Education division of the Georgia Department of Education, organized as a Career Development Event by local FFA chapters. Participants can win scholarship funds to use at any college, university, or vocational school in Georgia.

Any active FFA member enrolled in a 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade high school agriculture education class is eligible to participate. Chapters are limited to one contestant per chapter. The top two individuals in each area contest will advance to compete in the state competition. The wiring contest contains three primary components: a practical wiring exercise, a problem-solving exercise requiring the students to interpret and apply the National Electric Code, and a speech demonstration activity.

The FFA is a national organization of more than a million members preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business, and technology of agriculture. FFA is an integral part of the agricultural education program in public schools. Its mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Excelsior EMC would like to congratulate Gerardo on a job well done at the Area IV EMC/FFA wiring contest!

Line Items

Joseph Jones
Editor

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Between the Lines

by Greg Proctor
President/CEO

Why February is a Good Time to Think About Energy Efficiency

As winter begins to wind down, February is a natural time to take a fresh look at energy use at home. While heating systems may still be running, the extreme cold of winter and the high demand of summer are both ahead of us. Making a few small improvements now can help lower monthly bills and prepare your home for the warmer months to come.

One of the easiest places to start is with air leaks. Cold weather often reveals drafts around doors, windows, and attic access points. Sealing these gaps with weatherstripping or caulk is a low-cost step that can reduce heating and cooling loss year-round.

February is also a good time to check your heating system before switching to cooling in the spring. Replacing or cleaning HVAC filters improves airflow and efficiency and helps systems run more smoothly. Scheduling routine maintenance now can help prevent breakdowns when temperatures rise and demand increases.

Water heating is another area where small changes can add up. Lowering the water heater temperature slightly, washing clothes in cold water, and fixing leaks can reduce energy use without sacrificing comfort. These steps are simple and often go unnoticed in day-to-day routines.

Lighting and appliances are worth a second look as well. Shorter daylight hours mean lights are still being used more frequently, making LED bulbs a smart upgrade. Older appliances may be using more energy than necessary, and February is a good time to plan future replacements before peak summer usage.

Finally, being mindful of daily habits can make a difference. Adjusting thermostats a few degrees when away from home, unplugging unused electronics, and using ceiling fans correctly can help manage energy use without major investments.

Energy efficiency doesn't require big changes all at once. By taking advantage of this quieter season, members can spread improvements over time and enter spring and summer better prepared for higher energy demand. At Excelsior EMC, we're committed to helping our members use electricity wisely and affordably—today and in the months ahead.



Every Member Counts

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE: JANICE DONALDSON'S RETIREMENT



After more than 30 years of dedicated service, Excelsior EMC bids a heartfelt farewell to Mrs. Janice Donaldson as she enters retirement. Janice began her career with the Cooperative in 1995 as a Cashier and quickly became a familiar and friendly face to the members who walked through the doors of our Metter office each day. For three decades, her kindness, reliability, and welcoming demeanor left a lasting impression on both members and coworkers alike.

Janice's constant presence and commitment to serving our members will truly be missed. We wish her many years of happiness, relaxation, and well-deserved enjoyment in this next chapter of life.

Thank you, Janice, for 30 wonderful years of service to Excelsior EMC!

Why is the Demand for Electricity Rising?

Demand for electricity in the U.S. is booming. Recent data shows that power consumption nationwide is set to increase by at least 38 gigawatts (enough electricity to power 3,600 homes for one year) between now and 2028. Meeting this new demand will require a combination of new power plants, grid upgrades and energy storage technology advancements. Here are the key factors that are driving increased demand.

1

Increased Electrification: Electric vehicle adoption, electrification of home heating and industrial electrification are increasing overall U.S. energy consumption.

2

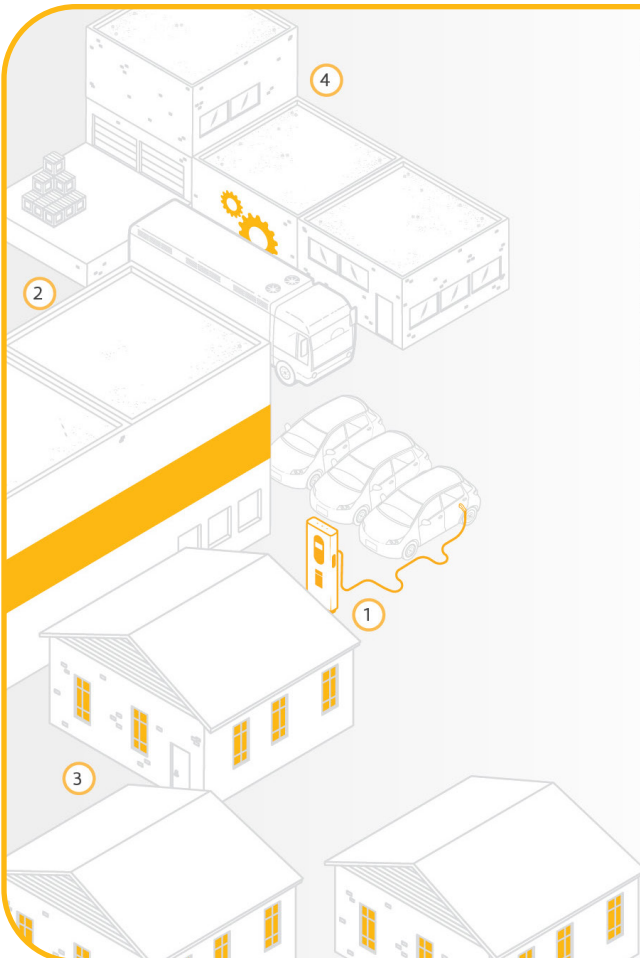
Data Centers: Driven by explosions in AI, cryptocurrency and cloud computing, total U.S. data center load is projected to increase by 65% by 2050.

3

Economic Growth: Residential power consumption is expected to increase by 14% to 22% through 2050 due to increases in population and steady economic growth.

4

Manufacturing Growth/Onshoring: New, expanding and "onshored/reshored" manufacturing capacity driven by federal incentives is expected to increase industrial demand by 13,000 GWh per year.



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