Go To College!
Michelle Obama would love ECE scholarship program. PAGE 2

Energy Resolutions
Do one simple thing each month to lower your energy bills. PAGE 3

Winter Storm Ready
Are you prepared for the brunt of winter storms? PAGE 4

JANUARY 2016

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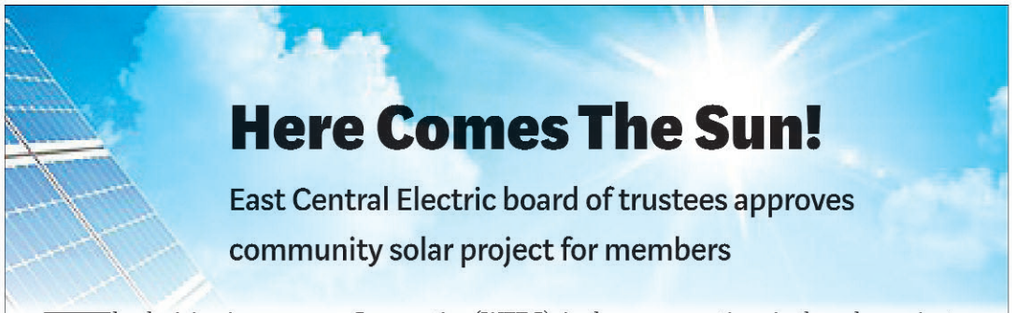

Here Comes The Sun!

East Central Electric board of trustees approves community solar project for members

The decision is in: East Central Electric Cooperative members will see a solar project breaking ground this spring. The co-op board approved the new venture into renewable energy at their monthly meeting in November. Trustees based their decision largely upon a recent survey that found a majority of co-op members favored the idea.

East Central Electric(ECE) General Manager Tim Smith said the project will allow members to purchase a portion of their energy from cooperative-owned solar panels.

East Central Electric is partnering with its wholesale supplier, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC), in the project. Co-op officials met with WFEC representatives recently to inspect the project site and discuss the project in greater detail.

Smith said the panels will be placed on two acres southwest of the ECE office building in Okmulgee.

Initially, the plan is to erect 950 panels, Smith added. Each panel is capable of producing 315 watts of electricity. Construction could begin as early as March.

"In the meantime, we will be reaching out to members who participated in the solar survey and expressed interest in participating," Smith said.

These members should expect a call from the co-op to discuss enrollment options in the solar project. Eventually, the invitation will extend to all interested co-op members, regardless of their participation in the solar survey.

Additional details concerning enrollment in the solar project, including rates and possible discounts for participation, will be published in *Country Living* as the information becomes available. Please watch your newsletter for more details.

To learn more about cooperative solar projects and how cooperative principles enhance such projects, please visit **http://www.nreca.coop/wp-content/plugins/nreca-interactive-maps/esri-solar-story-map/index.html**

operation roundup
update

Operation Roundup funds support local charitable organizations, civic groups, youth programs, community services, and needy families and individuals. For more information on this voluntary bill roundup program, please visit **www.ecoec.com.**

Figures to date:

Applications reviewed.....749
Applications granted.....526
Applications denied.....210
Applications tabled.....15
Scholarships awarded.....$149,000

Total Disbursements.....$1,238,315.59

Average member contribution.....44¢

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- Pay online at **www.ecoec.com** using SmartHub, or download the app.
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- Pay via automatic draft of your checking or savings account. Sign up online or download the ebill form for easy automatic payments at **www.ecoec.com**.

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