

# Tools for Success



During the last few weeks, local retail stores have been stocked with many of the tools students need for a successful school year. Pens, pencils, calculators, rulers, folders and paper have lined the shelves and school supply

lists have been checked off as parents purchased the items their children will use during this school term.


Just as important as the material items are—those that make educating our young people possible—so are the non-tangible items: encouragement, guidance and leadership. All play a vital role in educating today's youth, and that is why your co-op finds it so important to support the leaders of tomorrow, today.

The Bright Ideas Grant program helps to do just that by broadening the minds of students with funding for innovative, hands-on lessons and projects for teachers in our service area. During hard times such as these, when the phrase “budget cuts” fill the headlines, it is critically important to help educators find creative ways to reach their students and enhance their learning experience. In the 12 years since the program began, more than 75,000 students have benefited from these grants—helping to build a solid educational foundation.

Learning outside of the classroom is also critical to development. Giving today's youth unique op-

portunities to see and have a better understanding of the world around them can make a lasting impression. Through programs, such as the Montgomery Youth Tour, Washington Youth Tour and Youth Leadership Conference, area high school juniors have the chance to see their state and federal governments at work, and learn about the cooperative business model and the roles co-op's play in today's society.

The value of Youth Tour (YT) can be seen in its alumni—Curt Jones, the inventor, founder and President of Dippin' Dots is a 1972 YT participant as is former U.S. Kansas Senator Sheila Frahm who experienced YT in 1962. These are just two examples of how supporting our youth now means investing in their future.

Each year I am amazed at the ingenuity of our educators and at the quality of young leaders who come through the Youth Tour program. These strong desires to teach and to learn motivate your cooperative to continue investing in our area youth both in and out of the classroom. I encourage you to learn more about each program in the next few pages of this magazine, and if you know of an educator or area high school junior who may benefit from either program, please ask them to participate. By helping to develop the youngest members of our community, we are giving them the tools to build a successful future for us all. 

*Tom Stackhouse, President/CEO*

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# High School Juniors:

## Spend Part of Your Summer in Washington D.C...and More!

How would you like to have the opportunity of a lifetime to see the political process on the state and national levels while also improving your leadership skills? You could do that and more by applying for the Youth Tour/Youth Leadership program sponsored by CAEC.

Each year, CAEC selects high school juniors from private, public or home schools to participate in three unique and exciting opportunities: the Montgomery Youth Tour, the Youth Leadership Conference and the Washington Youth Tour. Each part of the Youth Tour/Youth Leadership program offers lasting memories and experiences.

"I've been involved in a lot of school organizations and functions, but the Youth Tour was a once in a lifetime experience," said 2010 Youth Tour representative Wendy Pittman. "Not only did I learn a lot, but I met many different people and formed lasting friendships."

The following explains each individual Youth Tour component:


**Montgomery Youth Tour:** Learn more about our state's capital, government and history during a unique experience that allows you and students from across Alabama to tour state buildings, the state Supreme Court, the Rosa Parks Museum and more. You also get to meet state representatives and other elected officials and talk to them about issues that concern you.



**Youth Leadership Conference:** Held at the 4-H Center in Columbiana, Ala., students participate in leadership exercises and learn about the many roles cooperatives play. From producing and delivering power to the operation of companies with household names like Land O'Lakes, you'll learn how the cooperative business model makes an impact in today's world.

**Washington Youth Tour:** A few applicants will be selected to fly to our nation's capital and tour monuments, federal buildings and other exciting landmarks. This is also a wonderful opportunity to meet other youth leaders from across the country and members of your Congressional delegation.

"I was interested in the political process before, but after getting a hands-on look at our state and national capitals, I was blown away by the whole Youth Leadership experience, and walked away with a better understanding of the world around me," said 2010 Youth Tour delegate Taylor Boysen. "I've traveled to D.C. and Montgomery before, but these were amazing trips. If you're a high school junior, apply--you'll be glad you took advantage of such an opportunity."

To apply, download an application from our website ([www.caec.coop](http://www.caec.coop)) or contact us at (800) 545-5735. 

## Application Deadline is Nov. 12

# Take the Renewable Energy Quiz!

With all the talk about going “green” and renewable energy sources, how well do you know the facts? Take the following quiz to see how much you know about renewable energy:

1. Currently the largest source of renewable energy generation in the United State is:
  - a. Solar
  - b. Wind
  - c. Hydro
  - d. Biomass
2. Biomass electric generation utilizes which of the following to act as fuel for power production?
  - a. Landfill gas
  - b. Wood and wood waste
  - c. Agricultural waste
  - d. Municipal solid waste
  - e. All of the above
3. **True or False:** Wind energy is not only cleaner than coal-based energy production, but it is also cheaper.
4. In our area, solar energy would provide how much of the energy needed in a 24-hour period?
  - a. 50 percent
  - b. 35 percent
  - c. 20 percent
  - d. 15 percent
  - e. 5 percent
5. **True or False:** CAEC currently utilizes renewable energy sources.
6. A single commercial wind turbine producing 1 MW (megawatt) can meet the needs of how many homes annually?
  - a. 500,000
  - b. 100,000
  - c. 1,200
  - d. 500
7. Geothermal (using heat derived from the Earth to create steam for power production) generation “hot spots” are typically located in:
  - a. The West
  - b. The Midwest
  - c. The Southeast
  - d. The Northeast
  - e. Everywhere
8. The approximate cost of a home-mounted solar panel producing 5.5 kW (kilowatt), excluding installation, is:
  - a. \$45,000
  - b. \$25,000
  - c. \$10,000
  - d. \$5,000
9. The best energy source for our country is:
  - a. Nuclear
  - b. Coal
  - c. Solar
  - d. Wind
  - e. All of the above

*How'd you do? Find out on page 34.*

## FUNDING THE FUTURE:

### \$16,000 in Grants for Local Teachers Available

Each year as school budgets are cut tighter and tighter, our state's educators are finding it harder to fund creative ways to teach their students. But with assistance from the CAEC Bright Ideas Grant Program, teachers can ignite the creative spark that can help their students for a lifetime.

As a program that strives to support innovative, creative and effective initiatives not traditionally covered by school funding, Bright Ideas grants assist teachers in public, private and home schools within CAEC's service area.

"Many educators are finding it hard to cover the costs of basic supplies needed for their classrooms let alone imaginative projects that can have a lasting impact on our children," said CAEC President and CEO Tom Stackhouse. "We are honored to offer a program to help our future leaders of tomorrow gain the education they need today."

*Deadline for Bright Ideas Grant Applications is Oct. 29*

In its 12th consecutive year, the Bright Ideas Grant Program allows teams of teachers or individual teachers to apply for funding through a simple application process. Individual teachers can apply for grants from \$250 to \$750, while teams of teachers are eligible for grants up to \$1,500. Just think what that could mean for your students!

"It is imperative that we take advantage of each and every opportunity to better the education our students receive," said Isabella High School teacher Jay LeCroy. "Grants such as this are instrumental in giving our students the hands-on learning that is so vital to their education."

To date, CAEC has awarded approximately \$176,000 to local schools through the program. More than 75,000 students in all grade levels and subject areas have benefited from the Bright Ideas grants.

The deadline for an application is Oct. 29. For more information or an application, visit our website at [www.caec.coop](http://www.caec.coop) or call 800-545-5735 ext. 2125. ☎



# Demonstrating the Safety of Electricity

How many electronic devices do you come in contact with daily? From televisions and kitchen appliances to the distribution wires you pass by, electricity surrounds you; filling your life with many of the conveniences we've grown accustomed to.

But as with many things, electricity must also be respected, which is why CAEC offers an Electric Safety Education Program to school classrooms and civic/community groups.

"This program is so important to remind people, especially children, to be safe around electricity," said Ted Stettler, Substation Technician and Safety and Education Presenter.

CAEC's program is designed to provide safety messages through an exciting and entertaining display. The main characters, Neon Leon and Lightnin' Liz, teach children to "be aware" and "beware" of electricity and electrical equipment.

"The kids get a real kick out of the demonstration," said Stettler. "It's a fun and educational way to teach them about a serious subject. There are always questions and they really get a lot out of the program."

The presentation takes students through the world of Neon Leon and Lightnin' Liz where real electricity interacts with the "neon" residents to show the importance of electrical safety.

Lessons focus on power lines, water and potential everyday electrical mishaps.


"We also have requests from teachers to bring out some of our



*Stettler uses the co-op's safety demonstration to teach school children to "be aware" and "beware" of electricity.*

equipment, such as bucket and line trucks, to discuss safety," said Safety and Training Coordinator Darren Maddox. "When students see the measures our own employees have to take when dealing with electricity—safety glasses, gloves, sleeves, hardhats, boots, etc., it serves as a reminder that they should not tamper with electrical equipment."

A modified safety program is also available for adult civic and community groups or high school students. All safety programs are available at no charge.

Safety is our priority with CAEC employees, as well as the public. If you would like to learn more about our Electrical Safety Education Program or want to schedule a demonstration at no cost, call (800) 545-5735, ext. 2213. 



*CAEC Offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 6  
for Labor Day*

# Renewable Energy Quiz Answers

*These are answers for the renewable quiz located on page 6.*

1. **C.** Hydropower is the largest source of renewable electricity generation in the United States, with nearly 80,000 MW (megawatt) of capacity. It provides cost-effective electricity from a proven renewable resource with no greenhouse emissions and can be used as a source of base load or peaking power. Hydropower is also, by far, the largest source of renewable energy for cooperatives, although it is not considered a renewable energy source in energy policies currently being discussed.

2. **E.** Biomass is the largest non-hydro renewable form of electricity generation in the United States. While exact definitions of biomass can vary, it's generally said to include wood, wood waste, landfill gases, burning of municipal solid waste and agricultural waste collection. Biomass generation is quite similar to traditional generation in that it usually involves direct-fired power plants that produce steam used to turn turbines, which generate electricity. One difference is that biomass uses organic materials or reclaimed gases to create steam, rather than fossil or nuclear fuels.

3. **False.** While it is a cleaner form of power production, most estimates put the cost of wind energy at more than 50 percent over the cost of energy from coal. Besides the high start up costs, including the infrastructure needed to produce and deliver wind-produced energy, another reason is that it is unreliable. Even the windiest areas of the nation cannot rely on a continuous supply of wind and need backup plants to take over when wind fails, adding significantly to the cost.

4. **D.** Due to the abundance of clouds and partial sunshine in our region, solar would only provide 15 percent of our daily energy needs, requiring another fuel source during the remaining time.

5. **True.** CAEC currently has two renewable power generation sources. Hydropower from Point A and Gantt hydroelectric power plants located near Andalusia, Ala., as well as biomass in the form of methane gas from the Springhill Regional Landfill in Campbellton, Fla. Members can choose to purchase power made from biomass through the Green Power Choice program (for more information, visit [www.caec.coop](http://www.caec.coop)).

6. **D.** A 1MW turbine operating at 45 percent (the average turbine turns at 25 percent) can meet the needs of 500 homes annually at a construction cost of \$1 to \$2 million.

7. **A.** The West. States such as California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Alaska and Hawaii, all contain areas of geothermal energy to produce sufficient electricity generation. Unfortunately, most of these areas are remote and transmission upgrades will be required to transport geothermal energy to load centers, at a minimum cost of \$1 million per mile of transmission line.

8. **B.** \$25,000. Photovoltaic (PV) systems directly convert light energy to electricity leading to reduced fuel costs for a home's power consumption, but the start-up costs can be high. On a per-kWh basis, PV systems cost roughly three to five times as much as traditional retail electricity.

9. **E.** All of the above. While each method of generation may have its drawbacks, they also all have their advantages. By using them together as an energy mix, we can have a balanced energy portfolio.



# A \$16,000 Investment in Area Schools...

...Think of the Possibilities



How could \$16,000 help children in the classroom? The Bright Ideas Grant program from Central Alabama Electric Cooperative gives teachers the chance to explore the possibilities.

CAEC has given \$16,000 in grants each year to support innovative, creative and effective initiatives that cannot be covered by traditional funding. Designed for K-12 teachers in public, private and home schools within CAEC's territory, the program has given approximately \$176,000 benefiting more than 75,000 students since its inception in 1998.

Teams of teachers and individual teachers are eligible to apply for the grant monies. Individuals are eligible to apply for grants from \$250 to \$750, while teams are able to apply for up to \$1,500.

Don't miss this opportunity for your child's classroom. Mention CAEC's Bright Ideas grant program to your child's teacher or cut off the information below and have your child present it to his or her teacher.

*(Cut here and give this reminder to your teacher)*

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***Receive up to \$750 for your classroom. Please contact CAEC about their Bright Ideas Grant Program.***

CAEC offers teachers up to \$750 for classroom projects. Teams of teachers can receive up to \$1,500. Call (334) 351-2125/(800)545-5735 ext. 2125 or e-mail [trueblood@coop.caec.com](mailto:trueblood@coop.caec.com) for more information.

*Applications available at [www.caec.coop](http://www.caec.coop)*

***Deadline is Oct. 29, 2010***