

## **NEWS RELEASE**

For additional information, contact:

Carroll EMC

Carole Thompson

(770) 830-5727

Carole.thompson@cemc.com

### **Racing with the sun**

#### *Carroll EMC program teaches students about solar energy*

CARROLLTON, Ga. (Dec. 11, 2009) — Dreaming about the day when they'll get their own set of wheels is an age-old pastime of youth. Some see a sturdy pickup in their future while others imagine tooling around in a shiny sports car. Their parents are wondering where the fuel will come from to keep those wished-for wheels turning.

Some Carrollton students are looking to the sky for the answer.

Seventh and eighth graders at North Point Christian Academy recently put the sun's power to use to fuel their car dreams—and get a good grade in science class. Seventeen students designed and hand crafted mini solar-powered vehicles as part of a learning partnership with local electric cooperative Carroll EMC.

“The students were introduced to the science of electrical engineering and familiarized with solar energy, both in theory as they planned and assembled the cars, and in practice as they were able to observe the cars operate exclusively by solar power once the solar panels were connected to their cars,” said Peter Laitres, assistant administrator at the school.

On a recent sun-drenched day, the students put their finished projects to the test, racing them on a track built by employees of the Carrollton-based Carroll EMC. Emerging as the eventual winner was Wesley Ivester. His car bested classmate Hunter Hughes' entry in the championship run to claim the first-place finish.

"I'm surprised at how fast my car went. I never knew you could get so much speed from a solar panel," the winner said.

Carroll EMC sponsored the project as a way to spread the word about alternative energy sources. Students learned about existing solar technology and also considered what needs to be done to make sun power a cost-effective and efficient contributor to the power grid.

“Maybe one of these students will take the ideas from this science project and find out how to make real cars run efficiently on solar power,” said Carole Thompson, member

services assistant at Carroll EMC. “We need to spur interest in our children now to develop a way to produce alternative energy economically for the future.”

Carroll EMC is a member-owned cooperative providing electricity to more than 49,000 homes and businesses. The co-op serves members in Carroll, Haralson, Heard, Paulding, Polk, Troup and Floyd counties. For more information about Carroll EMC, visit the cooperative’s Web site at [www.cemc.com](http://www.cemc.com).

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