




Gulf Coast
Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

April 1, 2025

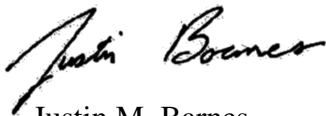
Florida Public Service Commission
Attn: Matthew Vogel, David Summer & Hayden Rogers
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Report for §366.92(3), F.S., Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Standard

Attached please find for filing by Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative's (GCEC's) Standards for Renewable Energy, Conservation and Energy Efficiency Report for April 1, 2025. This report is pursuant to section 366.92 (3) F.S.

Should you require additional information not included in this report, please let me know.

Respectfully,



Justin M. Barnes
Vice President of Administration

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Reporting Requirements under Florida Statutes §366.92(3)

Florida Statutes §366.92(3) requires the following:

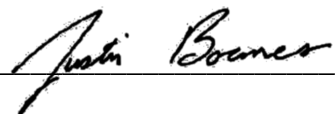
“Each municipal electric utility and rural electric cooperative shall develop standards for the promotion, encouragement, and expansion of the use of renewable energy resources and energy conservation and efficiency measures. On or before April 1, annually, each municipal electric utility and electric cooperative shall submit to the commission a report that identifies such standards.”

This document is intended to fulfill the reporting requirements of **Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.** under Florida Statutes §366.92(3) as of April 1, 2025.

Renewable Energy Resources

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a member owner of PowerSouth Energy Cooperative (“PowerSouth”) along with nineteen other electric distribution cooperatives and municipalities located in central and south Alabama and northwest Florida. In addition to being a member owner of PowerSouth, Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. has entered into a Contract for Wholesale Power Service with PowerSouth which requires that Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. purchase all of its electric power and energy from PowerSouth through December 31, 2055. It is the long-standing intent of both Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. and PowerSouth that all wholesale power supply responsibilities be placed upon PowerSouth. Those wholesale power supply responsibilities include comprehensive planning to consider and determine appropriate supply and demand resources to meet current and future load requirements within the context of local, state and federal policy goals and objectives.

PowerSouth presently provides the energy requirements of Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. and its other member owners through a diverse fleet of generation assets, including hydroelectric, coal-fired and gas-fired production resources located within the state of Alabama. The diversity of PowerSouth’s generation assets is most evident in its 110 MW Compressed Air Energy Storage (“CAES”) facility located in McIntosh, Alabama. During low demand periods, PowerSouth’s CAES facility utilizes compressors to force air into an underground salt storage cavern at high pressure. PowerSouth then utilizes the compressed air to generate electricity during intermediate and peak energy demand periods. Energy generated by



PowerSouth's CAES facility produces only approximately one-third of the emissions of a conventional gas-fired turbine.

PowerSouth has also contracted to purchase renewable capacity and energy from a variety of sources including landfill gas, hydroelectric production and solar energy. PowerSouth purchases approximately 200 MW of renewable energy and capacity from hydroelectric projects operated by the Southeastern Power Administration. Within the state of Florida, PowerSouth purchases and transmits approximately 4.8 MW of renewable energy produced by burning landfill gas at Waste Management's Springhill Landfill in Campbellton, Florida.

In an effort to provide PowerSouth's members and the community with a hands-on educational site for learning about solar energy production, PowerSouth, in conjunction with four of our distribution members, has constructed four solar demonstration projects at the offices of Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative (CHELCO) in Defuniak Springs, Florida, Escambia River Electric Cooperative (EREC) in Jay, Florida, Central Alabama Electric Cooperative (CAEC) in Prattville, Alabama, and Covington Electric Cooperative (CEC) in Andalusia, Alabama. The CHELCO project consists of a 5.3kW ground-mounted solar array and was constructed in front of CHELCO's Operations Center, and includes an educational kiosk for public information about solar energy. The EREC project consists of a 10.6kW solar array mounted on a parking canopy structure at EREC's headquarters office building. The Florida solar installations were constructed and began operation in the Spring of 2016. The CAEC project consists of a 6.3kW ground-mounted solar array located on the main campus of CAEC in Prattville, Alabama and was constructed and began operation in the Fall of 2016. The CEC project consists of a 9.6kW ground-mounted solar array located on the main campus of CEC in Andalusia, Alabama and was constructed and began operation in May 2019.

PowerSouth along with CHELCO, CEC, & Wiregrass EC (WEC) have also partnered to develop community solar projects for end-use members who are interested in procuring solar energy. The community solar projects allow CHELCO, CEC, & WEC members, who are renters, having significant shading or improper orientation of their home to produce solar energy, or simply cannot afford the capital expense of an individual solar array, to participate in a low-cost solar energy production option. The CHELCO community solar array was constructed on the roof of CHELCO's Operations Center in Defuniak Springs, FL and has a total capacity of 120kW-AC. The community solar project construction was completed in March 2018. The CEC community solar array was constructed at South Alabama Regional Airport (SARA) in Sanford, AL just across US Hwy 84 from CEC's headquarters. The CEC project was constructed in June of 2022 and has a total capacity of 100kW-AC. WEC's community solar array was constructed on the campus of their headquarters located in Hartford, AL. The array, which was constructed in June 2023, has a total capacity of 100kW-AC. CHELCO & CEC members, who subscribe for community solar energy (based on a monthly fee), will receive a pro-rata portion of the energy produced from the array. WEC's community solar is part of their Green Power Choice offering.

PowerSouth has also entered into an agreement to purchase the energy from an 80 MW utility-scale solar power plant located in Covington County, Alabama. This facility provides PowerSouth's members (including members in Florida) with approximately 185,000,000 kilowatt-hours of solar powered energy per year. This facility achieved commercial operation on April 12, 2023.

In addition, PowerSouth is a charter member of the National Renewable Cooperative Organization (the "NRCO"). The NRCO was established in 2008 to promote and facilitate the development of renewable energy resources for its members. As of March 2025, the NRCO consisted of 23 member cooperatives across the United States. The functions of the NRCO include: serving as a clearinghouse for renewable resources development opportunities available to cooperatives; packaging development opportunities for evaluation by members; and aggregating renewable energy requests for proposals for its members.

A. Promotion and Encouragement of Renewable Energy Resources

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. is required by the Contract for Wholesale Power Service between **Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.** and PowerSouth to purchase all of its electric power and energy from PowerSouth until December 31, 2055. However, the Board of Trustees of PowerSouth, which includes two representatives from **Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.**, has enacted Policy No. 303-B, *Consumer-Owned Generation*, which allows PowerSouth member owners including **Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.** to purchase energy produced by consumer-owned generation less than 25kW. Policy No. 303-B, *Consumer-Owned Generation*, includes the following definition:

Consumer-Owned Generation shall be defined as follows: An electrical generating system or device located on a consumer's premises that is primarily intended to offset part or all of the consumer's electricity requirements with renewable energy or self-generated energy, with any surplus energy produced therefrom being placed onto the distribution grid.

Policy No. 303-B, *Consumer-Owned Generation* further provides that PowerSouth will process consumer-owned generation of any size which a member system desires.

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. and PowerSouth will continue to promote and encourage the expansion of their renewable energy resources. **Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.** through its participation in PowerSouth has established a long term goal to pursue opportunities to participate in financially feasible renewable energy projects.

PowerSouth Energy Cooperative offers green energy to its member owners through the innovative Green Power Choice program. The program uses Renewable Energy Certificates

(RECs), which represent environmentally-friendly aspects of energy generated from renewable resources. When renewable energy is produced, a REC is created, and that REC represents valuable renewable attributes of that form of energy generation. One REC is equivalent to 1 megawatt hour (MWh) produced by a qualified renewable energy source. Green Power Choice allows end-use members of PowerSouth's member owners to potentially offset up to 100% of their energy use with renewable resources. These RECs allow access to carbon-free energy without the upfront capital, regular maintenance and risk associated with installing rooftop solar equipment or other resources. Energy for Green Power Choice is produced at locations across the southeast, including solar arrays, hydroelectric dams and a specialized facility that converts decomposing garbage (landfill gas) to electricity.

B. Expansion of Renewable Energy Resources

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. through its participation in PowerSouth provides for the possible expansion of renewable energy resources and will:

- Maintain active participation in the National Renewable Cooperative Organization; and
- Continue to pursue opportunities to participate in and/or purchase capacity and/or energy from alternative energy projects, both renewable and carbon free, with a preference for projects within PowerSouth's service territory.

Energy Conservation and Efficiency Measures

A. Promotion and Encouragement of Energy Conservation and Efficiency

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. purchases capacity and energy from PowerSouth under a wholesale electric rate which provides price signals to encourage the promotion of demand management and energy efficiency. PowerSouth's rate includes an on-peak and off-peak demand component which encourages off-peak usage and greater efficiency. In addition, the Board of Trustees of PowerSouth, which includes two representatives from **Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.**, has enacted Policy No. 301-B, *Demand Side Management (DSM)*, which allows and encourages PowerSouth member owners, including **Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.**, to utilize demand side management programs to conserve energy and control costs.

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. responds to such rate signals by making policies and implementing demand side programs that encourage energy conservation and efficiency among its consumers. Those policies and programs include:

Load Management Program: Under the Load Management Program, PowerSouth's member owners may install direct control load management systems (such as hot water heater switches under the H2O Plus Program and thermostat control switches under the HVAC Load Control Program, both described later in this report) for the purpose of reducing coincident peak demand. PowerSouth activates those load control devices during high load conditions to reduce overall demand. Any reductions in PowerSouth's coincident peak demand will reduce PowerSouth's system generating requirements and associated reserves and benefit Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. and PowerSouth's other members whether or not they participate in the program.

Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Program: On February 24, 2012, PowerSouth's Board of Trustees established PowerSouth's Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Program. Pursuant to this Rebate Program, Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. and PowerSouth's other member owners offer rebates to encourage residential consumers to purchase and install high efficiency air source heat pumps, dual fuel heat pumps, mini-split heat pumps and geothermal heat pumps. The program has been designed to allow the dollar value of rebates to increase as the efficiency rating of the qualifying heat pump increases. The higher efficiency heat pumps installed under the program will permit PowerSouth to reduce its demand during PowerSouth's winter coincidental peak times. In 2018, the program was modified to discontinue rebates for standard air-source heat pumps, except when installed in manufactured housing. Also, rebates for geothermal heat pumps have been discontinued. As of December 31, 2023, the cumulative demand savings pursuant to this program are as follows:

Total	Total	Total kWh	Total Demand Savings	
Rebates	Dollars Rebated	Savings	Winter, kW	Summer, kW
9,602	\$7,868,601	26,679,651	21.924	3,558

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. through its participation in PowerSouth emphasizes demand side management, energy conservation and efficiency. **Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.**'s goals for its expanded demand side management and conservation programs include:

B. Expansion of Energy Conservation and Efficiency Measures

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. and PowerSouth's other member owners will continue to promote and encourage the expansion of their respective demand management, energy

conservation and energy efficiency programs. **Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.** through its participation in PowerSouth emphasizes demand side management, energy conservation and efficiency. **Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.** through its participation in PowerSouth will:

- Continue to evaluate the long-term cost/benefits of expanding the DSM program.
- Provide the education and training necessary to fully implement the DSM program.
- Continue to exhaustively research and conduct detailed cost/benefit evaluations and analysis of the effectiveness of current and future demand management and energy efficiency programs. GDS Associates, Inc., a recognized leader in the energy efficiency and DSM program evaluation field, has developed a modeling tool for PowerSouth to provide in-depth analysis of the viability and effectiveness of its and Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s current and future demand management and energy efficiency programs.

Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. and PowerSouth's other member owners have developed and offer several demand management, energy conservation and energy efficiency programs:

- Residential Energy Efficiency Financing Program is a lending program which permits Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s qualified residential consumers to secure financing through Regions Bank ("Regions") for the purpose of purchasing and installing certain residential energy efficiency upgrades, measures and improvements. As of December 31, 2024, three hundred fifty-nine (359) loans have been closed under the program, with a total value of more than \$2,481,254.
- On-Site Energy Audit/Survey provides on-site energy audits and surveys through the *Touchstone Energy Home* Program to assist consumers with energy conservation.
- On-Line Energy Audit/Survey provides an interactive website through the *Touchstone Energy Home* Program which aids consumers in making decisions related to energy efficiency and conservation.
- Light Emitting Diode (LED) Lighting Program promotes the bulk purchase of LEDs and the education of consumers on the energy efficiency and savings

associated with the implementation and use of such lighting applications. As of December 31, 2024, the cumulative demand savings pursuant to the LED Program are as follows:

Total Energy Savings (kWh)	Total Demand Savings (Winter, kW)
1,329,330	120

- H2O Plus Program is designed to lessen coincident peak demand by installing smart switches on electric water heaters to help control energy usage during periods of peak demand. As of December 31, 2024, the total demand savings pursuant to this program are as follows:

Total Devices Installed	Total Demand Savings	
	Winter, kW (15 min)	Winter, kW (Hourly)
16,478	20,222	14,884

- Commercial/Industrial Accounts Program allows Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. and the other member owners of PowerSouth to partner with both Intelligent Building Solutions, Inc. to provide support and audit services necessary to improve energy efficiency and conservation among industrial consumers.
- School Education Program promotes the implementation and development of various energy efficiency and conservation educational programs for school-aged children.
- Together We Save Program promotes the education of consumers on the savings associated with residential energy efficiency improvements and techniques.
- Generating Plant Efficiency: Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. and PowerSouth's other member owners continue efforts to improve plant heat rates.

- **Generating Plant Modifications:** Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. and PowerSouth's other member owners continue efforts to achieve greater plant efficiencies through physical modifications.
- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Education:** Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. and PowerSouth, and PowerSouth's other member owners are offering educational platforms for EVs to promote EV usage. Gulf Coast Electric Cooperative, Inc. provides its members with a digital toolkit on its website that includes EV model comparisons, EV FAQs, a public charger finder, and calculators for customers to compare gas versus electric vehicle costs.
- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Registration Rebate Program:** PowerSouth and its member owners implemented an EV Registration Rebate Program in 2022. The EV Registration Rebate Program allows residential customers to register their EV and apply for a rebate. The program allows each of PowerSouth's member owners to compile a database of EV saturation in its territory to assist in establishing other EV programs. Through this EV Registration Rebate Program a total of 344 EV Registration Rebates have been paid through December 31, 2024.
- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Telematics:** In place of the Electric Vehicle Residential Level 2 Charger Program, PowerSouth implemented a data collection program with an EV telematics firm to obtain EV charging data via a free app for EV owners. The app became available to consumers in August in 2023 and allows PowerSouth's participating Member Systems to track various factors of EV ownership and usage such as: average miles driven, charging session data, charging location, etc. Collection of this data will allow PowerSouth and its Member Systems to accurately develop and analyze EV electric usage and demand load shape impacts in order to determine potential impacts to the electric grid.

