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Hilton Head fifth graders named local winners of 2022 Children's Book Challenge

Life of a Solar Panel, by Jack Cerrati, Austin Wiedemann, Kolby Anthony and Samere "Isaiah" Tyson, was selected as Palmetto Electric Cooperative's local winner of the 2022 Children's Book Challenge, sponsored by EnlightenSC, an educational initiative of South Carolina's electric cooperatives.

The competition challenges fourth and fifth grade students to write and illustrate stories that focus on cooperatives, sustainability and the impact of electricity. Local winners' books are then entered into a statewide competition for a chance to win \$500 and have their book published and distributed to elementary schools throughout the state.

After being selected as Palmetto Electric's local winner, *Life of a Solar Panel* was awarded a first-ever, second place prize in the EnLightenSC statewide competition.

Jack, Austin, Kolby and Isaiah, fifth graders at Hilton Head Island Elementary School for the Creative Arts, were recognized along with their teachers, Jennifer Friend-Kerr and Alex Holland, during a presentation in their classroom on April 19. Missy Santorum, public relations manager for Palmetto Electric Cooperative, presented the winning team with certificates and gift cards.

"We at Palmetto Electric are especially proud of Jack, Austin, Kolby and Isaiah, for their teamwork, creative writing and ability to present facts about solar energy and Palmetto Electric Cooperative in an intriguing way," says Santorum. "To be selected as not only the local winner, but to also receive second place in the statewide competition is a tremendous accomplishment!"

By inspiring students to learn more about energy in our state, South Carolina's electric co-ops hope to spark a passion for critical thinking in the minds of tomorrow's leaders. To read *Life of a Solar Panel*, please visit <https://www.storyjumper.com/book/read/122788272/61f303d912b65>.

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About Palmetto Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Palmetto Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit electrical distribution utility that is owned by the members it serves. The Cooperative serves over 75,000 consumers in southern Beaufort, Jasper and Hampton counties. Palmetto Electric's mission is to provide diversified, innovative energy and related services to its members consistent with sound business practices, while always acting in a community-building leadership role. For more information, visit palmetto.coop or call 843-208-5551.

Palmetto Electric is also a member of Touchstone Energy, which is a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to customers large and small. More than 692 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in 46 states are delivering energy and energy solutions to approximately 40 million customers every day. Touchstone Energy cooperatives serve their members with integrity, accountability, innovation and a longstanding commitment to communities.