

WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WREC Partners to Protect Florida's Environment

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative (WREC) continues to demonstrate its commitment to the communities it serves by joining local organizations and volunteers in two environmental cleanup initiatives focused on preserving Florida's waterways, shorelines, and natural habitats.

During Save Our Waters Week, WREC partnered with the Citrus County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Sea & Shoreline, and Waste Management to remove debris from local waterways near Kings Bay in Crystal River.

Together, crews and volunteers successfully removed nearly three tons of debris and trash from the water. WREC provided its barge, crane equipment, and experienced personnel to assist with the removal of large debris and materials that would otherwise be difficult to retrieve. The cooperative's equipment and employees played an important role in making the cleanup effort safe and successful.

WREC employees also rolled up their sleeves and joined fellow community members for the 2026 UF/IFAS Hernando County Coastal Cleanup. Volunteers spent the morning collecting litter and debris along Hernando County's coastline, helping protect the area's waterways, shorelines, and wildlife. The event, coordinated by UF/IFAS Extension Hernando County in partnership with Ocean Conservancy, local businesses, and community organizations, marked the 11th Annual Hernando County Coastal Cleanup.

For WREC, participating in these efforts is about more than environmental stewardship. It is about taking pride in the communities its employees and Members call home.

"We're fortunate to live and work in an area surrounded by some of Florida's most beautiful natural resources, and I think we all share a responsibility to take care of them," said Gary Steele, WREC's Manager of Member Relations. "It's rewarding to see our employees out there working alongside our neighbors, whether we're putting our equipment to use removing debris from Kings Bay or simply rolling up our sleeves to pick up trash along the coastline. These are our communities, too, and we want to do our part to keep them beautiful for our children and future generations."

"Whenever there's an opportunity to help protect our waterways and natural resources, WREC is proud to answer the call," said Jamen Monbarren, WREC's Crystal River District Manager. "We are fortunate to have equipment and employees who are willing to step up and make a difference. Whether it's providing our barge and crane to remove large debris or partnering with other organizations during community cleanups, we're always glad to lend a hand. At WREC, we care deeply about our communities and the environment, and we're proud to work alongside others who share that commitment."

As a member-owned electric cooperative, WREC embraces the cooperative principle of Concern for Community, recognizing that serving its Members extends beyond delivering reliable electricity. Through partnerships, volunteerism, and the dedication of its employees, WREC remains committed to making a positive difference in the communities it serves

About Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (WREC):

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a not-for-profit electric cooperative established in 1947. WREC proudly serves more than 281,000 homes and businesses across Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, Polk, and Sumter counties. WREC is dedicated to providing safe, reliable, and affordable energy and services while actively supporting the communities it serves.

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Pictured below: WREC and partners at Save Our Waters Week to help clean near Kings Bay.







Pictured below: WREC at the 2026 UF/IFAS Hernando County Coastal Cleanup.

