



fairfield.coop

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 2500
Blythewood, SC 29016

BLYTHEWOOD OFFICE

701 Blythewood Road
Blythewood, SC 29016

WINNSBORO OFFICE

3129 U.S. Hwy. 321 North Winnsboro,
SC 29180

OFFICE HOURS

8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Monday through Friday

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Toll Free: (800) 628-0336
Blythewood: (803) 754-0153
Winnsboro: (803) 635-4621
Camden and Lugoff: (803) 425-1059

POWER OUTAGE REPORTING ONLY

(800) 499-7862
Outages are handled by an automated outage reporting system. Please follow instructions. The system will automatically report the outage and a crew will be dispatched.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mitchell D. Rabon,
President, District 3
Robert Entzminger,
Vice President, District At Large
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Cold weather impacts energy use

IN RECENT WEEKS, we have seen some extremely cold weather in our area. There were many days when the

low temperature was in the 20s, with a high in the 40s. Our heating systems are working harder and longer to keep us warm, and this has brought a significant increase in electric use for many of our members. As a result, we have received numerous inquiries into why use is so high.

Weather is the single biggest driver of power bills. How much the weather affects your electric bill depends on many factors, including your home's original construction materials, insulation, air leaks and HVAC efficiency. Personal comfort plays a role too, as does the difference between the thermostat setting inside and temperatures outdoors. During extremely cold nights and days, your heating system can run almost constantly.

Members who depend on electricity for their primary heating source, as well as those who have gas furnaces, can see significant increases during extremely cold temperatures. A gas furnace uses an electric fan to move heat from the furnace and during extreme cold periods, the fan may run continuously.

What can you do to lower your energy use? Here are a few tips:

- ▶ Set your thermostat to its "auto" mode for the system fan operation and keep the temperature range between 66 and 68 degrees. If you get too cold, try dressing in layers before adjusting your thermostat.
- ▶ A humidifier can also make a difference. With properly humidified air, you can set your thermostat a few degrees lower and still feel comfortably warm.

- ▶ Caulking and weather-stripping windows and doors can help with the invasion of cold air.
- ▶ Check the level of insulation in your home. How much insulation is in your attic, basement or crawlspace? What kind of insulation is it? Is there an air barrier along with the insulation? The answer to these questions will determine how much you can save by adding insulation.

To learn more about saving energy, go to fairfield.coop, TouchstoneEnergy.com and Energy.gov. You can also call Customer Service at (803) 754-0153 (Blythewood office) or (803) 635-4621 (Winnsboro office) to speak with one of our energy advisors.

BRUCE G. BACON

Chief Executive Officer

Check out our residential energy advisor

If you're looking for ways to save energy and money in your home, check out the new residential energy advisor tools available at fairfield.coop/energyadvisor.

These interactive tools provide members with an estimated breakdown of their energy use and costs by heating, cooling, water heating, refrigeration, lighting and appliances. There's also a bill analysis tool that uses your actual Fairfield Electric Cooperative bills in its calculations.

Just complete your profile and enter your account number to access your personal bill analysis.



Annual Meeting May 12-16

The 86th Annual Meeting of Members will be held May 12–16. There will be several days of early drive-thru registration and voting prior to the business meeting portion. The business meeting will be broadcast on the cooperative’s website on May 16 at 6 p.m.

Registration is designed so members never leave their vehicles. Members will register, cast their ballot for the trustee elections and receive a registration gift. All members who register will be entered in the door prize drawings which will be held at the conclusion of the business meeting.

Look for additional details in future issues of *South Carolina Living* and in the Official Annual Meeting Notice.



Lori Pettway of Blythewood shows off her member gift at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

JOSH P. CROTZER

The power of Operation Round Up



IT STARTED as a simple idea 35 years ago at a co-op in South Carolina. Just round up the co-op member’s electric bill to the next dollar and then use it to do good work in your community. Today, hundreds of electric co-ops throughout the country, including Fairfield Electric Cooperative, use this idea to help members and organizations close to home.

The average co-op member donates \$6, with a maximum possible contribution of \$11.88 per year. This may not seem like a large amount, but when combined with the more than 17,000 members who participate in Operation Round Up, it adds up to make a significant impact.

Since our program began in 1993, more than \$2.9 million has been distributed throughout our communities. The dollars go to a wide range of activities, including helping a family in need after a house fire, assisting the local food pantry, providing funds so the local fire department can get a needed piece of equipment or dozens of humanitarian efforts that bring electric co-ops even closer to the communities we serve.

Fairfield Electric Cooperative is pleased to offer Operation Round Up. We welcome your participation and thank all participating members!

Fairfield Electric Trust 2024 Report

Fairfield Electric Cooperative’s Operation Round Up program gives the co-op’s members an opportunity to come together and help individual families, local charities and community service organizations.

The volunteer Fairfield Electric Trust board administers member donations to Operation Round Up. Here is information about grants made last year thanks to member support.

GRANTS	AMOUNT
ORGANIZATIONS (10)	\$ 68,395
INDIVIDUALS (35)	\$ 21,808
TOTAL	\$ 90,203

Organizations assisted included:

- ▶ Fairfield County Sheriff’s Department
- ▶ Salkehatchie Summer Service-Fairfield
- ▶ Good Samaritan House of Fairfield County
- ▶ 4 WW (Four West Wateree)
- ▶ GRASP—Great Falls Referral Assistance Program
- ▶ Great Falls Rescue Squad
- ▶ American Red Cross
- ▶ Rossville Volunteer Fire Department
- ▶ Christian Assistance Bridge
- ▶ Christian Community Ministries—Kershaw County

Apply now for youth trips, scholarships!

The application deadline for students to apply to Fairfield Electric Cooperative’s youth programs is Friday, Feb. 28. Fairfield Electric awards eight \$1,000 Touchstone Energy Scholarships to high school seniors. In addition, the co-op offers two all-expenses paid trips during the summer for youth in our service area—Washington Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Summit.

To be eligible for the Touchstone Energy Scholarship, the student’s primary residence must receive electricity from Fairfield

Electric. Special consideration is given to financial need, extracurricular activities, community involvement, letters of recommendation and the student’s personal achievements. Please note that all semi-finalists must participate in an in-person interview on Wednesday, March 12. Go to fairfield.coop/scholarships to learn more and apply.

High school sophomores can apply for Cooperative Youth Summit at fairfield.coop/youthsummit.

High school juniors can apply for Washington Youth Tour at fairfield.coop/youthtour.