

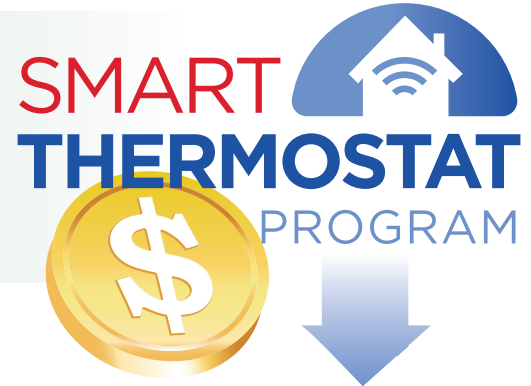


Cooperative Update

from

Bruce Bacon

Chief Executive Officer
Fairfield Electric Cooperative



New program offers opportunity to help keep costs down

Fairfield Electric recently introduced a new Smart Thermostat Program. This initiative is an opportunity for co-op members with programmable thermostats to help their cooperative reduce peak demand, saving money for all members.

Participating members allow the co-op to sync with their thermostats and make small adjustments during peak hours, typically during cold winter mornings and hot summer afternoons. Program participants must be FEC members, have a qualifying smart thermostat in their home and have reliable Wi-Fi.

This new program is our latest effort to help reduce peak demand. For years, members have participated in our water heater load management program, and many members have signed up to receive Beat the Peak notifications. They receive an email or text message notifying them when it is peak time, so they can curtail the use of major appliances.

Lowering energy use during peak demand periods is very beneficial and reduces our wholesale power costs. The programs we have in place are worthwhile and have saved your cooperative millions of dollars. Those savings in wholesale power costs have a direct impact on our retail rates and are passed on to you, our members.

I want to thank all our members who participate in our peak reduction programs, and I hope you'll consider participating in this new and innovative program that will help keep costs down.

Live Smart. Save More.

Fairfield Electric Board Trustee Ronald Friday was one of the first FEC members to enroll in the Smart Thermostat Program.

What to know about the program

- Members receive \$50 upon enrollment and \$50 at the end of each year if they participate in at least 60% of events over a 12-month period.
- Any FEC residential member with a qualifying thermostat and a reliable Wi-Fi connection at home can participate.
- About 4-5 times per month, the thermostat will be adjusted remotely based on system-wide peak periods. The events will include a one-hour pre-cool/pre-heat period and three hours of peak-saving adjustment.
- In the winter, peak demand periods typically occur between 6-9 a.m., and in the summer, peak demand typically occurs between 3-7 p.m.
- Currently, the program supports Copeland Sensi, Honeywell, Honeywell Lyric, ecobee, and Amazon smart thermostats.
- Visit https://www.fairfield.coop/smart_thermostat to learn more.



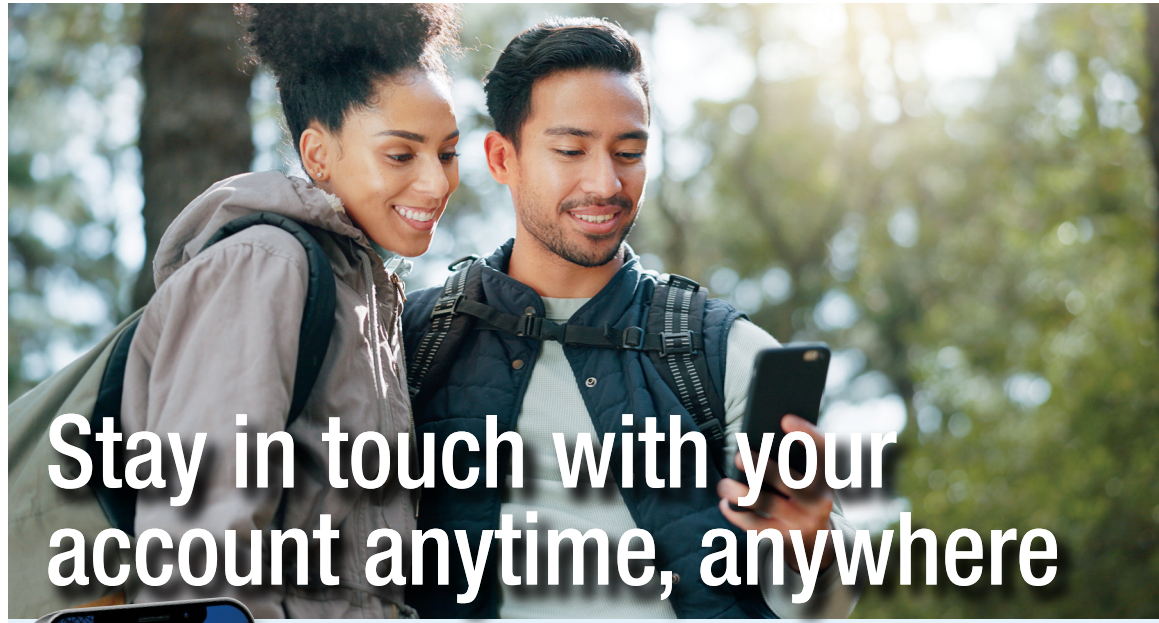
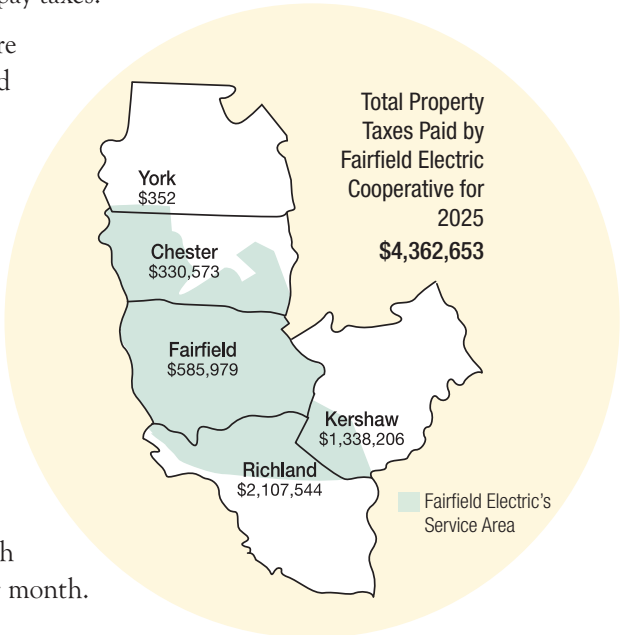


We pay too!

Sometimes, people are confused about how electric cooperatives operate because they are not traditional utilities. One misconception is that electric co-ops do not pay taxes.

While cooperatives are exempt from state and federal income taxes because they operate on a not-for-profit basis (margins are returned to members), they still pay sales and use taxes, employment taxes and property taxes.

Property taxes are paid on items such as buildings, the land on which the office and warehouses are located, vehicles, substations and 3,700 miles of distribution power lines. Property taxes are one of the expenses recovered through the facilities charge each month. Allocated to each account, they equate to \$124.96 per year or \$10.41 per month.



Stay in touch with your account anytime, anywhere

No matter when or where you are, you can manage your account and report and access outage information with the free FEC Mobile app.

- The FEC Mobile app allows you to:
- make bill payments
 - review bills and payment history
 - check account balance
 - check on monthly energy usage
 - set up payment reminders

Download your FREE FEC Mobile app on all your smart devices



SAVE THE DATES 2026 Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar! Fairfield Electric's 87th Annual Meeting has been scheduled for May 11–15, 2026. As in years past, the week will include drive-through registrations and voting across our service area, as well as the annual business meeting on that Friday at our Blythewood office. Drive-through times are 7 a.m.–7 p.m. each day and 7 a.m.–noon on Friday.

- Monday, May 11** Chester, SC
- Tuesday, May 12** Lugoff, SC
- Wednesday, May 13** Blythewood, SC
- Thursday, May 14** Winnsboro, SC
- Friday, May 15** Winnsboro, SC (half day)
- Business Meeting Friday, May 15** (broadcast online) at 6 p.m.