



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
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President, District 3
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

The increasing sum of our parts



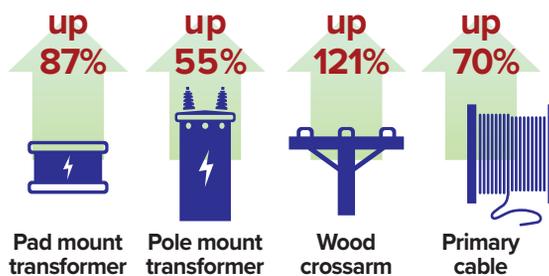
IF YOU TRIED TO BUILD a home a few years back, you know how rising material prices can take a painful chunk out of your bottom line.

As you'll recall, the COVID-19 pandemic drove demand for new homes skyward. Shortages of critical home-building sup-

plies like lumber and PVC pipe led to backlogs and price spikes, driving construction costs through the roof.

Unfortunately, we're now seeing similar trends play out in the energy industry. Over the last few years, we've seen a drastic increase in the price, demand and wait-time for the materials needed to bring electricity to your homes.

The cost of inflation 2019 prices vs. 2024 prices



SOURCE: CEEUS DATA AS OF 05/2024

According to Stacy Shull, vice president of sales and supplier relations for CEEUS, our materials supplier, the costs of power line material rose by nearly 70% between September 2019 and May 2024. Just looking at a few important parts of our power delivery system—distribution cable, crossarms and transformers—will give you an idea of the challenges we're facing.

A spool of the cable that runs from our substations to your neighborhood currently costs \$4,244, an increase of 70% since 2019. Transformers, which step down the voltage of electricity so that it can safely power your appliances, have

seen an even greater jump. Underground transformers have nearly doubled in price over the past five years, to \$2,407 from \$1,283.

Overhead transformers aren't much better, rising to \$1,360 from \$874. A single crossarm—the horizontal beam at the top of a power pole that holds the cable and other equipment high in the air—has risen in price to \$93 from \$42.

These are critical pieces of equipment that are needed along the 3,600 miles of line Fairfield Electric maintains to provide you safe and reliable electricity. We can't wait for Amazon Prime Day to purchase them at a discount, nor can we expect next-day delivery. As a matter of fact, supply chain challenges

have extended the wait times for some of these materials to more than two years.

Other inflation factors like commodity prices (aluminum, copper and rubber), transportation and interest rates have a big impact as well. It all means high demand, short supply and rising costs for materials we can't do without.

Fortunately, we have an important partner to help us during this inflation crisis.

Decades ago, South Carolina's electric cooperatives pooled their resources to form CEEUS, a member-owned materials and supply cooperative that allows us to purchase materials at a much lower price than if we had to do it alone.

Perhaps the next time you look at a power line, you'll see it a little differently—as the sum of parts that are increasingly expensive. If not, that's OK. Just know that Fairfield Electric is doing everything it can to soften the impact of these rising costs.

BRUCE G. BACON
 Chief Executive Officer



DOUG PAYNE

Fairfield Electric CEO Bruce Bacon presented grand prize winner Tiffany Simpson of Ridgeway the keys to a 2011 Chevrolet Silverado.



JOSH P. CRUTZER

Lori Pettway of Blythewood is happy to receive her member gift—a 12-can cooler bag—during registration at Fairfield Electric headquarters.

More than 3,700 members register for 85th Annual Meeting

FAIRFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE had a great turnout for the 85th Annual Meeting, registering 3,764 members at four locations over five days.

Members elected Ronald Friday (District 7), Mike Good (District 8) and Bruce Honeycutt (District 9) to the co-op's Board of Trustees.

In his remarks during the business session, Fairfield Electric CEO Bruce Bacon praised the employees for their commitment to a high standard of service.

“Our linemen are a dedicated group, and they work tirelessly to build and maintain our system and keep the lights on,” Bacon says. “Despite severe storms and the outages that do occur, we maintained reliability levels that are the envy of our industry. I am proud of what our employees are doing and their commitment



DOUG PAYNE

Fairfield Electric Cooperative members elected (from left) Ronald Friday (District 7), Mike Good (District 8) and Bruce Honeycutt (District 9) to represent them on the co-op's Board of Trustees.

to providing the best service possible.”

Tiffany Simpson of Ridgeway was the lucky grand prize winner of the 2011 Chevrolet Silverado after her name was drawn from among all registrants. Bernard Neal of Lugoff won the 42-inch Craftsman riding lawn mower. Rounding out the top-three prize winners was James McKenzie of Winnsboro, who received a \$500 credit on his electric bill.

Additional photos can be found at fairfield.coop/2024-annual-meeting-pictures.

WHO POWERS YOU?

Inspired by someone making a difference in our community? Tell their story and they could win a prize.

We know our community is filled with unsung heroes who are making a difference. Let's celebrate them! This is your chance to honor the people who are making a real difference. Winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact they have on our community. All entries must be submitted by July 31.

Grand Prize \$2,500

Your Local Co-op Prize \$500



Visit ecsc.org/WhoPowersYou for full contest rules

