



www.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
 Robert Kenneth Miles, *Secretary, District 2*
 W. C. Good, *Treasurer, District 3*
 Cynthia Able, *District 2*
 Timothy L. Hopkins, *District At Large*
 Keith Lewis, *District 1*
 Derial L. Ogburn, *District 3*
 John E. Roberts III, *District 1*
 Joseph E. Sharpe, *District 2*
 Peggy D. Swearingen, *District 1*



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Local people serving you



LONG-TIME MEMBERS KNOW

most of our employees are local people focused on serving you, the member-owners of Fairfield Electric Cooperative. But folks who are new to our cooperative may not know how we are different from other power

companies—and better. You probably don't think too often about your electric cooperative and how we are different.

How are we different?

- ▶ Fairfield Electric is locally based. Our headquarters is in Blythewood and we have an office in Winnsboro.
- ▶ We are owned by those we serve. As a member-consumer who receives electric service from Fairfield Electric, you are an owner.
- ▶ We are a not-for-profit electric cooperative, focused on service to its members, not on profits for investors who may or may not be local residents.

Your cooperative has some of the finest employees anywhere. I see their commitment every day. They are local people who live and work in the area we serve. They contribute to their communities in many ways and have common interests with you.

The cooperative's trustees are also local and members of the cooperative just like you. They are well informed and educated on the electric utility industry and are committed to serving you.

As local as we are, Fairfield Electric is



The Cooperative
Advantage

LOCAL PEOPLE. SERVING YOU.

Integrity • Accountability • Innovation • Commitment to Community

also a proud member of the nationwide Touchstone Energy Cooperatives alliance. As such, we focus on four key values—Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and, of course, Commitment to Community. It's what we call The Cooperative Advantage.

In recent weeks, we have been evaluating all aspects of what we do and planning for our future. In all of this planning, we have focused on one thing—serving you our member. Of course, we focus on the electric service we provide and how we can make it better, but we can also serve you by supporting the communities we serve. We view our role in the community as a catalyst for good and, together, we can accomplish great things.

On behalf of your local employees and your local trustees, we will continue to serve you and work every day to provide you with the most reliable and affordable service possible. We are local people serving you.

BRUCE G. BACON

Chief Executive Officer

Save the Date

Annual Meeting of Members May 17–21

The Fairfield Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held as last year's meeting. There will be several days of early drive-thru registration and voting beginning on Monday, May 17. The Annual Meeting will conclude with the business meeting, which will

be livestreamed on the cooperative's website on Friday, May 21, at 6 p.m.

Registration is designed so members never leave their vehicle. Members will register, cast their ballots for the trustee elections and receive their registration gifts. 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.

Co-ops pay too

When it comes to an electric cooperative, there sometimes can be confusion about how it operates since it is not a traditional utility. One of the most common misconceptions is that electric cooperatives 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 the members), they still pay sales and use taxes, employment taxes and property taxes.

Following are the property taxes paid by Fairfield Electric Cooperative for 2020.

Richland	\$ 1,682,360
Kershaw	\$ 857,930
Fairfield	\$ 482,622
Chester	\$ 314,947
York	\$ 218
Total	\$ 3,338,077

Property taxes are paid on such things as buildings, the land on which the office and warehouses are located, vehicles, substations and 3,468 miles of distribution power lines.

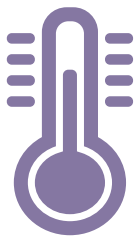
This is another example of an expense that is recovered through the facilities charge each month. If you allocate this expense to each active account, it equates to \$109 per year or \$9.08 per month.

Property taxes are also paid by Central Electric Power Cooperative, the cooperative's wholesale power provider. Central Electric paid over \$1.2 million in property taxes for transmission lines and facilities in the counties Fairfield Electric serves.

Hit refresh with your co-op

WE TAKE OUR CUES from nature. So as spring brings renewal to the world, it's a good time for us to hit refresh, as well. Fairfield Electric Cooperative gives its members several opportunities to do just that.

Levelized Billing



Because temperatures fluctuate—one of the primary factors in energy use—it can be difficult to predict your monthly power bills. Spring, with its mild temperatures, is a great time to sign up

for Fairfield Electric's Levelized Billing program. The program allows members to be billed based on the average of their previous 12 months use. To qualify, you must have been a residential member for at least 12 months with an acceptable payment history.

"Levelized Billing has been very popular with many of our members," says June Branham, billing supervisor. "They like knowing that there won't be large swings in their bill due to the weather."

Fairfield Electric also offers additional programs such as bank draft, e-billing and advance pay.

Account management

Even without special programs, you can easily monitor your account by using Fairfield Electric's exclusive member access online portal MyEnergy Online, which allows members to monitor energy use, view past billing and receive notifications.



Call before you dig

Spring is also a great time for home and yard projects. However, if any of your plans include a shovel—like planting trees and shrubs or installing fences and mailboxes—you might want to make sure you won't run into any underground lines.

Call 811 or go to sc811.com a few business days before digging to request that the approximate location of buried utilities be marked so that you don't unintentionally dig into an underground utility line.

Any time of the year is a good time for you to check in with Fairfield Electric to see if there are any programs or services that can make life easier for you. Visit our website at fairfield.coop or call us at (800) 628-0336 to take advantage of these programs.

