



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 6
 John E. Roberts, III, Treasurer, District 7
 Cynthia Able, District 2
 William M. Good, District 8
 Bruce Honeycutt, District 9
 Timothy L. Hopkins, District At Large
 Keith Lewis, District 1
 Derial L. Ogburn, District 5
 Peggy D. Swearingen, District 4



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Local people serving you

A NEW YEAR is upon us, and we are looking forward to serving you this year.

We are pleased that the construction of the new Winnsboro Office will be completed this spring and, as always, our employees are committed to providing you with the most reliable and affordable service possible.

Long-time members know that most of our employees are local people focused on serving you, the local 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 board of trustees live locally and are 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 also a proud member of the nationwide Touchstone Energy Cooperatives alliance.



The Cooperative
Advantage

LOCAL PEOPLE. SERVING YOU.

Integrity • Accountability • Innovation • Commitment to Community

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. The impact of rising inflation is having a significant impact on your cooperative too. In all 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, affordable service possible. We are local people serving you.

BRUCE G. BACON
 Chief Executive Officer

Fairfield Extra

See pages 12A–12C for a summary of Fairfield Electric's bylaws pertaining to membership, annual meeting and election procedure.



DOUG PAYNE

Winnsboro office to open this spring

PROGRESS IS CONTINUING to be made on the new Winnsboro office and the 5,000 square foot facility should be operational in the spring.

We are looking forward to serving our members from the new office and want to thank our members for their

patience as we have operated from a temporary office.

Due to the age and design of the old office, and the expense of a major renovation, the board of trustees made the decision to build a new office at the same site.

Scholarships available for seniors

FAIRFIELD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

is offering Touchstone Energy Scholarships to high school seniors in the cooperative's service area. To be eligible, the student's primary residence must receive electricity from Fairfield Electric Cooperative.

Six \$1,000 Touchstone Energy Scholarships will be awarded to students who are active in their communities. Special consideration is given to financial need, extracurricular activities, community involvement, letters of recommendation and the student's personal achievements.

Visit fairfield.coop/scholarships for details on how to apply. The deadline for applications is Friday, March 10.

Ready for an experience you won't forget?

Your co-op has two amazing trips planned this summer. Juniors: Apply for the Washington Youth Tour. Sophomores: Apply for the Cooperative Youth Summit.

Juniors: Experience Washington, D.C., with hundreds of students from across South Carolina and the country, meeting lawmakers and touring all the sights. Your electric co-op will cover your round-trip plane ticket, tours and meals. In other words, it's all free!

Sophomores: Experience South Carolina's capital like never before. Tour the Statehouse, meet lawmakers and see how co-ops are preparing for our state's energy future. Plus, there's plenty of fun with visits to popular Columbia attractions like Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. Your electric co-op will cover all your expenses.

We've made it easy to apply for either FREE trip. Apply today!



Washington Youth Tour: June 17-22, 2023



Cooperative Youth Summit: July 10-13, 2023



Applications available: fairfield.coop/youthsummit and fairfield.coop/youthtour
Application Deadline: February 28, 2023



Co-ops pay too

WHEN IT COMES to an electric cooperative, there can sometimes 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. The following is a breakdown of property

taxes paid by Fairfield Electric Cooperative for 2022.

Richland County	\$1,788,315
Kershaw County	\$924,723
Fairfield County	\$484,348
Chester County	\$321,495
York County	\$228
TOTAL	\$3,519,109

Property taxes are paid on such things as buildings, the land on which the office and warehouses are located, vehicles, substations and the 3,560 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 \$107.97 per year or \$9 per month.

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

Fairfield Electric Cooperative Summary of Bylaws

Pertaining to Membership, Annual Meeting, Board Representation and Election Procedure

ANY NATURAL PERSON, firm, association, corporation, business trust, partnership, federal agency, state or political subdivision or agency thereof or any body politic or subdivision thereof shall be eligible to become a member of, and, at one or more premises owned or directly occupied or used by him, to receive electric service from Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc., by:

- a) filing a written application for membership,
- b) agreeing to purchase electric power from the Cooperative,
- c) to comply with the Bylaws, rules, regulations and rate schedules,
- d) paying the membership fee together with any service security deposit, service connection deposit or fee, facilities extension deposit, contribution in aid of construction required by the Cooperative.

Each member shall purchase from the Cooperative all central station electric power and energy purchased for use on all premises to which electric service has been furnished by the Cooperative pursuant to his membership.

For members with multiple accounts, the membership voting district assignment will correlate to the account which has the membership fee associated with it and shall be deemed the residence of the member.

The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of eleven (11) members.

Section 3.01. Annual Meeting

For the purpose of electing Trustees, hearing and passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year, and transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting, the annual meeting of the members shall be held during May, June, July, or August of each year at such place in one of the counties, in South Carolina within which the Cooperative serves on such date and beginning at such hour as the Board shall from year to year fix.

It shall be the responsibility of the Board to make adequate plans and preparations for, and to encourage member attendance at, the annual meeting. Failure to hold the annual meeting at the designated time and place shall not constitute a forfeiture or dissolution of the Cooperative.

Section 3.07. Order of Business

The President or such other person as the members of the Board may designate to preside at any meeting of members shall first declare such meeting be open and in session at the place, day, and hour established for such

meeting, as stated in the notice of the meeting delivered to the members. After opening the meeting, the order of Business at any annual meeting of the members and, so far as possible, at all other meetings of the members, shall be essentially as follows:

1. Registration of members
2. Voting to elect the Board members
3. Receive report from the Secretary on the number of members present and registered to determine the existence of a quorum.
4. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of due publication or mailing thereof, or the waiver of notice of the meeting, as the case may be.
5. Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meetings of the members and taking necessary action thereon.
6. Presentation and consideration of information and reports by officers, trustees, and committees.
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Trustees may from time-to-time establish a different order of business.

Section 4.03. Election

In respect of each of the nine single-member voting districts, one (1) trustee shall be elected in each district by the voting members residing therein. At each annual meeting of the members, trustees shall be elected by secret ballot by the members residing in that trustee's voting district. The two District At Large trustees shall be elected by secret ballot by all of the members.

At each annual meeting of the members, Trustees shall be elected by the members and, except as provided in the first proviso of Section 4.02 of these Bylaws, from among those members who are natural persons: PROVIDED, that, when there is no contest for the representation of a particular trustee position, secret balloting may be dispensed with.

If only one individual is nominated to run for election for a Trustee position scheduled for election by Members at the Member Meeting, then the individual presiding at the Member Meeting may announce that the nominated individual is elected by acclamation and no vote is required.

Section 4.04. Tenure

The persons named as Board members, at previous meetings of the meetings of the members, shall compose the Board until their successors have been elected and shall have qualified and shall be classified as Class A, B and C.

Beginning with the Annual Meeting in 2022, Class A Board member consisting of three members, one to be a resident of District 1, one to be a resident of District 2, and one to be a resident of District 3, and one District at Large member shall be elected by members of their district and shall serve a term of three years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. At the Annual Meeting in 2023, Class B Board members consisting of three members, one to be a resident of District 4, one to be a resident of District 5, and one to be a resident of District 6, and one District at Large member shall be elected by and from the members of their district and shall serve a term of three years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. At the Annual Meeting in 2024, Class C Board members consisting of three members, one to be a resident of District 7, one to be a resident of District 8, and one to be a resident of District 9 shall be elected by and from the members of their district and shall serve a term

of three years or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Thereafter, at each annual meeting of the members, Directors shall be elected for three (3) year terms with respect to the directorships, which are expiring, and therefore will need to be filled at such meeting. If for any reason an election of Trustees shall not be held at an annual meeting of the members duly fixed and called pursuant to these Bylaws, such election may be held at an adjournment of such meeting or at a subsequently held special or regular meeting of the members. Failure of an election for a given year shall allow the incumbents whose directorships would have been voted on to hold over only until the next member meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section 4.05. Trustee Districts

The entire territory served by the Cooperative shall be divided by the Board of Trustees into nine Trustee Districts to be implemented and used for trustee elections at the annual meeting of members beginning in 2022 known as District 1, District 2, District 3, District 4, District 5, District 6, District 7, District 8, and District 9. The Districts at Large consists of the entire area served by the Cooperative. District 1 will consist of the area served and designated as District 1 on the map of the service area served by the Cooperative; District 2 will consist of the area served and designated as District 2 on the map of the service area served by the Cooperative; District 3 will consist of the area served and designated as District 3 on the map of the service area served by the Cooperative; District 4 will consist of the area served and designated as District 4 on the map of the service area served by the Cooperative; District 5 will consist of the area served and designated as District 5 on the map of the service area served by the Cooperative; District 6 will consist of the area served and designated as District 6 on the map of the service area served by the Cooperative; District 7 will consist of the area served and designated as District 7 on the map of the service area served by the Cooperative; District 8 will consist of the area served and designated as District 8 on the map of the service area served by the Cooperative; District 9 will consist of the area served and designated as District 9 on the map of the service area served by the Cooperative.

For specific reference as to the description and boundaries of each of the nine districts, reference is made to the map which bears the signed approval of the Board of Trustees and

filed in the office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Cooperative. Notwithstanding the foregoing Trustee District descriptions, every 6 years (at six year intervals) the Board of Trustees, not less than one hundred, twenty (120) days prior to the earliest date on which the annual member meeting may be scheduled by these Bylaws to be held, shall review and alter as necessary the Districts to adjust substantial inequitable factors regarding the residence of the members, the geographic locations, or other equitable considerations and shall change and re-describe one or more Districts accordingly, in which event, the map describing the boundaries of each of the Districts as re-described and bears the signed approval of the Board may be examined by any member in the office of the CEO of the Cooperative. After such redefinition of the Districts, these Bylaws shall have been effectively amended accordingly, except that the areas embraced within such Districts may be changed by amendment of these Bylaws by the members from time-to-time in order to establish the most equitable and geographical representation of the Board of Trustees: PROVIDED, that any change so made by action of the Board shall be in full force and effect until at least the completion of the election of directors at the annual meeting of the members first held in accordance with such changes effectuated by the Board of Trustees; AND PROVIDED FURTHER, that no such change, whether effective so as to compel the vacancy of any director's office prior to the time such director's term would normally expire.

Section 4.06. Nominations of Trustees

Nominations for Trustees to be elected shall be as follows:

- a. Nomination by Committee on Nominations

It shall be the duty of the Board of Trustees to appoint not less than ninety (90) or more than one hundred twenty (120) days before the date of the meeting of the members at which trustees are to be elected, a Committee on Nominations, consisting of eleven (11) members of the Cooperative, who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, trustees or known candidates for trustee. "Incumbent Trustees seeking re-election shall not directly or indirectly influence the nomination or credentials process. Said Trustees shall recuse themselves from participation in appointing the Committee, and Cooperative members on the Committee from their Trustee Districts shall be

selected without their input or participation. Trustees may not appoint, direct, or cause a family member to become a member of the Committee. For purposes of this Section, “family member” includes a spouse, parent, brother, sister, child, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, and a member of the individual’s immediate family.” Nominating Committee members shall be appointed so that each of the Cooperative’s nine Single Member Trustee Districts shall have at least one (1) and the District At Large shall have at least two (2) members thereon. The Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least sixty (60) days before the meeting of the members a list of nominations for trustee to be elected, listing separately the nominee or nominees with respect to each Trustee District from which a trustee is to be elected at the meeting and listing any nominee or nominees for Trustee at Large to be elected at such meeting. The Committee on Nominations may include more nominees than there are Trustees to be elected, but it shall clearly show which nominees are opposed with respect to the same Trustee District or any Trustee at Large.

b. Nomination by Petition of Members

1. Any one percent (1%) or more than one percent (1%) of the members of the Cooperative as determined and established on the first business day of the current calendar year, acting together over their signatures, not less than fifty (50) days prior to the meeting of the members, may make by petition additional nominations, in like manner listing separately the nominee or nominees with respect to the Trustee District from which they are nominated, or listing the nominee or nominees for Trustee at Large, and the Secretary of the Cooperative shall post such nominations made by petition as herein provided at the same place where the list of nominees made by the Committee on nominations is posted.
2. Said petition in addition to containing the signatures of the required number of members shall also contain the printed or typed name of the member and the address at which said member receives electrical service from the Cooperative. Upon verification that the petition contains the signatures of one percent (1%) or more of the members of the Cooperative and verification the candidate is qualified as provided in Section 4.02 by the CEO of the

Cooperative or his designees, said petition candidate shall be added and listed as a nominee as provided herein.

3. The Board of Trustees shall, by policy, adopt a process allowing petition signatures to be collected electronically according to procedures or standards approved by the Board.
 4. Said petition must designate the Trustee District from which the nomination is made, or designate nominee or nominees for Trustee at Large, and must contain a statement indicating that the member signing the petition is in support of the nomination.
 5. Any person signing on behalf of a member which is not a person shall indicate their authority to sign on behalf of the member.
- c. Notification of Members of Nominee or Nominees**
The Secretary shall mail to the members with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement showing the names and addresses of all nominee(s) from and with respect to each Trustee District and also showing the nominee or nominees for District at Large, said statement to clearly show those nominated by the Committee on Nominations and those nominated by petition, if any.

Section 4.07. Election of Board Members

The Secretary shall be responsible for providing ballots which may include electronic balloting to be used in the election of the Board members at each annual meeting of the members. The ballots shall list only the names of those candidates who were duly nominated either by the Nominating Committee or nominated by Petition in accordance with Section 4.06 of these Bylaws. The ballots shall designate which of the candidates, if any, were nominated by petition. Each member of the Cooperative who registers at an annual meeting of the members within a minimum of four (4) hours after the opening of the meeting (or at alternative early voting if applicable) shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from their membership voting district and District At Large (when applicable), as the case may be, at the particular meeting. Each member shall cast his votes by marking his ballot. At any annual meeting of the members at which the total number of members registering at such meeting should equal or exceed the

number of members required for a quorum, as defined by these Bylaws, then the election of Board members held at that meeting shall be valid and the candidate from each district, or District at Large, as the case may be, receiving the highest number of votes shall be duly elected to the Board. If the total number of members who register at an annual meeting of the members within four (4) hours after the opening of such meeting should be less than the number of members required for a quorum as defined by these Bylaws, then all votes cast at such meeting shall be void and no members shall be elected at the meeting. No Board members shall be elected at any meeting of the members unless the number of members sufficient to constitute a quorum, as defined by these Bylaws, shall be registered at such meeting.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Fairfield Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Asst. Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- 2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Keeping You in Touch Rain or Shine!



With the FEC Mobile app, you can report and access outage information anytime day or night.

The FEC Mobile app from Fairfield Electric Cooperative is free and gives you quick access to your account whenever you need it!

The FEC Mobile app also allows you to:

- ◆ make bill payments
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- ◆ check account balance
- ◆ check on monthly energy usage
- ◆ set up payment reminders



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