

More than 3,800 members take part in Fairfield Electric's Annual Meeting

Community spirit was on full display as Fairfield Electric Cooperative welcomed 3,862 members to its 87th Annual Meeting, a weeklong event that blended cooperative business with hometown connection.

Since 2020, Fairfield Electric has transformed its annual meeting into a convenient drive-thru experience. Over four and a half days, members visited one of four registration locations across the service area, where they could quickly check in without leaving their vehicles. As a thank-you for participating, every registered member received a complimentary umbrella.

The week culminated on Friday, May 15, with the Annual Business Meeting broadcast live from the co-op's Blythewood office.

During his address, CEO Bruce Bacon reflected on a year marked by progress and investment in the cooperative's future. "We have invested in our system by upgrading substations, strengthening our distribution infrastructure, and expanding smart grid technologies to improve reliability and response times," Bacon said.

Beyond infrastructure improvements, Bacon emphasized the cooperative's ongoing commitment to serving the community — a cornerstone of the cooperative model. "Supporting local programs, schools, and organizations remains a priority because we know our role extends far beyond poles and wire. It's about improving the quality of life in the communities we serve," he said.

Board President Mitch Rabon echoed that sense of pride, highlighting the cooperative's strong financial standing and continued commitment to members.

"This year, the cooperative has continued to be strong with equity levels that have allowed us to return excess revenue to our members in excess of \$2.2 million," Rabon said.

During Annual Meeting week, members cast votes for the co-op's Board of Trustees, reelecting Mitch Rabon (District 3), Peggy Swearingen (District 4), Derial Ogburn (District 5), Robert K. Miles (District 6), and Robert Entzminger (District at Large). Eileen Uihlein Donohue will be joining the board as a newly elected trustee from District 9.

Of course, no Fairfield Electric annual meeting would be complete without the highly anticipated prize drawings. Members had the chance to win everything from gift cards and bill credits to major prizes, including a truck and riding lawn mower.

A full list of prize winners is available at fairfield.coop.

Big congratulations to C.M. Craft of Blythewood, who was the winner of the 42-inch Craftsman riding lawn mower.



Henry Tucker and his family celebrated his grand prize win as Fairfield Cooperative CEO Bruce Bacon handed them the keys to Tucker's truck.



Thanks to all our members who participated, as participation is key to each successful year.



(top) Jim Glass of Pontiac and his dog, Buddy, found themselves in line for both an umbrella and a dog treat.

(middle) Felicia Poston of Blythewood was all smiles when she stopped by to register at the quick and easy drive-thru at our Blythewood office.

(bottom) Edward Middleton of Richland County shows off his registration gift, a Fairfield Electric umbrella. (above photos by Josh Crotzer)

Energy-Savings Tips to Help Cut Your Energy Costs

Knowing how to conserve energy usage during the winter and summer months can make a big difference in your energy costs.



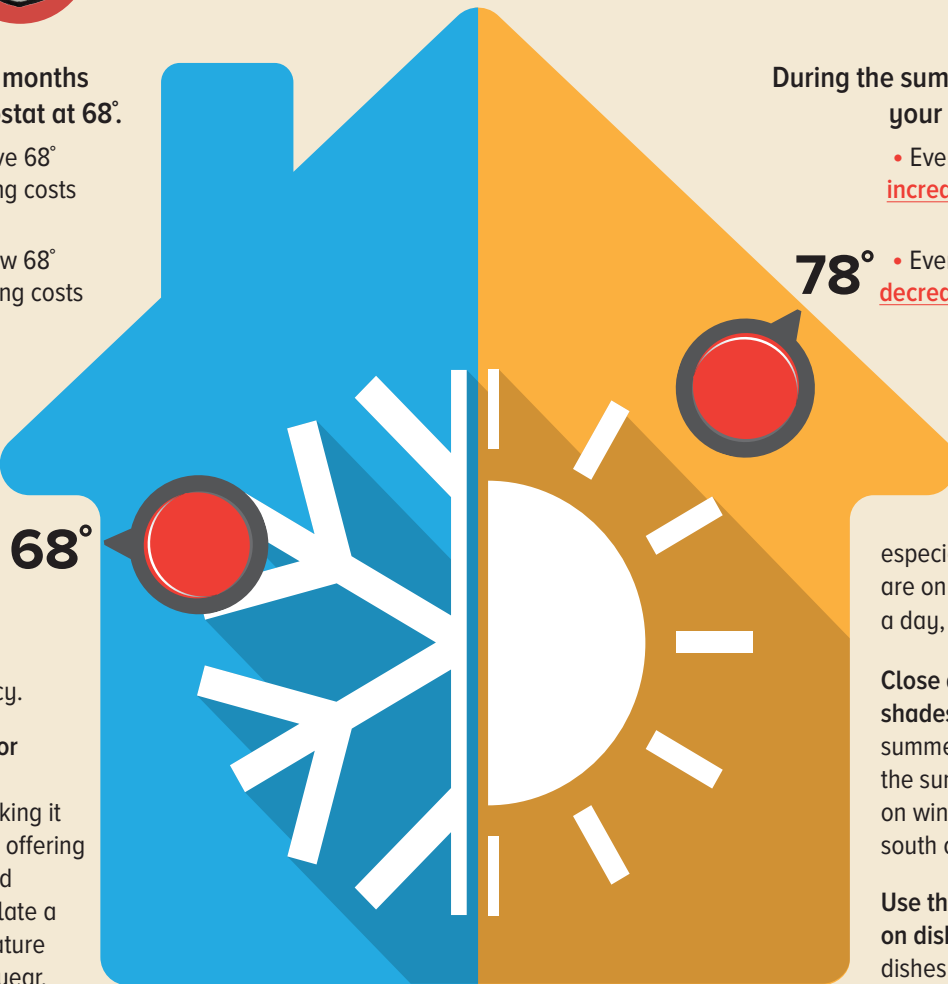
Air Conditioning & Heating account for approximately **half** of your energy use.

During the winter months keep your thermostat at 68°.

- Every degree above 68° **increases** operating costs 6–8%.
- Every degree below 68° **decreases** operating costs 6–7%.

During the summer months keep your thermostat at 78°.

- Every degree below 78° **increases** operating costs 11–12%.
- Every degree above 78° **decreases** operating costs 8–9%.



Replace HVAC air filters monthly and have your unit serviced fall and spring to ensure energy-efficiency.



Install a smart or programmable thermostat, making it easy to save by offering pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year.



Open the draperies or shades during the winter days to allow the sunlight to heat your home, especially on windows on the south side.



Lower your water heating costs. Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting of 120°F.



Caulking, installing insulation and weather-stripping keeps hot air in during the winter and hot air out during the summer.



Replace incandescent light bulbs,

especially the ones that are on more than 1 hour a day, with LED bulbs.



Close draperies or shades during the summer days to block the sun, especially on windows that face south or west.



Use the air-dry feature on dishwashers to dry dishes.



Use ceiling fans, they move the air so it feels more comfortable allowing for a higher thermostat setting—on milder days it can save as much as 60% on the energy bill.



Cook on the grill during the hotter months to keep cooking heat outside.



Purchase a Solar Clothes Dryer (also known as a clothesline) and hang laundry to dry.

Source: TouchstoneEnergy.com, "Use Energy Wisely: Efficiency"



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Visit fairfield.coop and learn more about our energy-saving programs offered just for you.



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