



## Cooperative Update

from

**Bruce Bacon**

Chief Executive Officer  
Fairfield Electric Cooperative



## Committed to you

**We are approaching the end of another year and I want to wish you and your family a happy holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year.**

2023 has been a good year for your cooperative. Your cooperative continues to grow and our employees have worked diligently to meet the demands of that growth. I have the privilege to work with some of the finest people anywhere. I see their commitment every day. They are dedicated to providing the most reliable, affordable service possible. They live in the area we serve and they contribute to their communities in many ways.

We continued to offer programs for our members and opportunities for the youth in our area. The construction of the new Winnsboro office was completed during the spring and we held a successful annual meeting.

In recent weeks, we have been evaluating all aspects of what we do and planning for our future. The board of trustees and staff came together to update our strategic plan. We revisited our mission statement and vision statement and identified key objectives. The plan keeps us laser focused on improving.

Our main objective, of course, is 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.

As we move forward, we will remain focused on four key values: Integrity, Accountability, Innovation and, of course, Commitment to Community. It's what we call The Cooperative Advantage.

On behalf of your local employees and 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.

Earlier this year, the board of trustees and staff came together to update our strategic plan.

  
**The Cooperative  
Advantage**  
LOCAL PEOPLE. SERVING YOU.  
Integrity • Accountability • Innovation • Commitment to Community

## Take Advantage of Our Youth Programs and Scholarships

Fairfield Electric has several opportunities for students in our area. We have trips for high school sophomores and juniors, as well as Touchstone Energy® Scholarships available to high school seniors. Applications for the trips and scholarships will be available on January 1.



Juniors can experience Washington, D.C. during the Washington Youth Tour from June 15-21, 2024. During the trip students will meet lawmakers and tour different sights. Sophomores can apply for the Cooperative Youth Summit that takes place at South Carolina's Capitol from July 15-18, 2024. Students will tour the Statehouse, meet lawmakers and see how co-ops are preparing for our state's energy future. The deadline to apply for both trips is February 28, 2024. More information is available at [fairfield.coop/youthtour](https://fairfield.coop/youthtour) and [fairfield.coop/youthsummit](https://fairfield.coop/youthsummit).



Eight \$1000 Touchstone Energy Scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors 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. The deadline for applications is March 8, 2024. Go to [fairfield.coop/scholarships](https://fairfield.coop/scholarships) to learn more.



# Safeguard Your Home During the Winter

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are some ways to safeguard your home for the winter season.



Ensure your detectors are working properly. If your carbon monoxide detectors and smoke alarms are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.



Inspect electrical cords. We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip.



Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips. When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.



Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency. There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.



Practice safety in the kitchen. As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.



## Have A Light, Bright, Safe & Happy Holiday Season!

Fairfield Electric Cooperative is grateful for our members at the holidays and every day. May your home radiate peace, comfort, joy and warmth always.

*We look forward to 2024, continuing to provide you with more energy saving programs and developing services that will benefit the communities we serve.*

*Merry Christmas*  
from all of us at



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Fairfield Electric will be closed for the holidays  
Dec. 25, 26 and Jan. 1.**

For more information, visit [fairfield.coop](http://fairfield.coop)



12-23-23.8M-110523011