



Cooperative Update

from

Bruce Bacon

Chief Executive Officer
Fairfield Electric Cooperative



Making sure your voice is heard on energy policy

For Fairfield Electric Cooperative, reliability is central to our mission and, quite frankly, our very existence. The last thing we want is to come up short in providing our members the power you need when you need it.

Of course, not everything is up to us. Acts of God like hurricanes and ice storms can wreak havoc on our system no matter how well we prepare.

A less obvious factor is the availability of the electricity we generate as a state. For as long as I can remember, we haven't had to seriously worry about this. Our state has historically had plenty of electricity to meet our needs.

But the availability of electricity could become a challenge. Our power supply isn't growing fast enough to keep up with our state's rapid growth. South Carolina needs more electricity, especially for frigid winter mornings and sweltering summer afternoons when the power grid strains to meet peak demands.

Government policies and regulations play an important role in the energy that's available to us. They always have, from legislation that allowed the creation of electric cooperatives in the 1930s to the government's role in hydroelectric power plant construction to recent regulations requiring the shutdown of coal-fired power plants.

Our co-op is fortunate that these elected officials are our friends and neighbors and that they understand the needs of the co-op members and the communities we serve.

As a member-owned co-op, our service to you includes doing everything in our power to make sure our state and country's energy policies enable us to deliver the power you need, when you need it, and at a price you can afford.

That work is critical again this year as the S.C. General Assembly considers energy policies that will determine how we meet your power needs.

On Feb. 13, a day we call Co-op Day at the State House, our board members and employees joined other electric cooperatives in bringing your voice to policy makers. On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of co-op members across our state, we expressed a vision for a future that keeps electricity safe, reliable and affordable.

It is far from the end of our efforts to help shape our state's energy policies for the better. Rest assured your co-op is doing all we can to safeguard South Carolina's energy future.



Top Right: Fairfield Electric linemen Alex Catladge (left) and Mason Corby (right) talk with Brandon Boone, Vice President of Operations in the Statehouse lobby.

Bottom Left: Representative Randy Ligon (left) discusses issues with Fairfield Electric trustees Ronald Friday (center) and Keith Lewis (right.)

Bottom Right: Fairfield Electric trustee Peggy Swearingen (left) speaks with Representative Annie McDaniel during Co-op Day at the Statehouse.





Co-ops Pay Too

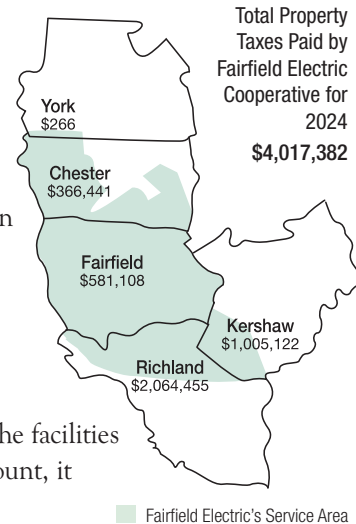
When it comes to an electric cooperative there can sometimes be confusion about how it operates since it is not a traditional utility. One of the most common misconceptions is that electric cooperatives do not pay taxes.

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. On the right is a breakdown of property taxes paid by Fairfield Electric Cooperative for 2024.

Property taxes are paid on such things as buildings, the land on which the office and warehouses are located, vehicles, substations and the 3,690 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 \$117.36 per year or \$9.78 per month.

Property taxes are also paid by Central Electric Power Cooperative, the cooperative's wholesale power provider. They paid over 1.3 million in property taxes for transmission lines and facilities in the counties Fairfield Electric serves.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**



The 86th Annual Meeting of Members will be held May 12-16.

There will be several days of early drive-thru registration and voting prior to the business meeting portion. The business meeting will be broadcast on the cooperative's website on May 16 at 6 p.m.

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

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