



## BEAT the HEAT and lower your energy consumption

By: Stephen Raines

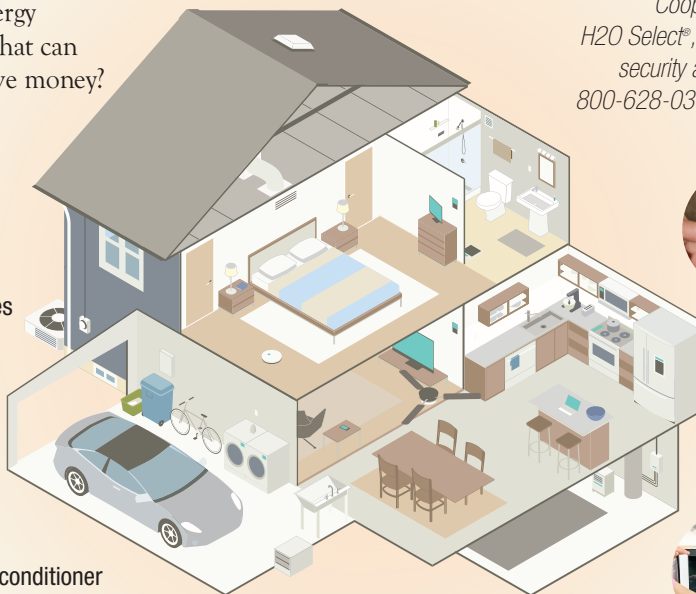
The higher temperatures we have experienced this summer have wrapped South Carolina in a smothering blanket of heat and humidity. The hot and humid days cause air conditioners to run almost constantly and in some cases they do. Refrigerators and freezers in unconditioned areas also run more than usual during this time.

All of this leads to an increase in energy consumption during the summer. What can you do to lower consumption and save money? Here are a few things to consider.



**Stephen Raines**

Member Services Representative assists Fairfield Electric Cooperative members with programs such as H2O Select®, home energy audits, surge guard, home security and other services. He can be reached at 800-628-0336 or by e-mail at [sraines@fairfield.coop](mailto:sraines@fairfield.coop)



### Adjust your thermostat.

Raising your thermostat a few degrees can lower your consumption and save money.

Set the temperature between 78–80 degrees Fahrenheit, and you could save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.

### Install a programmable thermostat.

This makes it easy to save by offering pre-programmed settings to regulate a home's temperature throughout the year.



### Be a "fan-atic".

While they don't replace an air conditioner or a heat pump, fans move the air so everyone feels more comfortable allowing for a higher thermostat setting. On milder days, fans can save as much as 60 percent on electric bills. Fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.



### Service air conditioners

annually and be sure the air conditioner is the right size for the area. Change the filter regularly. Choose an air conditioner with the ENERGY STAR label when buying a new one.



### Close draperies or shades

during the day to block the sun, especially on windows that face south or west.



### Keep hot air out

by installing insulation and weather stripping.



### Turn off lights

when not in use. Switch all bulbs to LED.



### Cook on the grill

to keep cooking heat outside. When using the stove, vent cooking heat outside with a range hood.



### Use a microwave or an air fryer

instead of an oven. They use less than half the

power of a conventional oven and cook food in about one-fourth the time. Ovens also heat up the kitchen, making your cooling system and refrigerator work harder.



### Purchase a Solar Clothes Dryer

(also known as a clothesline) and hang laundry outside to dry.



### Use the air-dry feature on dishwashers.



### Eliminate unnecessary appliances.

Extra refrigerators and freezers, especially in unconditioned areas, contribute to higher energy consumption. If you can eliminate those that are not being used, this will save energy.



## Report An Outage by Text

### Text Notification Service

- Add Your mobile number to your account
- Save Fairfield Electric's number 803-754-0153 in your contacts.
- Text **POWER** to enroll in service.
- Text **OUT** to report an outage.
- Text **STATUS** for an update on a reported outage.
- Text **HELP** for more information.
- Text **QUIT** to opt-out of this service.

Fairfield Electric Cooperative recently launched a new two-way text messaging service for members to report and monitor outages. To participate, please verify that Fairfield Electric has your correct mobile phone number associated with your account.

Log into your online member portal to confirm we have your mobile phone number in the mobile number field. You may also call our office to verify this information.

To enroll in the service, text the word **POWER** to 803-754-0153. You will receive a confirmation text message.

When your power goes out, members can text the word **OUT** and the outage will immediately get logged into the Fairfield Electric outage management system. Once the outage is verified, you can receive updates on the outage by texting **STATUS**. When possible, estimated restoration times will be communicated and you will also be notified once the power has been restored.

*Please note that the new outage reporting text messaging system is not mandatory and members can opt-out by texting **QUIT** any time.*

# Celebrating



86  
YEARS

Fairfield Electric Cooperative has been proudly serving our members since June 8, 1939. To celebrate 86 years since local residents came together to organize the cooperative, members who stopped by our Blythewood or Winnsboro office received a sweet treat. Pictured here are Fairfield Electric Cooperative members Danny and Trina Trujillo.



Electric cooperatives in South Carolina are warning members to be aware of scam artists who are calling

posing as electric co-op employees. The callers tell a consumer that immediate payment is needed to avoid disconnection of utility services. The callers then provide instructions to send money via a third-party pay system. There have been several reports from members of electric cooperatives across South Carolina.

- **If you receive a suspicious call regarding your utility bill, get the caller's number then hang up and call the local authorities.** Never give your credit card number or other personal information over the phone without verifying the call.
- **Members should also contact their utility to report the incident.** By calling the co-op directly, you can talk to a service representative who will confirm your bill and let you know of any problems with your account.
- **Co-ops will not call or email you for your account number or password, so keep your account information to yourself.** Also, don't assume that you can trust caller ID to let you know where a caller is located. Because scammers may use Internet calling technology, the area code you see may not reflect where they really are.