



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 2
John E. Roberts, III, *Treasurer, District 1*
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

A matter of co-op principles



ACE HARDWARE, STATE FARM, REI, Land O'Lakes and Fairfield Electric Cooperative all share something in common: they're all cooperatives.

Although the industries differ, we all share a passion for serving our members

and helping our communities to thrive. In fact, all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good. October is National Co-op Month, so this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have not only stood the test of time but also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at the first three cooperative principles.

Voluntary and open membership

Just like all co-ops, Fairfield Electric Cooperative was created out of necessity—to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1939, a group of neighbors organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. The newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in our community.

We include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

Democratic member control

Our co-op is well suited to meet the needs of our members because we are

locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Fairfield Electric Cooperative's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Members' economic participation

As a utility, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of Fairfield Electric Cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and supporting other activities approved by the membership.

Because we are guided by seven cooperative principles, it's not just about dollars—it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

Fairfield Electric Cooperative is a reflection of our local community and its evolving needs. We view our role as a catalyst for good and making our corner of the world a better place. And, that sums up the seventh co-op principle, "concern for community."

BRUCE G. BACON

Chief Executive Officer

A season for savings

Your Co-op Connections card is a great fall companion

FORGET ABOUT PUMPKIN SPICE. The Co-op Connections card and app can add plenty of flavor to your fall.

The Co-op Connections card is free as part of your co-op membership and offers more than 24,000 local and national deals on products and services ideal for this time of year.

Having a crowd over to watch the big game? Fairfield Electric members can host without spending the most with a 10% discount at Scottie's Café and Grill in Blythewood. There are also lots of national retailers offering discounts on dining, travel and tickets to events. You can even save when shopping online.

Fairfield Electric recommends scheduling maintenance of your heating and air units during the mild temperatures of the fall. With your Co-op Connections

card, you can take advantage of one of the several local heating and air dealers offering discounts.

Cardholders receive healthy savings benefits too, like dental, vision and prescription drugs.

It all can be found at **connections.coop** and it's simple to sign-up. Find deals wherever you are with the Co-op Connections app, available for Apple and Android devices.

Your card is pages away!

Your new Co-op Connections card is inserted in this magazine between Pages 8 and 9. The card is perforated so it's easy to pull out and it's durable for lots of use.

Included with the insert is more information about all the benefits of your Co-op Connections card.

Scott Opolyn, owner of Scottie's Café and Grill in Blythewood, takes time out to greet customer Thomas Rowe. Scottie's is one of the local businesses offering discounts to Fairfield Electric members.



DOUG PAYNE

Local student receives award for podcast

A Winnsboro teen was recently recognized for a podcast she helped produce as part of the Virtual Youth Experience podcast challenge, sponsored by Fairfield Electric and the state's electric cooperatives.

Taylor Hollis, a student with the SC Connection Academy, was part of a finalist group that was awarded a \$500 prize each.

Hollis was among dozens of students selected by electric cooperatives across the state working in groups to create podcasts that completed the sentence: "This is my country...."

The panel of distinguished journalists that selected the winning podcast group included Ben Hoover of WSPA, Kenneth Moton of ABC News, Dawndy Mercer Plank of WIS News, Cindi Scoppe of the Post and



JOSH P. CROTZER

Courier and Lucas McFadden of CN2 News. Each member of the winning podcast team was awarded \$5,000.

"I applaud the work that these students put into the podcast," Mercer Plank said after reviewing the finalists' submissions. "It was obvious that each group put in a considerable amount of effort to be creative, compelling and complete."

There was a total of 20 competing teams comprising 74 high school students from across South Carolina. The students had been selected by their local cooperative to participate in

the Virtual Youth Experience (VYE). VYE was a web conference which took place in June.

All of the students' podcasts are available online at **anchor.fm/ecsc** or by searching Virtual Youth Experience Podcast Challenge on Spotify.

Taylor Hollis (right) works with John Sumter on the podcast they produced as part of Virtual Youth Experience.