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**FOR ALL YOUR
CUSTOMER SERVICE NEEDS**
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AUTOMATED OUTAGE REPORTING
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PICKENS
P.O. Box 277
734 West Main St.
Pickens, SC 29671

OCONEE
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Westminster, SC 29693

MISSION STATEMENT
Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative will operate as a competitive provider of energy services and a partner with local communities, with a focus on safety, service and integrity.

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Jim Lovinggood

This organization is an
equal-opportunity provider.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



An array of services

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT service here at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, that conversation can cover a broad range of subjects. For example, emergency generators have become a sizable component of our service menu. As of the end of July, we counted 579 of these standby units that we've installed at member premises. In 2020 alone, 124 generators were added to the cooperative's system. We're on track to install a similar number in this current year. The fact that we sell, install and service these member-owned units has established Blue Ridge as a go-to dealer for generators. They can help ensure members are able to enjoy uninterrupted electric service.

Another ongoing service is the cooperative's electric water heater rebate program. Members contemplating the installation or replacement of a water heater can, upon request, expect some financial support from Blue Ridge for that project. Since its inception in 2013, more than 3,300 of our members have taken advantage of these rebates.

Environmentally friendly

Blue Ridge is also experiencing growing interest in our geothermal heat-pump initiative. In our view, a geothermal installation is absolutely the most environmentally-friendly action a member can take. These ground-source units operate with maximum efficiency. What's more, a geothermal heat pump doesn't require supplementary resistance heaters to keep a house warm in the wintertime. That on-purpose omission represents a major reduction in a member's electric bill. It also helps the cooperative hold down the price it pays when purchasing wholesale power. That's a good thing for all our members.

It's true that going geothermal entails a somewhat sizable investment for a

member. However, there are attractive government tax incentives, cooperative rebates and a generous Blue Ridge loan program that bring the bottom-line cost down dramatically. We now have 44 members who've installed geothermal units, and I can tell you emphatically that they're delighted with the results.

I've merely scratched the surface in describing the services your cooperative is glad to make available to its membership. I could elaborate on Surge Guard, smart thermostats, EV charging stations and a host of other programs.

A brisk pace

However, I'm going to devote this last portion of my report to the cooperative's entry into the broadband service business. Earlier this year, Blue Ridge and our partner, West Carolina Telephone Cooperative, launched our subsidiary, Upcountry Fiber. In the months since, we've moved forward at a rather brisk pace to deliver high-speed internet to unserved and underserved portions of the cooperative's territory. By the end of 2021, we expect to be providing fiber directly to the home for several thousand cooperative members.

At that point, we'll hardly have just begun. Ultimately, we plan to extend broadband into every corner of the cooperative's sprawling territory. Furthermore, we intend to do so with a favorable pricing structure. Under our Upcountry Fiber banner, we're going to proceed just as fast as we can to meet member needs for quality internet service. That's a promise we're striving to fulfill. Meanwhile, if you should have an interest in any of our services, please contact us.

JIM LOVINGGOOD
President and CEO



New charging station open

Blue Ridge Electric has opened a new charging station for electric vehicles off I-85 at Exit 4, Herring Road in Fair Play. The station has 12 Tesla superchargers and the first ChargePoint Express Level 3 to be installed in South Carolina.

Our Pickens and Westminster locations also provide public access to safe and convenient charging stations.

PHOTO CREDIT

BREC Public Auction

Saturday, Nov. 6, 10 a.m.

Preview Friday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Equipment Facility
734 West Main Street, Pickens

Available for purchase

- ▶ Vehicles.
- ▶ Miscellaneous supplies.
- ▶ Office furniture and equipment.
- ▶ Truck toolboxes.
- ▶ Computer products and accessories.

Items may be added or deleted.

Terms

- ▶ VISA, MasterCard, cash or approved checks with a current letter from bank guaranteeing funds, unless Auctioneer approves credit.
- ▶ 10% buyers fee applies to all purchases and an additional 3% for VISA and MasterCard.
- ▶ All items sold absolute.

For more information, contact David J. Meares at (864) 444-1322 or visit SoldDJM.com.

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