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Call Toll-Free (800) 240-3400

**Automated Outage Reporting**

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**Pickens**

P.O. Box 277  
734 West Main St.  
Pickens, SC 29671

**Oconee**

P.O. Box 329  
2328 Sandifer Blvd.  
Highway 123  
Westminster, SC 29693

**Anderson**

1212 North Fant St.  
Anderson, SC 29622

**Greenville**

3751 Highway 11  
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

**Mission Statement**

Blue Ridge will be a competitive, quality provider of energy and other services, maintaining its history of integrity and adapting to the challenges of a changing world. While exercising leadership in the community, the organization's focus will be on exceeding customer expectations.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# President's report

## Low-interest heat-pump loans from Blue Ridge

**AS HOT AS** the weather might be this August, it's a fact that winter, with its freezing temperatures and biting winds, is just a few months away. Whether the outside thermometer is reading 98 or 18 degrees, indoor comfort is a must for any family.



Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative has a program designed to help members achieve that year-round comfort, along with a greater level of energy efficiency. This program offers financing for the installation of a high-efficiency electric heat pump at the low interest rate of 7.5 percent. Here are the essential requirements and other details:

- ▶ The new heat pump must have a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) of 13 or more.
- ▶ For existing site-built structures, the member must own the residence (real property); for manufactured housing, the member must own both the manufactured home and the land.
- ▶ The heat pump must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, ASHRAE and ACCA standards, applicable local codes, and all accepted installation standards.
- ▶ A member can borrow from \$500 to \$7,500 for one heat-pump unit, up to \$12,000 for two or more units, or up to \$5,000 for one unit installed at a manufactured home.
- ▶ Once the heat pump has been installed to the member's satisfaction and a Blue Ridge representative has inspected the work, payment will be made to the member and the heat-pump dealer.
- ▶ Equal monthly loan payments can be made for up to five years, and the member can have the payment

added to the monthly power bill; for loans of less than \$1,500, the maximum repayment period would be 42 months.

To each inquirer, the cooperative will provide a long list of certified dealers from across our service territory that market and install high-efficiency heat pumps. Our customer service employees would welcome the opportunity to walk you through the loan-application process.

With all the emphasis today on the wise use of energy, a high-SEER heat pump is an excellent way to go.

In addition, some federal tax credits are now in place to encourage the installation of energy-efficient heat pumps. Through 2010, a homeowner can receive a 30-percent tax credit, up to a value of \$1,500, for a new air-source heat pump with a SEER higher than 15. Geothermal heat pumps would also receive a 30-percent credit, but there is no limit to the value of the credit. The geothermal credit applies through the year 2016.

Please call or e-mail the Blue Ridge customer service center, or pay a visit to your area cooperative office and let us assist you.

When inquiring about the loan program, I would encourage you also to ask us for some other energy-saving information. The cooperative has two excellent brochures that contain lists of ideas for improving the efficiency of your home. Those brochures are free for the asking, and it would be our pleasure to pass them along to you.

**Charles E. Dalton**  
*President and CEO*

## Co-op linemen recognized at Statehouse



WALTER ALLREAD

**STATE LAWMAKERS** recently honored lineworkers for Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative and other South Carolina electricity providers with resolutions in both the S.C. House and Senate.

Approximately 50 lineworkers, representing the state's member-owned electric co-ops, the South Carolina Public Service Authority (Santee Cooper), municipal power systems and investor-owned utilities were at the Statehouse for special recognition June 16. Among them was Mark McCall (second row, second from left) from Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative.

The resolutions, sponsored by Sen. Thomas C. Alexander and Rep. William E. Sandifer, both of Oconee and Pickens counties, recognized the lineworkers for maintaining and restoring electric service, often during inclement weather and times of emergency.

Blue Ridge Manager of Operations, Sam McMillan added, "Line work is one of the most dangerous jobs around. For a lineman,

making just one mistake can mean you won't be going home. This resolution is much-needed praise for an often thankless job."



### New industry locates in Pickens County

Tri-Tech, a manufacturer of portable kitchens, will be locating a new facility in the Pickens County Commerce Park. At the beam-signing event (above) in mid-June, Blue Ridge President and CEO Charles Dalton presented Joe and Linda Bacigalupo with a check in the amount of \$40,000.

In his remarks, Dalton said, "Through Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative's membership in the South Carolina Power Team, we have been able to secure

a financial contribution toward site preparation for the Tri-Tech facility. These dollars are provided through the Santee Cooper Economic Development Investment Fund. Santee Cooper is South Carolina's state-owned utility and is also the wholesale power supplier for Blue Ridge. I'm pleased to present this to you and welcome you to the Pickens County industrial community."

### Members save big on prescriptions

Members of Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative have already saved \$17,000 on prescriptions by using their Co-op Connections discount cards.

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative introduced the Co-op Connections program in May. Co-op members received their cards the last week in May and quickly put them to use. By the end of June, members had filled 1,200 prescriptions and saved more than \$17,000, according to information from Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

The Co-op Connections pharmacy discount program offers savings of 10 to 60 percent on prescriptions at some 48,000 locations nationwide, including such giants as Walmart and Walgreens and local pharmacies, including Moon's Drug Store in Westminster.

Co-op Connections® Card: By the Numbers

**\$8.6 Million**  
saved on prescriptions by  
co-op members since May 2007

Co-op members nationwide have racked up \$8.6 million in savings on prescription drugs using their Co-op Connections cards.

The following businesses are offering discounts as part of the Co-op Connections program. Present your card every time you shop and enjoy the savings you receive.

- Radio Shack ..... Central
- Pizza Pro ..... Central
- Xpress Lube and Car Wash of Central... Central
- Villa Novella American Trattoria..... Central
- Comfort Inn ..... Clemson
- My Garage by Essex ..... Clemson
- Curves of Clemson..... Clemson
- Fiesta Mexican Grill ..... Clemson
- Ramada Inn..... Clemson
- Poco Music & More..... Easley
- Chef's Secret Thai and Sushi Bar..... Easley
- Quick Copy/Print Center ..... Easley
- Days Inn ..... Easley
- Comfort Inn ..... Easley
- Jameson Inn ..... Easley
- Rail and Spike..... Easley
- Steve's Tire & Service Center, Inc..... Easley
- Black Electrical..... Easley
- Mountain Made..... Pendleton
- Timeless Tours & Travel, LLC..... Pendleton
- Michael's Restaurant..... Pickens
- Nestfeathers, Inc. .... Pickens
- Aunt Sue's Country Corner Restaurant... Pickens
- Town and Country Florist..... Pickens
- Athens Restaurant..... Seneca
- Los Amigos Mexican Restaurant..... Seneca
- Rapid Refill Ink..... Seneca
- Clemson 4 Wheel Center, Inc..... Seneca
- DJ's Pools and Spas..... Seneca
- Blackberry Hollow ..... Seneca
- Jameson Inn ..... Seneca
- W.W. Thraves Jewelers ..... Seneca
- Fitway Personal Training Studios ..... Seneca
- Cheers Café..... Seneca
- The Village Framer & Antiques..... Walhalla
- Walhalla Liberty Lodge Restaurant... Walhalla
- Thistle Ridge Soaps..... Walhalla
- Peez N Carrots ..... Walhalla
- Holcomb's Office Supply ..... West Union
- Chattooga Whitewater Outfitters... Long Creek
- Magnolia Manor Bed & Breakfast.. Westminster
- Moon's Drug Store..... Westminster