



For All Your Customer Service Needs,
Call Toll-Free (800) 240-3400

Automated Outage Reporting
1-888-BLUERIDGE
www.blueridge.coop

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.

Board of Directors
Jimmy Lee Dodgens, *Chairman*
Franklin M. Looper, Jr.,
Vice Chairman
Kenneth G. Southerlin, *Secretary*
J. Mendel Stone, *Treasurer*
J. Bill Barker
Ben G. Bolt
Joel S. Dalton
Joel R. Davis
William G. Elrod



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Energy use is largely weather-driven

AS THE END OF 2009 quickly approaches, we wonder what the New Year might have in store. One reason for optimism—Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative members will not have a rate increase next year. Fortunately, the cooperative has also seen no rate changes during 2009.

No one enjoys receiving a high power bill. Blue Ridge certainly takes no pleasure in seeing high bills go out to our members. Typically, however, a residential household's kilowatt-hour use is largely weather-driven.



For instance, the Blue Ridge service area experienced quite a bit of hot weather last summer. The daytime heat caused air-conditioning units to work hard to keep homes cool and comfortable, consuming quite a bit of energy in the process.

Work harder, operate longer

Wintertime has a similar impact. Freezing temperatures make heating systems work harder and operate longer. Water flowing into water heaters is colder and, therefore, requires added energy to warm it up and then maintain that warmth. Along with the cold weather, the extra hours of darkness tend to keep families inside more, which presents additional opportunities to use electricity.

Ultimately, heating and cooling represent about 50 percent of a home's energy use. As we'll soon be in the midst of winter's chilly temperatures and stinging winds, it's appropriate to prepare as best we can.

Although none of us can do anything about the weather, members are encouraged to take advantage of some helpful programs Blue Ridge has to offer. These include Levelized

Billing, the Total Electric/Conservation rate schedule, and low-interest loans for high-efficiency heat pumps. Please contact the Blue Ridge customer service department to learn more about these and other programs.

In addition to the insulation and weatherization investments that are outlined in our Total Electric/Conservation rate, there are other energy-saving steps one can take that would require little or no cost. These would include turning down the water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees, washing full loads of laundry each time, and taking showers instead of baths. Other ideas, such as sealing cracks and gaps against outside air leaks and changing or cleaning filters for heat pumps or air conditioners on a monthly cycle, can also produce welcome savings.

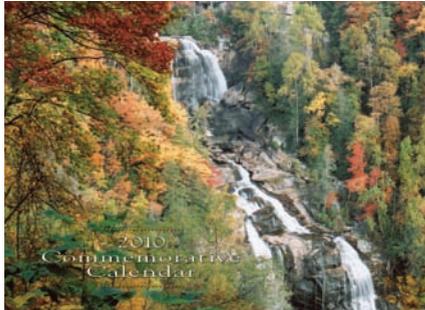
The Temptations

Help is also available through some of the agencies that receive funding from our charity fund-raiser, Blue Ridge Fest. Several of these organizations extend assistance to families that are having difficulty paying their utility bills.

Speaking of Blue Ridge Fest, I'm pleased to announce that we've lined up the headline entertainment for our 2010 event. The world-famous Motown group, The Temptations, will perform live here on the fest stage the evening of May 14. There'll be much more in the way of Blue Ridge Fest information included within these pages in the coming months. In the meantime, please put that May 14 date on your calendar.

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

2010 calendar features photos by co-op employee Mike Carson



THE 2010 BLUE RIDGE calendar is dedicated to the beauty and diversity of the Blue Ridge territory as shown through the



photographs of Mike Carson. Carson is the energy specialist for Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative and an avid photographer. In his daily travels he

has an opportunity to see what makes this area so special. For those of us who live here, as special as the landscape is, we know the real beauty lies in the ever-changing appearance it presents to us.

In addition to celebrating our picturesque region, we're sharing our best energy-saving tips with you each month. The seasons that add so much beauty to our surroundings also bring temperature extremes in the summer and winter. Through our energy-efficiency education, we hope you can practice conservation and control your expenses. As your electric cooperative, we're hard at work keeping electricity reliable, safe, and affordable.

A limited supply of calendars will be available beginning November 30. Please come by one of our offices to get yours.

Christmas Tree Festival benefits Hospice



The Hospice of the Foothills Foundation is sponsoring the 2009 Christmas Tree

Festival to benefit Oconee Hospice of the Foothills. The festival is scheduled for December 1-4 at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Seneca. The Christmas Tree Festival is a fun way to kick off the holiday season with craft sales, a coffee and sweet shoppe, Christmas tree viewing, and luncheons culminating with a reception and tree auction. Call (864) 885-7909 for more information

Holiday closings announced

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, in observance of Thanksgiving. We'll also close on December 24-25 for the Christmas holidays and on New Year's Day. However, night depositories will be available to receive payments, dispatchers will be manning the telephones, and emergency crews will be on standby. Credit card and e-check payment options are also available at www.blueridge.coop.

Please also note that this issue of *South Carolina Living* is a combined issue for November and December. We'll return with a new issue in January. Until then, happy holidays from Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative!

Interactive site helps you save energy, money

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative and 679 other Touchstone Energy co-ops nationwide have launched a new Web site — TogetherWeSave.com — to help members examine ways they can reduce energy consumption.

The calculators are based on a 3,000-square-foot home in the middle of the United States. While they do not provide individual dollar-for-dollar savings accuracy, the interactive activities do show how reducing

Statement of nondiscrimination

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination Title VI compliance is Terrel D. Ballenger. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity Employer (M/F/H/V).

energy use can reduce costs.

The site shows savings from taking simple steps, such as replacing incandescent light bulbs with CFLs, to more significant changes, such as purchasing new energy-efficient appliances or adding insulation. It also provides step-by-step video guides for a variety of energy-efficiency makeover projects.

You can also access the Together We Save site through the link on our co-op's Web site, blueridge.coop.

