



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

Automated Outage Reporting

1-888-BLURIDGE
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

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

An important safety milestone

WE HAD A DAY OF CELEBRATION at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative on March 27. It was on that date that the



cooperative's workforce registered two consecutive years without a lost-time accident. In the 71-year history of the cooperative, that milestone had never been attained before. As I prepare this report, it has now been 25½ months

since that most-recent accident occurred.

In addition, our employee team is fast closing in on a full year without a recorded worker's compensation accident. Should we reach that milestone, the happy outcome will represent another feather in the caps of a hard-working group of employees.

A real focus on being safe

Personally, I'm not surprised by these achievements. Blue Ridge has endeavored to support a first-class job-training and safety program. We're receiving excellent leadership from our safety director, and our employees are performing their jobs with a real focus on being safe. That emphasis on safety also extends to the well-being of both our members and the general public.

On another topic, I'm pleased to report that work commenced in late

April on a rebuild of the cooperative's Central substation in Pickens County. This new facility is under construction immediately adjacent to the original Central substation, which came on line in the early 1960s. When it is completed later this year, this new, modern structure will offer an excellent source of central-station power to members in southern Pickens and northern Anderson County. At that point, the old Central substation will be retired.

Prominent investments

Earlier this year, Blue Ridge energized its new Ebenezer substation in Oconee County. These substation additions represent only some of the more-prominent investments the cooperative is presently making in its electric-distribution network. Dozens of improvements to, and extensions of, power lines are under way as well.

Each working day, Blue Ridge is taking steps to enhance the level of service our members receive. The fact that our employees are accomplishing these work actions, while working safely to boot, is a source of true satisfaction.

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

Basic Facilities Charge changes

In its ongoing efforts to hold down the per-kilowatt-hour price in its electric rates, Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative is applying an upward adjustment to its Basic Facilities Charge (BFC). This change will help to offset the cooperative's rising costs of operation, which include such items as motor fuel, construction materials, maintenance expense and property taxes. Because of this change, members who consume kilowatt-hours each month will be providing less of a subsidy on behalf of those who pay only the minimum bill. An upward adjustment in the BFC represents a more-equitable way of recovering these higher costs, as opposed to the implementation of a general rate increase. The monthly BFC on residential and small-commercial accounts will increase by \$2 effective June 1, while industrial and large power members will see a \$10 BFC increase.

Keeping cool: Tips for beating high summer electric bills

DON'T LET WARMER WEATHER turn into “summertime blues” when your monthly electric bill arrives. Here are some energy-saving tips from Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative.

- ▶ **Adjust the thermostat.** As TogetherWeSave.com demonstrates, lowering a thermostat in winter can save as much as \$85 per year. During warmer months, raising the thermostat a few degrees can save money, too. Set the temperature between 78–80 degrees Fahrenheit, and you could save up to 8 percent on monthly cooling bills.
- ▶ **Be a “fan-atic.”** While they don't replace air conditioners or heat pumps, fans move air and help you feel more comfortable. 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.
- ▶ **Regular maintenance is essential.** Have your HVAC systems serviced

annually by a NATE (North American Technician Excellence)-certified technician. This HVAC professional will check your entire system to make sure it runs efficiently. This will help to extend life of the system and save money.

- ▶ **Look for ENERGY STAR equipment.** When it's time to replace your cooling system, TogetherWeSave.com recommends replacing it with an ENERGY STAR-qualified model. Doing so could reduce your energy costs by as much as 30 percent.
- ▶ **Bigger isn't always better.** Too often, cooling equipment isn't sized properly and leads to higher electric bills. A unit that's too large for your home will not cool evenly and might produce higher humidity indoors.

Instead of getting burned this summer by high energy bills, visit blueridge.coop for more energy savings tips.

Get a jump on summer

As you think about your summer plans, do you need to consider the replacement of your outdated heat pump? Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative continues to offer a loan program to qualified members that allows you to finance that replacement cost of an old heat pump over an extended period and add that payment to your monthly bill. Thousands of co-op members have taken advantage of the low-interest rate offered on this program. Blue Ridge provides a list of qualified, approved dealers that will give you a free estimate on replacement cost. For an application or more details on the program, contact the customer service center at 1-800-240-3400 or visit blueridge.coop.



A simple reminder can help ease your mind

MANY OF OUR MEMBERS are already enjoying the convenience of receiving reminders about their account status at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative. As summer activities pick up and travel plans come into the picture, you may want to join the growing number that receives monthly alerts about the due date of their bill, the amount of the bill, and notification when the payment has been received.

Co-op member Don Campbell appreciates this new service. “My family, like so many others,

relies on online banking and bill presentation and payment for the majority of our bills each month. I appreciate the fact that Blue Ridge sends me a reminder of my bill date and confirms when my payment is made. With this service, I never need to worry that our utility bill will go unpaid.”

If you are interested in getting an email or text message about your account, call us at (800) 240-3400. It's just one more way we are here to serve you.

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).