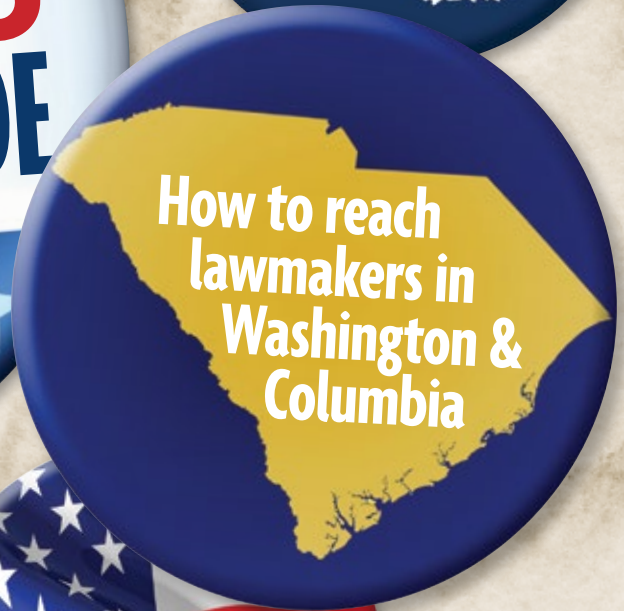
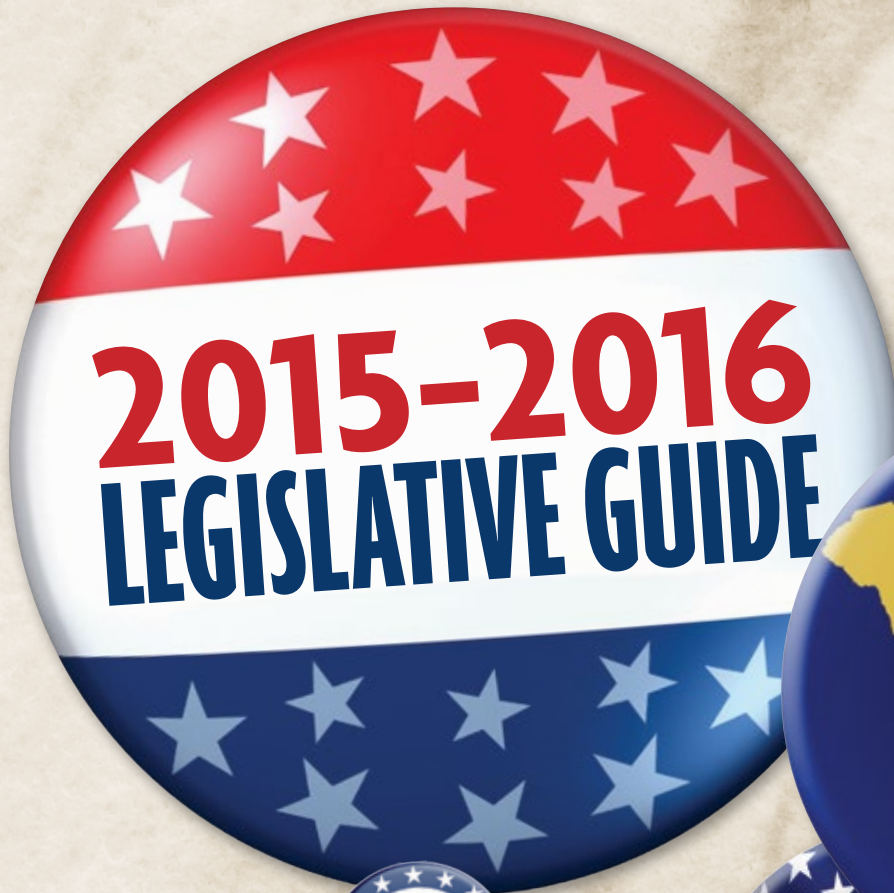


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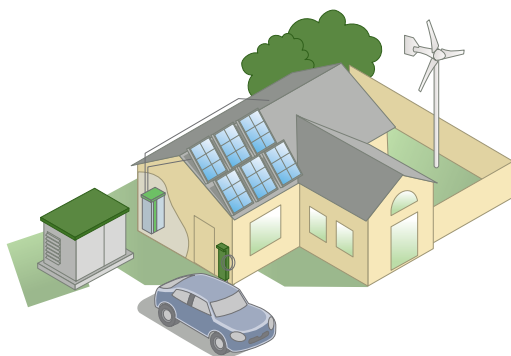
## 9 2015–2016 Legislative Guide

Keeping in touch with your elected  
officials in Columbia and Washington,  
D.C., has never been easier, thanks to  
this special keepsake edition of *South  
Carolina Living*. In the following pages,  
you will find contact information for  
all federal and state officeholders. We  
extend our grateful appreciation to South  
Carolina's lawmakers for their cooperation  
in the creation of this directory.

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### HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Each legislator's name is followed by his or her  
district number and the counties he or she serves,  
along with contact information. State senators'  
offices are on the state capitol grounds in the  
Gressette Building. State representatives are in  
the Blatt Building. All information is current as of  
Dec. 19, 2014, but is subject to change without notice.



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# The future of energy



LEO KUNDAS AND SHARI WOLFGANG



## New technology and sweeping federal regulations provide challenges and opportunities for South Carolina's electric cooperatives. BY JOHN FRICK

Most of us don't give much thought to what happens behind our electric switches. About the only time we pay attention to our electric service is when something is wrong. The fact that we can fly through our busy lives while taking affordable, reliable power for granted is a credit to the many women and men in the electric industry who make it their business to go unnoticed.

But today is a time of transformation and uncertainty in the electric industry. Changing consumer sentiment, new energy technologies and a regulatory focus on cutting carbon-dioxide emissions mean that electricity is going to be in the spotlight for the next decade as we adapt to these new challenges.

Consumers are becoming more and more accustomed to having a wide array of options. A decade ago, in many parts of our state, if you needed a hammer, there was one local store that had one kind of hammer. Today, that local store competes with big-box stores and the Internet, and the choice of hammers is vast. We know that consumers are more accustomed to options and they will look for new and different product offerings that fit their lifestyles.

As the price of new technologies falls, consumers may demand new ways to generate, save and store electricity. The previous decade has seen a huge drop in the price of alternative-energy technologies like plug-in electric vehicles, solar panels and super-efficient LED lighting. The next decade is sure to bring continued technological innovations that will one day make a host of cutting-edge energy options available to consumers at an affordable price.

Simultaneously, policymakers at the state and federal levels are concentrating on cutting carbon-dioxide emissions. Their willingness to put public policy and public dollars behind efforts to further incentivize the development of technologies and products, even to the

point of leveling technology costs with subsidies, is more likely with each passing year.

As these dynamics drive change within the electric industry, it becomes clear that making wise decisions now will be critical to bringing more value to co-op members. Among the most important things cooperatives do to bring value to their members is work to ensure that state and national policy decisions are good for co-op members. As we head into 2015, two issues are likely to have far-reaching consequences.

### Distributed Energy Resource Program Act

Renewable energy generally means electricity generated by natural forces such as solar or wind power. Those resources are referred to as "distributed" when they are located where they are used on the electric system, such as on the roof of a house, rather than at a centralized location.

Renewable energy poses unique challenges to system operators. Consumers demand reliable, on-demand electricity 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But wind and solar power are intermittent, only generating electricity when the wind is blowing or the sun is shining. This is an issue for both large-scale, centralized sources and distributed sources. Second, many forms of renewable energy are not dispatchable, meaning that you can't turn them on when you need them—you need to wait for the sun to shine or the wind to blow. Finding the right mix of these resources and integrating them into a reliable 21st-century power grid are among the challenges facing the industry.

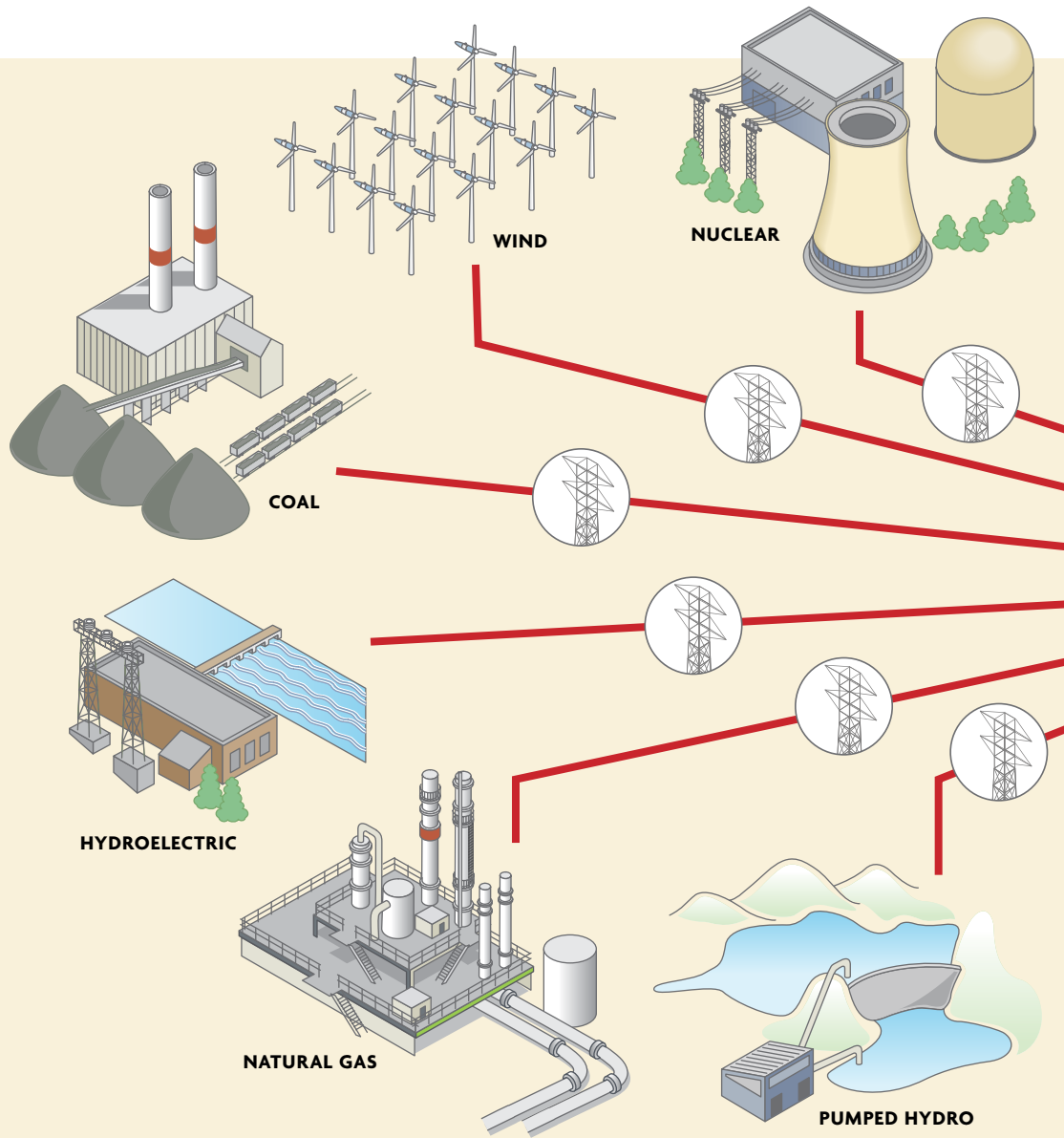
The South Carolina General Assembly took an important step to expand consumer access to renewable-energy-generation technologies when it passed the Distributed Energy Resource Program Act.

The law, also known as Act 236 of 2014, seeks to solve two of the biggest challenges to integrating distributed renewables into the power grid—how to allocate utility system costs fairly among all co-op members and how to value the price of electricity produced by DERs.

Current rate structures include a significant portion of the fixed costs of maintaining the utility network within variable kilowatt-hour charges. Those variable charges are based on average consumer-usage patterns. If distributed generators' usage departs from the average—for example, by consuming too little electricity—they underpay for their relative share of the fixed costs to serve them. This

## Our changing energy landscape

Distributed energy resources (DERs) will change the way electricity is produced and consumed. Over the next few decades, DERs will decentralize the power grid as more homes and businesses produce some of their own electricity. At times, consumers may even sell power back to the grid, but co-ops and other utilities will still have a legal obligation to serve consumers when DERs aren't enough. The existing power infrastructure must be maintained and paid for, along with new large-scale energy sources like solar fields and wind farms. As DERs are added to the grid, utilities will have to adapt pricing models to equitably allocate costs to all consumers.



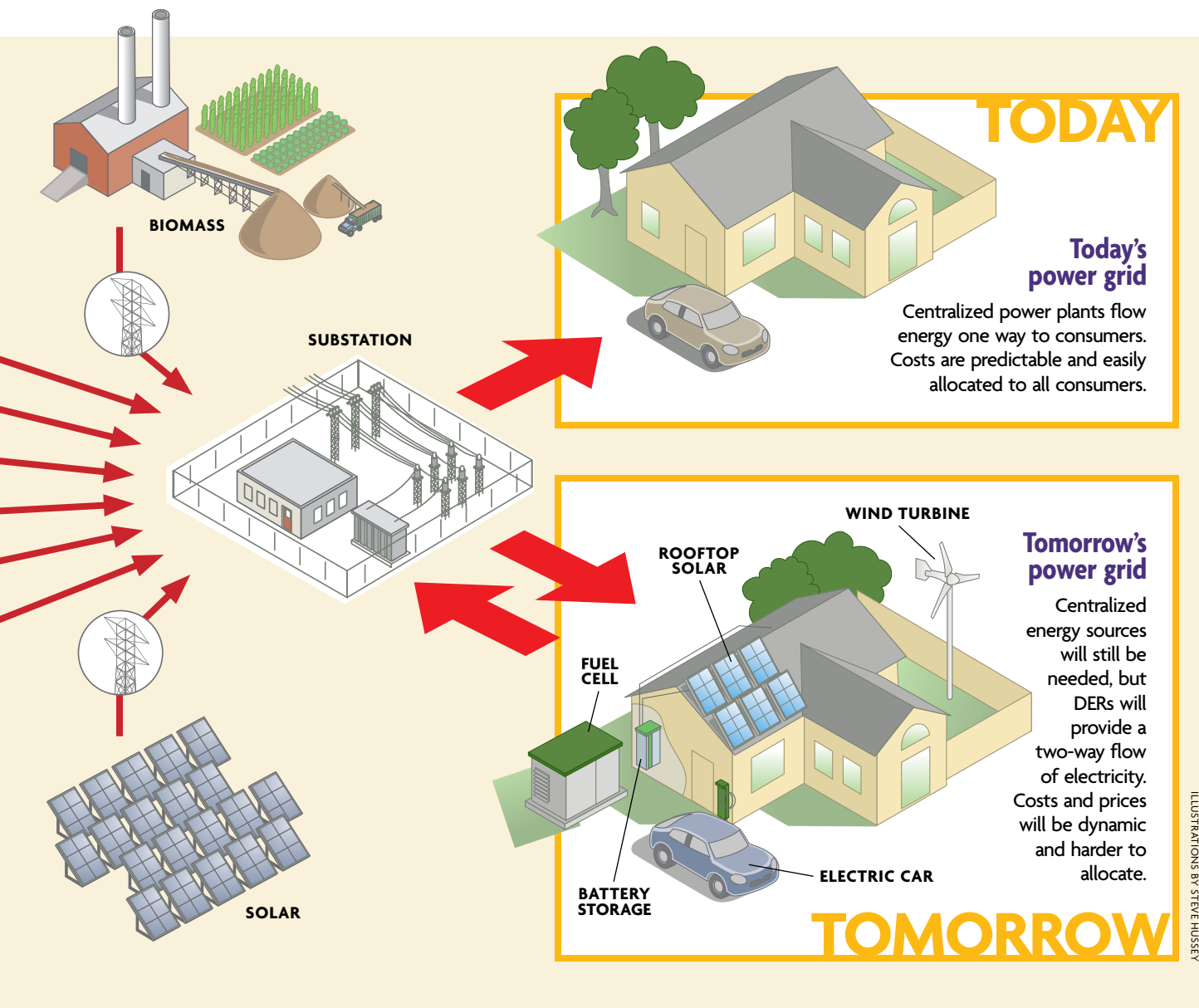
means that under current practice, people without DERs could be paying the tab for their neighbors with DERs.

Second, when excess electricity is fed back into the grid, it is currently purchased at the full retail electric rate. That rate includes much more than just electricity. It's structured to also cover the cost of poles, wires, maintenance and reserves. We know that the excess electricity sold back to the system does not include these other resources and is therefore not worth as much. In fact, as of this writing, we don't know exactly what that excess electricity is worth in South Carolina because that issue is still being studied.

Act 236 seeks to address these issues in a way that continues to promote the vitality of the solar industry. After many months of work among a large group of stakeholders, including electric providers, environmental advocates, solar businesses and public officials, a compromise proposal was reached, and the bill passed without a single vote against it.

Act 236 has four key provisions:

- ▶ It requires distributed generation to be accurately valued and requires rates, including those for net metering, to reflect that value.
- ▶ It allows entities other than utilities to lease distributed-generation systems to consumers, which makes it easier for consumers to make choices based upon market conditions.
- ▶ It requires that premiums paid for renewable generation be spelled out clearly, instead of being hidden in aging rate structures, and sets a yearly cap for any extra amount that ratepayers might have to pay to maintain a renewables market in South Carolina.
- ▶ It requires an analysis of how rate structures and cost recovery should change in the future to keep the grid healthy while accommodating increased levels of distributed renewables.



The work on Act 236 is only just beginning. The regulatory process to determine the value of renewable generation, and how to properly apportion that value throughout the grid, is ongoing and could last until March of 2015 or beyond.

South Carolina's electric cooperatives will continue to lead in the development and integration of renewables, both distributed and central-station, according to principles important to our members:

- ▶ Energy should be valued accurately and fairly.
- ▶ Any amount paid above the value should be clear and transparent.
- ▶ Policies should promote as much flexibility as possible in order to empower members and innovation.
- ▶ Rates should, as accurately as possible, reflect the benefits and costs caused by members to the system and minimize unfair cost shifting among consumers.

### EPA Clean Power Plan

On the same day the governor signed Act 236 into law, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its proposed regulations under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. The regulations were touted to produce a 30-percent reduction of 2005 carbon-dioxide emissions by 2030.

Upon hearing this goal the day before the release of the regulations, many within South Carolina's cooperative leadership were excited; they knew that South Carolina's cooperatives had already taken steps to drastically cut carbon-dioxide emissions. Unfortunately, the actual regulations looked much different than the sound bite that played in headlines and newscasts across the country.

Upon examination of the proposed regulations, the harsh reality of EPA's rules began to sink in. The base year was not 2005, but 2012, and South Carolina—which had already reduced carbon-dioxide emissions by approximately

30 percent—was going to be required to reduce them by another 51 percent by 2030. Our state's physical carbon-reduction target was the highest in the nation.

The EPA plan used a set of assumptions called “building blocks” to determine each state's reduction target. But many of the assumptions applied to South Carolina have nothing to do with our state.

**Switching to natural gas.** EPA assumes South Carolina utilities will build new natural-gas-fired power plants to meet our carbon-dioxide reduction targets. This calculation fails to account for the fact that the interstate pipelines serving the state are fully subscribed.

Any new natural-gas plants in our state would require a costly build-out of additional pipeline infrastructure.

**Renewable energy.** The assumptions about renewable energy in South Carolina are based entirely on the fact that North Carolina has a 10-percent renewable portfolio standard. No further study, analysis or investigation was used to set this goal. In addition, the EPA's renewable-energy target excludes biomass production, which is something that South Carolina has in abundance.

**Energy efficiency.** South Carolina's cooperatives have led the nation in establishing new and innovative ways to implement energy-efficiency improvements to homes and businesses. But even with this aggressive and innovative program deployed at full steam, it would only accomplish about half of the 1.5 percent annual energy savings rate proposed by the EPA.

**Under-construction nuclear.** Of all of the defects in the EPA's proposal, one is especially egregious. South Carolina has been at the forefront of generating carbon-dioxide-free electricity from nuclear power for years and, in 2008, sought to address potential carbon restrictions by investing even more in nuclear power for the future. Two new nuclear units are under construction in Fairfield County and are scheduled to begin generating power in 2018 and 2019.

Astonishingly, the EPA wants to treat these still-under-construction nuclear units as if they are already producing power. By structuring its assumptions this way, the EPA more than doubles South Carolina's carbon-dioxide reduction target. Unless this building block is revised, South Carolinians will pay twice for carbon-free generation. Instead of being rewarded for proactively cutting emissions, our state's consumers will be penalized to the tune of approximately \$8.7 billion under this building block alone.

Cooperatives are working with the South Carolina congressional delegation and EPA officials to make sure the agency understands the heavy burden it has laid at the feet of energy consumers. With your help, we also spearheaded

a grassroots initiative that, at the date of this writing, has sent more than 180,000 messages from South Carolina to the EPA expressing concern with the agency's proposal. Co-op communities have taken this effort to heart and produced a level of engagement unrivaled throughout the United States.

Cooperatives also joined with environmentalists, power providers and state regulators in an effort led by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the Office of Regulatory Staff to produce a set of comments that were, to the greatest extent possible, a consensus view of how the plan could affect all South Carolinians.

The final EPA Clean Power Plan is scheduled for release in June of 2015, and co-op members may once again be asked to make their voices heard. While it remains unlikely that a legislative solution to these issues could survive a presidential veto, congressional action remains a possibility.

In the interim, cooperatives are working with other stakeholders to develop a state implementation plan. While the reduction targets are set in Washington, implementation will occur at the state level. For cooperatives, flexibility will continue to be key to meeting EPA goals while providing consumers reliable, affordable electricity.


You can be proud that South Carolina cooperatives are at the forefront of the innovation on energy efficiency and development of renewables in South Carolina. After years of partnering with Santee Cooper on its Green Power program, which sells blocks of renewable generation to interested members, the co-ops and Santee Cooper again teamed up to build the state's first solar farm in Colleton County in 2013. This state-of-the-art facility is a test bed for utilities to better understand how to cost-effectively integrate cutting-edge technologies into our systems.

This follows a nation-leading effort on energy efficiency that was so successful it was endorsed by both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House—no small feat these days. South Carolina's Help My House project was the model for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy Savings Program.

South Carolina co-ops are fighting in Columbia and Washington, D.C., to protect the pocketbooks of our members, while doing our best to secure a clean environment and a prosperous economic future for the next generation. These goals are not mutually exclusive, and the examples above offer a small window into how South Carolina's electric cooperatives are working hard to make sure your electric system is positioned to bring you maximum value well into the future. ☺

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# 2015–2016 LEGISLATIVE GUIDE

Connecting cooperative members  
and South Carolina lawmakers

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## Leadership in a changing world

**E**lectric cooperatives have served the people of South Carolina for more than 75 years. From their beginnings as small companies formed and owned by the members they serve to their role today as leaders in economic development, community involvement and industry innovation, each of South Carolina's not-for-profit electric cooperatives has been guided by seven basic principles:

- ▶ Voluntary and open membership
- ▶ Democratic member control
- ▶ Members' equitable economic participation
- ▶ Autonomy and independence of each cooperative
- ▶ Education, training and information for the public, members and opinion leaders
- ▶ Cooperation between cooperatives
- ▶ Concern for community

The energy challenges to our state and nation over the next decade cannot be overstated. Cooperatives are dedicated to balancing the goals of affordability, reliability and environmental responsibility to meet these challenges in a way that maximizes the benefits to the consumers and the communities we serve. Electric cooperatives serve some of the most economically prosperous and some of the most economically depressed areas of South Carolina. Ensuring that all South Carolinians have access to new energy innovations, and the opportunities they present, is our top priority.

As each of our state's 20 electric cooperatives celebrates its 75th anniversary of cooperative service, we are dedicated to honoring the great legacy built by those who came before us by constantly renewing our commitment to exemplifying cooperative principles, to improving the lives of those we serve and to being the most innovative force for positive development our state can offer.

Electric cooperatives are grateful to the General Assembly for remembering that our member-owners and their voters are one and the same, and we thank them for their continued support of the cooperative program. To them, we pledge to continue to not only measure our policies by what is best for our members, but also by what is best for our state. If we can be of service, please contact us.



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**W**ritten in 1787, ratified in 1788 and in operation since 1789, the United States Constitution is the world's longest-surviving written charter of government. Its first three words—"We the People"—affirm that the government exists to serve its citizens. The supremacy of the people through their elected representatives is recognized in Article I, which creates a Congress consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives. The positioning of Congress at the beginning of the Constitution reaffirms its status as the first branch of the federal government.

The Senate is composed of two senators from each state, elected by voters, for six-year terms.

Under the Constitution, each state is entitled to at least one representative.

Additional seats are apportioned on the basis of the state's population. Congress fixes the size of the House of Representatives and the procedure of apportioning the number among the states. Each state is apportioned its number of representatives by means of the Department of Commerce's decennial census. South Carolina has seven representatives elected by voters to serve two-year terms.



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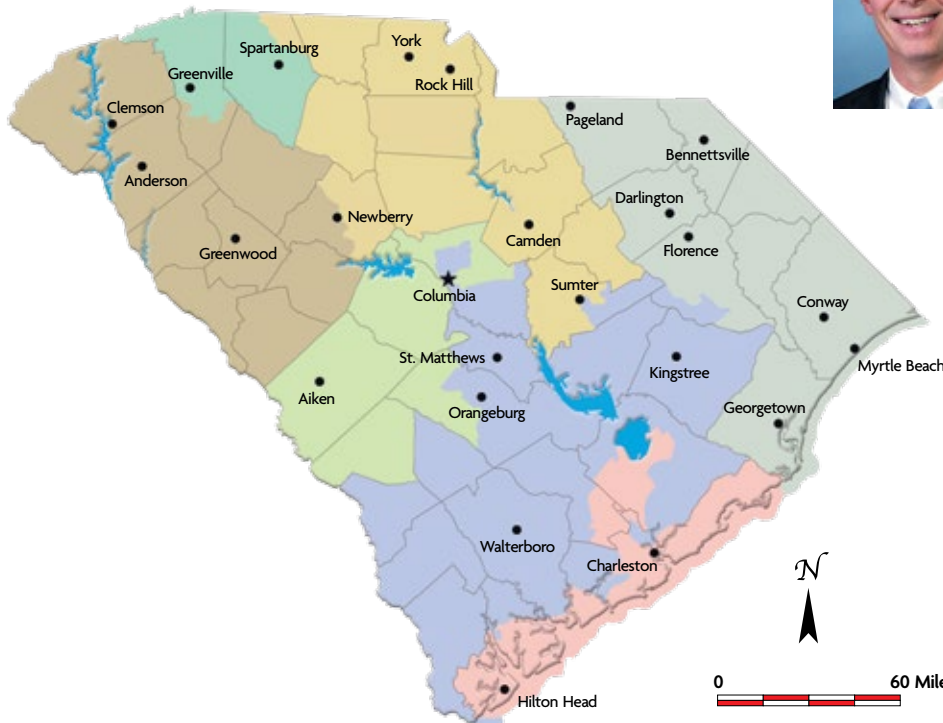
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- 5th Congressional District
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The South Carolina Executive Department includes the governor, lieutenant governor and seven constitutional officers. All serve four-year terms. The governor is the chief magistrate with supreme executive authority. The lieutenant governor serves as Senate president and assumes the position of governor if the governor is incapacitated. The secretary of state is responsible for the statewide registration of corporations, uniform commercial code interests, business opportunities, employment agencies, trademarks and notaries. The state treasurer is responsible for the receipt, investment and disbursement of all public funds for the state. The attorney general heads the state legal department. The comptroller general is the state's chief fiscal officer and fiscal watchdog. The superintendent of education leads a system to enable students to become educated, responsible and contributing citizens. The adjutant general heads the state's military department. The commissioner of agriculture promotes and nurtures the growth and development of South Carolina's agriculture industry.

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# The General Assembly | 2015-2016

The General Assembly crafts South Carolina state laws and consists of two bodies: the South Carolina House of Representatives and the South Carolina Senate. There are 124 members of the S.C. House, who are elected every two years, and 46 members of the S.C. Senate, who are elected every four years, concurrent with the United States presidential election. The legislature convenes at the State House in Columbia from the second Tuesday in January until the first Thursday in June, unless extended by a vote of both bodies.

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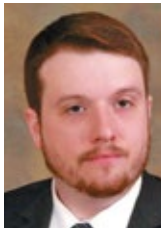
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**Richard L. "Richie" Yow [R]**

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## How to reach your legislators

Writing an email or letter to your legislator is the most effective way to communicate your support, concern or interest in an issue before the General Assembly. As you begin this process, consider the following tips:

- 1) Take a little extra time to **educate yourself** on the topic you wish to address.
- 2) When you write, **identify yourself** and your status as a constituent.
- 3) **Be specific.** Use bill numbers and state your position plainly.
- 4) **Use examples** that illustrate how the issue affects your local area.
- 5) **Be respectful.** Use appropriate greetings, such as "Dear Senator Smith" or "Dear Representative Jones."
- 6) Provide a way for your legislator to respond by including **your mailing address or email address.**
- 7) Even if you disagree with a lawmaker's position, end your correspondence by **thanking them** for their service.

## State House Clerks



**Jeffrey S. Gossett**

*Clerk of the Senate*

PO Box 142  
Columbia, 29202  
(803) 212-6200



**Charles F. Reid**

*Clerk of the House*

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Columbia, 29211  
(803) 734-2403



SEAN PAVONE PHOTO

The S.C. State House grounds in Columbia.



**T**he Public Service Commission (PSC) essentially functions as a court for cases involving utilities and other regulated companies. The PSC has broad jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the investor-owned electric and gas utility companies, water and wastewater companies, telecommunications companies, motor carriers of household goods, hazardous waste disposal, and taxicabs.

Utility regulation in South Carolina had its beginning with the passage of an act by the 1878 General Assembly, creating a commission for the purpose of regulating railroads operating within the state. In 1910, the General Assembly established a Public Service Commission, empowering it with the authority to “fix and establish in all cities of the State rates and charges for the supply of water, gas or electricity furnished by any person, firm or corporation to such cities, the inhabitants thereof, and to prescribe penalties.” In 2005, the PSC began operating as a restructured, quasi-judicial body, as prescribed by Act 175 of 2004. Under the new law, the PSC’s principal duty is to hear cases involving the state’s regulated utilities, while the Office of Regulatory Staff is responsible for many of the non-adjudicative functions associated with utility regulation.

A joint session of the General Assembly elects the PSC for a term of four years, with one commissioner from each of the seven congressional districts. The PSC’s staff is composed of the Administrative Staff, Advisory Staff, Docketing Staff and Legal Staff.

#### LOCATION:

Synergy Business Park  
101 Executive Center Drive  
Columbia, 29210

#### MAILING ADDRESS:

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Columbia, 29211

Phone: (803) 896-5100  
Email: [contact@psc.sc.gov](mailto:contact@psc.sc.gov)  
Website: [psc.sc.gov](http://psc.sc.gov)

#### CLERK’S OFFICE

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#### OFFICE OF TECHNICAL ADVISORS

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**Joseph Melchers**, *General Counsel*  
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## COMMISSIONERS



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*1st District*

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*3rd District*

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**Elizabeth B. “Lib” Fleming**

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*5th District*  
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**Nikiya “Nikki” M. Hall**

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**G. O’Neal Hamilton**

*7th District*

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# Office of Regulatory Staff

**T**he Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) represents the public interest of South Carolina in utility regulation. The agency fulfills its mission by balancing the concerns of the using and consuming public, the financial integrity of public utilities, and the economic development of South Carolina.

Act 175 of 2004 created the ORS as part of an initiative to provide a revised structure for addressing the public interest in utility regulation. This revised structure clearly separates the adjudicative function—which belongs to the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (PSC)—from the investigative, legal, prosecutorial and educational roles necessary to utility regulation. Specifically, the ORS has sole responsibility for the inspection, auditing and examination of public utilities. The agency must be considered a party of record in all filings, applications or proceedings before the PSC.

The utilities and industries that fall under the regulatory purview of the ORS are as follows: telecommunications, investor-owned electric, natural gas, water/wastewater and transportation.

The ORS also has responsibility for oversight of railroad safety and natural-gas pipeline safety in South Carolina, as well as responsibility for monitoring the construction schedule and budget of new nuclear development in South Carolina.

In addition, the South Carolina Equipment Distribution Program—which provides specialized telephone equipment to South Carolinians with a qualifying hearing or speech challenge—is administered by the ORS.

Beginning July 1, 2015, the Energy Office of South Carolina will be a part of the ORS.

1401 Main St., Suite 900  
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General information: (803) 737-0800

Website: [regulatorystaff.sc.gov](http://regulatorystaff.sc.gov)

#### CONSUMER COMPLAINTS AND INQUIRIES:

In Columbia: (803) 737-5230

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The agency is organized as follows:

- ▶ Consumer Services
- ▶ Electric, Natural Gas, Pipeline Safety, Railroad and Economics
- ▶ New Nuclear Development
- ▶ Telecommunications
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Water/Wastewater
- ▶ Auditing
- ▶ Legal
- ▶ Information Services
- ▶ Administration



The dome of the state capitol building (far right) is a distinctive feature of Columbia's skyline.

JOHN FRICK



Seven principles guide  
S.C. electric cooperatives as they  
empower their communities

# The co-op difference

**As consumers of electricity**, we take it for granted that affordable and reliable power is always there when we need it. We walk into a room and flip a switch, and the lights come on.

We have that luxury because 75 years ago, some forward-thinking South Carolinians banded together to form the state's first not-for-profit electric cooperatives. Bringing electricity to homes and businesses was an important short-term objective in the 1930s, but those co-op pioneers were doing more than planting poles and stringing wire. They were building a new way to empower their communities.

Today, South Carolina's 20 member-owned cooperatives operate the state's largest utility network—70,000 miles of line serving some 1.3 million people in all 46 counties. Delivering electricity remains our daily work, but true to our roots, co-ops continue to work for a brighter future in ways you might not expect. Co-ops are uniquely capable of doing so by virtue of our members-first business model. We don't answer to Wall Street or corporate bondholders. We answer to our neighbors.

Co-ops are more than just utilities, and the reason for that difference can be summed up in the seven principles that guide South Carolina's electric cooperatives.

## 1 Voluntary and open membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

## 2 Democratic member control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote) and elect boards of trustees to represent them in managing the co-op's business affairs.

## 3 Members' economic participation

Electric cooperatives are private, independent, not-for-profit businesses owned by their members, the consumers they serve. They do not create profits for distant shareholders. Any excess revenue is used as working capital or allocated to the membership in the form of capital credits paid back to members, based on their purchases.

## 4 Autonomy and independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

## 5 Education, training and information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

Co-ops have a charge to keep members informed—not just about cooperative business, but also about topics like energy efficiency, safety and ways to build stronger local communities. One of the most visible ways co-ops fulfill this role is by publishing *South Carolina Living* magazine. Mailed to more than 480,000 homes and businesses 11 times a year, the magazine has a circulation greater than that of all S.C. daily newspapers combined. Each month, nearly 1 million people read the magazine.

South Carolina's electric cooperatives are committed to educating their employees, especially when it comes to workplace safety. In 2013, to



More than 50 Broad River Electric Cooperative volunteers stuffed 3,000 book bags with school supplies and delivered them to elementary schools in August 2014. Operation Round Up funds bought the bags, and community partners donated pencils, notebooks, paper and other needed items.

mark the 75th anniversary of cooperatives in the Palmetto State, co-op leaders challenged themselves to reduce loss-time accidents among employees by 75 percent at 75 percent of co-ops. As of May 1, 2014, they achieved that ambitious goal, reducing the number of loss-time accidents from 28 the previous year to just seven. More important, the heightened culture of safety inspired by the campaign continues among cooperative employees today.

A proven legacy of looking out for members' interests is an important distinction that allows cooperatives to serve as honest brokers of information when dealing with lawmakers and regulators. Co-op representatives, speaking on behalf of members, were instrumental in crafting a landmark state law on distributed energy resources. They also are working with a wide range of stakeholders to develop an effective State Implementation Plan (SIP) for proposed EPA regulations on carbon-dioxide emissions from power plants.

## 6 Cooperation among cooperatives

Even though co-ops are independent entities, they still rely on one another to share resources, information and, in some cases, manpower. Electric co-ops have long relied on one another to get power restored more quickly after severe weather. Called a "mutual-aid agreement," it works just as it sounds: When co-ops need



In 2014, cooperatives sent 64 Youth Tour students to Washington, D.C., where they learned about government and met S.C. senators Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott.

extra hands after a natural disaster, co-ops from neighboring towns and states help out by sending crews.

## 7 Concern for community

S.C. electric cooperatives undertake a variety of projects to strengthen the communities they serve.

**OPERATION ROUND UP.** Co-op members can elect to round up monthly electricity bills to the next dollar, with the difference going to fund community needs. This powerful idea started in South Carolina 25 years ago and has spread nationwide as a living testament to the cooperative difference. On average, a co-op member donates about \$6 a year to Operation Round Up, but those small amounts add up. Since 1989, South Carolina Operation Round Up programs have distributed more than \$33 million in aid for community projects and people in need.

**THE SOUTH CAROLINA POWER TEAM.** In partnership with Santee Cooper, electric cooperatives created





In April 2012, the state's electric cooperatives sponsored an Honor Flight that brought 100 World War II veterans from across the state to Washington, D.C. The commemorative book profiles each of them.

the South Carolina Power Team, an economic development organization that works to attract new businesses to the Palmetto State. Creating jobs does more than generate new paychecks; it strengthens our schools, churches and communities, and that has a positive ripple effect across generations.

**HONOR FLIGHT.** In 2012, the statewide association of electric cooperatives partnered with Honor Flight of South Carolina to recognize World War II veterans. The goal: Fly men and women of “the greatest generation” to Washington, D.C., for a visit to the National World War II Memorial. The April 11, 2012, flight of 100 veterans was the first time in state history that an entire Honor Flight was funded by one organization. As an added bonus, *South Carolina Living* magazine produced a 212-page commemorative book profiling all 100 of the veterans. Copies of the book were distributed at no cost to veterans, guardians and Honor Flight volunteers, as well as to public libraries and schools across the state. Remaining copies of the book are now available for sale at [SCLiving.coop/honor-flight-book](http://SCLiving.coop/honor-flight-book). The first Honor Flight was so successful that co-ops fully funded a second trip in September 2012, and cooperative-affiliated organizations stepped up to fund a third flight that year.

**WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR.** Since 1964, electric cooperatives across the nation have sent talented, ambitious teens to our nation's capital to develop leadership skills, meet public officials and learn how government works. In 2014, South Carolina's electric cooperatives sent 64 students to participate, the state's largest contingent to date. During their time in Washington, D.C., students gain a deeper understanding of American history by touring monuments, memorials and museums. They also learn about the importance of public service.

**EnLIGHTenSC.** This K-12 energy education initiative from South Carolina's electric cooperatives gives students a thorough understanding of energy, economics and related environmental issues. The program includes teacher-training opportunities through workshops in local communities and a free graduate-level course for classroom teachers each summer. There's also a content-rich website ([EnlightenSC.org](http://EnlightenSC.org)) featuring instructional and other classroom resources, and a set of age-appropriate lesson plans written to existing state standards for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). For the first time in 2015, EnLIGHTenSC is sponsoring the 4-H Student Engineering Contest to be held at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. ■