

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

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369-2211



**TO REPORT
POWER OUTAGES ONLY**
369-2212

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Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a non-profit, member-owned organization providing information and energy-related services on a fair and equitable basis.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Resolve to modify energy use

We provide the tools; you take advantage



IT IS THE beginning of a new year, and according to a study conducted at the University of Scranton, 40 to 45 percent of the American adult population make one or more New Year's resolutions. After one month, only 64 percent are keeping

their resolutions, and by July, that number drops to 46 percent. Statistically speaking, only 8 percent of folks who make a resolution actually end up achieving their goal.

Don't stop! Just modify use

Some resolutions can be pretty dramatic, and they are usually associated with stopping something you like, but might be bad for you. They can also involve starting something you don't really enjoy, but will be good for your health and well-being.

I'm proposing a different sort of resolution for members of Horry Electric in 2019. It isn't one that involves stopping or starting something. It's a resolution to simply modify how and when you use energy.

We provide the tools

The MyEnergy Online member service portal, which is available to all members of Horry Electric, is a virtual service representative that is available 24 hours a day . . . 7 days a week . . . 365 days a year. Weekends and holidays are included.

The member portal is a single point of access to a variety of options including account maintenance, bill payment, energy use monitoring, plus account and billing history. Members can even set up

alerts and reminders for their account that can be delivered by email or text message.

Always on the go? No worries, with our mobile apps and mobile web app, members can view their bill, sign up for alerts and reminders, view their payment history, pay their bill and more! Just look for the Horry Electric name in the App Store or Android Market.

Want to analyze energy use for your home? Tap into the power of our HomeEnergyCalculator. To get a comprehensive report, all you have to do is enter your account number and then answer a few questions about your home. Using the data from your individual billing history, the program can provide you with information on where your energy dollars are going, and it offers suggestions on changes you can make to lower your energy costs.

Not just online

We have a variety of materials for members who don't have Internet access. We are always glad to help members in person or by phone. Members can also take advantage of information published in *South Carolina Living* magazine each month.

It goes without saying, we will continue to need you to participate in the Beat the Peak program. If you aren't already, sign up today! Visit horryelectric.com for more information or give us a call!

JAMES P. "PAT" HOWLE
Executive Vice President/CEO



It's easy to help your co-op Beat the Peak. When a peak alert goes out by email or text, just lower your thermostat, delay using large appliances and hot water, and turn off unused lights. Sign up for alerts at BeatThePeak.com.

Just for High School Juniors...

You could be selected for one of these two unforgettable experiences.



apply now!

compete for both free trips with just one application

June 15–20, 2019



COOPERATIVE YOUTH SUMMIT

July 9–12, 2019



Experience Washington, D.C. with 1,500 high school juniors from across South Carolina and the country, meeting lawmakers and touring all the sights. Your electric co-op will cover your round-trip plane ticket, tours and meals. In other words, it's all free!



Experience South Carolina's capital like never before. Tour the Statehouse, meet lawmakers and see how co-ops are preparing for our state's energy future. Plus, there's plenty of fun with visits to popular Columbia attractions like Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. Your electric co-op will cover all of your expenses.

Apply by

February 22.

Application on Page 20A

and at HEC offices.

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Two trips, one application

Juniors, apply now for great summer opportunities

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS, you could be selected for one of two unforgettable experiences this summer!

June 15–20—2019

Washington Youth Tour:

Experience Washington, D.C. with 1,500 high school juniors from across South Carolina and the country, meeting lawmakers and touring the sights. Horry



Electric will cover four students' round-trip plane ticket, tours and meals. A \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to one South Carolina Youth Tour participant.

July 9–12—2019

Cooperative Youth Summit:

Experience South Carolina's capital like never before. Tour the Statehouse, meet lawmakers



and visit popular Columbia attractions like Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. HEC will cover your expenses.

Please complete the application below. Applications are also available at Horry Electric and high school guidance offices. Applications are open to all high school juniors, regardless of class rank or grade point average.

HEC 2018 Washington Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Summit

Application/Nomination Form—HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS ONLY

Name (first, middle, last) _____ Name you go by _____

Date of birth (yy/dd/mm) _____ Social Security number _____

Address _____

Your phone numbers (home, mobile) _____

Email _____ T-shirt size _____

HEC account number _____ Congressional district _____

Parents/guardians _____ Their phone number _____

School _____ Guidance counselor _____ Their phone number _____

How did you find out about the Youth Tour and Youth Summit? _____

Recommended/Approved By _____

On a separate sheet of paper, list academic and athletic school activities, as well as civic and church activities. Applications must include a summary of the student's activities. Qualified applicants will be required to take a written test and participate in a personal interview. No essays will be accepted. Send completed applications to: Toni Gore, Youth Tour/Summit Coordinator; Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Post Office Box 119; Conway, SC 29528-0119.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

CCU students help VFW post add solar power

VFW POST 10804 in Little River recently cut the ribbon on a project to cut energy costs, with a big assist from Coastal Carolina University's Solar Ambassadors.

The student group raised about \$57,000, including a 50 percent matching grant from the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, to help Post 10804 add a 15-kilowatt solar photovoltaic (PV) system in a project dubbed Volts for Vets. The rooftop solar array is projected to reduce the post's electricity costs by 15 to 17 percent.

"Our bills to maintain this building were getting out of hand," Commander Nick Camera said at the October 13 celebration. "Our veterans are getting older and older. We really need our young people to continue to join the VFW and keep us going for years and years to come."

Camera thanked the students and other supporters, including Horry Electric Cooperative, which serves the post. The co-op contributed energy advice and technical assistance, helping the VFW identify possible energy efficiency improvements and understanding how adding a solar PV system could affect their electricity costs.



"We had some old codger veterans ask some pretty tough questions," Post 10804 Commander Nick Camera said at the Volts For Vets dedication October 13. "Is this stuff going to last? What about a hurricane?" It came through Florence fine.

Other supporters included Wyndham Resorts, which replaced existing lighting with light-emitting diode (LED) lights. Yes Solar Solutions, the installer of the solar PV system, donated two inverters, each valued at \$6,000. Inverters convert direct current (DC) power generated by the panels to the alternating current (AC)

electricity distributed on HEC's system.

"So many people came together to make this happen," said Camera, who noted that the Solar Ambassadors became involved about two years ago. The post had already considered adding solar PV to offset energy costs when the CCU group became involved.

Paying it forward

Established three years ago, Coastal's Solar Ambassadors act as solar energy advocates in conjunction with RE-volv, a nonprofit organization based in San Francisco. Their program seeks to empower local nonprofits to take advantage of solar energy through RE-volv's "pay it forward" financing model, called the Solar Seed Fund.



Pam Martin

Using this model, supporters choose a nonprofit they want to help go solar. They make a tax-deductible donation to the nonprofit, which installs solar power. The nonprofit repays supporters, who receive a credit in their RE-Volv Portfolio.

It's all about cooperation

For Jake Jensen, distribution engineer for Horry Electric Cooperative, the Volts For Vets project cuts close to the heart.

"Thank you for letting us be a part of this," he told members of the CCU's Solar Ambassadors team and VFW Post 10804. Praising their "hard work and cooperation," Jensen noted, "That's really what Horry Electric's all about—it's all about cooperation. It's all about neighbors helping neighbors."

He praised the students for showing how they "really care about these veterans." Jensen, who served in the Army from 1994 to 1997, added that HEC is proud to serve the VFW. "As one veteran to another, I do want to say thank you guys. We're here for you."

HEC's Jake Jensen, a veteran himself, stands beside the co-op's net meter and the solar PV system inverters at VFW Post 10804. The Volts for Vets project exemplifies "neighbors helping neighbors," Jensen says.



Supporters can then “pay it forward” by using money in their portfolio to support more solar projects.

Camera recalled how, early on, the Solar Ambassadors visited the post with Dr. Pam Martin, a professor in CCU’s Department of Politics and adviser to the group, to discuss the project. “We had some old codger veterans ask some pretty tough questions. ‘Is this stuff going to last? What about a hurricane?’” Camera said. “To make long story short, they satisfied all the skeptics. Their eyes were opened to what this could do for us as a post through our energy savings and how we can work together as a team with Coastal Carolina. We look forward to savings over the future and saving energy for the planet.”

Growing together

Martin said Camera wasn’t kidding about that early meeting: “They asked us questions that were so tough, so much so that I applied for a grant and we went to Denver, Colorado, to install solar panels on roofs of low-income homes so that we could actually tell you, Nick, exactly what those (solar panel mounting) brackets were,” she said. “You truly pushed us to another level in our

learning and I thank you for that.”

The Solar Ambassadors also visited a Koloa, Hawaii solar array and battery storage location. They also visited with Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC), a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, to learn more about its solar energy investments and gain a better understanding of the energy resource from the perspective of a public utility company.

KIUC is a not-for-profit generation, transmission and distribution cooperative that, like Horry Electric Cooperative, is owned by the members it serves. KIUC serves 33,000 electric accounts on the island of Kauai and is a nationally recognized leader in the use of renewable energy.

The VFW ceremony was postponed due to Hurricane Florence, and Martin noted that some project supporters were still recovering from the disaster. “I also want to say how great it is that the solar panels did well in the hurricane and the storm and the floods,” she said, adding, “After four years in a row of storms and floods, the Solar Ambassadors want you to know that we’re bringing new hope for a clean, renewable future.”

Sustaining progress

Shani Caplan-Chernoff, the Solar Ambassadors’ VFW project director, called the project “a new beginning and a step in

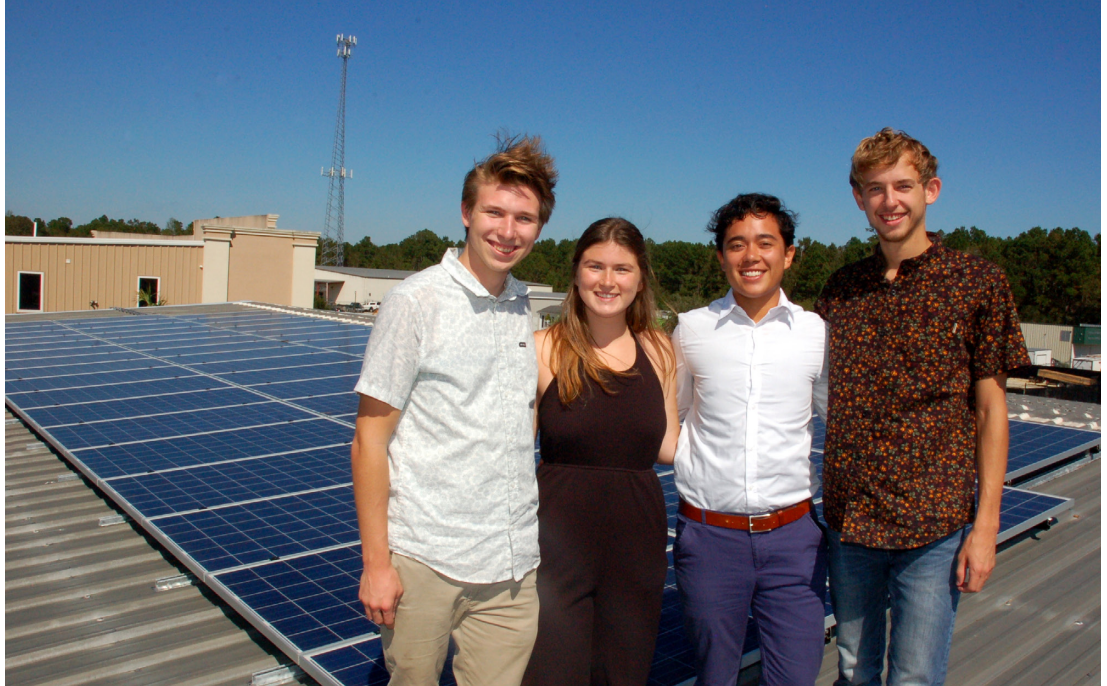
CCU Solar Ambassadors Emily Doscher, Ryan Smith, Nakkara Hess and Drew Turner with the 15-kilowatt solar array at VFW Post 10804.

the right direction. This project hits every pillar in sustainable development, bringing social, environmental and economic benefits to the community. But one of the best parts about this project is, it doesn’t end here.” It can help fund other solar projects for non-profits anywhere in the United States through the Solar Seed Fund, she said.

RE-volv Senior Marketing and Communications Manager Ryan Dexter praised the CCU team and the VFW for their foresight. “We need to create a clean energy economy,” Dexter said. “We need to develop resiliency in our communities and that’s exactly what the VFW is doing. This place is resilient toward storms: The panels survived the wind and weather and the rain. Really, it’s a beacon of hope, a beacon of light. It’s the path that we need to go to.”

He called the Solar Ambassadors’ crowd-funding effort “incredible. All these kids for the last two years, they’ve been working diligently. That’s really paid off.” Addressing VFW members, Dexter said, “You guys have been great working with us the last three months. Thank you for your service and commitment to this project. We’re very, very honored.”

Are you part of a nonprofit that might like to go solar? If so, email ccusolarambassadors@gmail.com. HEC members can go solar—without adding panels to their roof—by subscribing to our Community Solar program. Details at HorryElectric.com.



Shani Caplan-Chernoff says serving as project lead for the Solar Ambassadors “helped me see the power each one of us has to make a difference in the community.”



WALTER ALLREAD

Make old greenery enhance new scenery



HORRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE and the Horry County Solid Waste Authority (SWA) are once again co-sponsoring the Grinding of the Greens December 26 through January 29. Ornament-free Christmas trees and wreaths can be dropped off at SWA convenience centers to be chipped and recycled into landscaping mulch. Contractors for HEC usually grind the greens during the third or fourth week of February. Free mulch is then available, while supplies last, to

all citizens at four locations:

- ▶ **County landfill**, four miles northeast of Conway, next to SWA administrative office, 1886 Hwy 90.
 - ▶ **Myrtle Beach**: 10th Avenue North Extension and 21st Avenue North Extension, behind Myrtle Waves.
 - ▶ **Cherry Grove**: Public parking lot at Ocean Boulevard and Shorehaven Drive, near 19th Avenue North.
 - ▶ **Crescent Beach**: Parking lot across from the J. Bryan Floyd Community Center at 1030 Possum Trot Road, North Myrtle Beach.
- When going to pick up mulch, be sure to bring your own container!



WALTER ALLREAD

Co-op member Jim Grainger scoops some free mulch last February at one the SWA sites, the parking lot across from the J. Bryan Floyd Community Center at 1030 Possum Trot Road, North Myrtle Beach.



HEC energy advisors (from left) Ricky Lowder, Eddy Blackburn and Garrett Gasque

Energy Experts happy to talk to your group

NEED A SPEAKER for your next civic or church group meeting? Call on Horry Electric Cooperative's team of Energy Experts.

Ricky Lowder, senior marketing representative for HEC, along with Eddy Blackburn, marketing analyst, and Garrett Gasque, marketing representative, are available to share their expertise. They often highlight energy-saving tips found at HorryElectric.com under My Home, Energy Information and Tools.

Lowder notes, "These online tools are easy to use, but we like to bring the information to life. Members who follow this advice often tell us later that they enjoy greater home comfort and energy savings."

To coordinate a time for one of HEC's energy advisors to speak to your group, contact Toni Gore, public relations and marketing assistant, at (843) 369-2211 or by emailing toni.gore@horryelectric.com.

\$1,500 scholarship available from HEC WIRE

A **\$1,500 SCHOLARSHIP** is available for co-op members and dependents of members, courtesy of Horry Electric Cooperative's chapter of the community outreach organization Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE).

The award is for one academic year for a freshman entering Coastal Carolina University or Horry-Georgetown Technical College in the fall. The recipient will receive \$750 for the first semester; they must have at least a cumulative 2.5 GPR at the end of the semester to receive the other \$750. An essay is also required.

Applications must be received by March 1. Mail to:

Mrs. Susan Brown
Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Box 119
Conway SC 29528-0119

Details: (843) 369-6323.