

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

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**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

When cold brings higher bills



WHEN BITTER COLD HITS, energy bills jump. Horry Electric's rates didn't increase during the cold we often feel in January, but bills for energy use increased significantly. Members often tell us they haven't

changed their thermostats and question how on earth their electric bill could have possibly doubled.

As our service representatives and energy advisers explain to everyone, the increases we see are due to the extra amount of electricity it takes to keep the inside of a home at the temperature set on the thermostat when the outdoor temperatures are so severe. As we saw last January, cold snaps can come early in winter—and with them, peaks in energy use. When demand for power rises during peak times, so can the cost of electricity. Not in rates, but in our wholesale power costs.

How you can help

Reducing peak demand is one reason we introduced the Beat the Peak program. HEC members have responded! Almost 6,000 members have subscribed to receive peak alerts, and we're seeing positive results from their actions.

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. Simple



actions like delaying laundry and using the dishwasher for a few hours help. The more members who participate, the bigger the difference for everyone. Learn more and sign up at BeatThePeak.com.

Is Advance Pay an option for you?

Members on the Advance Pay program are very aware of how much their daily energy use was impacted by the colder temperatures. As part of the program, they receive daily updates on how much energy they use. Getting an energy alert is available to everyone on the Horry Electric system. If you have online access, you can sign up yourself through MyEnergy Online, our member service portal. If you don't have access, one of our service representatives will be glad to set your account up for alerts delivered via text, voice mail and/or email. Getting daily alerts will help you become more aware of your daily use, and, if you take action to make changes to reduce your energy use, it could help you avoid the shock of an extremely high bill!

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

Unclaimed Capital Credits posted online

HORRY ELECTRIC MAILS capital credit checks to members who have received service in past years. Many of these checks are returned by the postal service. We hold them for those listed in a searchable database, which can be found on horryelectric.com.

You can find the database by using the search engine on the page or by selecting Capital Credits from the My Co-op tab on the home page. In addition to the online database, Horry Electric publishes the unclaimed capital credit list in *The Horry Independent* on an annual basis.

In order to claim funds, please contact Horry Electric Cooperative's main office in Conway between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays at (843) 369-2211. Please reference your call as concerning unclaimed capital credits.





Co-op Connections® Card: By the Numbers

\$19,295,317.93

Saved on prescriptions by
S.C. co-op members since 2007



**You've saved
\$895,000!**

MEMBERS OF HORRY ELECTRIC and other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in South Carolina saved more than \$500,000 on prescriptions last year by using their Co-op Connections discount cards.

That's just part of the grand total of \$19,295,317.93 saved by S.C. co-op members since 2007, according to Touchstone Energy, the co-op alliance that coordinates the discount card program and other member benefits such as Together We Save. Horry members, who pocketed about \$18,089.95 in Rx savings during 2018, have now saved \$895,000 since 2009.

The discount card program also features other Healthy Saving Discounts, helping members save on vision, dental, imaging and other health care services. The prescription drug benefit entitles Horry Electric members to discounts of up to 85 percent off the cost of prescription drugs at more than 60,000 national pharmacy locations including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, and Target. More than 100 pharmacies in and around Horry Electric's service area participate.

Co-op Connections® Card

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We've included new Co-op Connections cards in this edition of *South Carolina Living*. Turn to page 8 for your card! You can also use the new Co-op

Connections app. If you haven't already done so, register for Co-op Connections at Connections.coop/Horry. Then download and use the app.

It was a super bowl for players, kids they helped

THREE HORRY PREP STANDOUTS earned spots on the South squad in the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Bowl played Dec. 15 at Coastal Carolina University—defensive lineman Jaibrion “JB” Favorite and wide receiver Marcus Grissett of Myrtle Beach High School and cornerback Kenney Solomon of Socastee High School. Solomon returned a turnover 46 yards for a touchdown to put the South ahead 7-3 in the third quarter, helping the South to win 13-10.

The three were among 400 players nominated and 88 selected for the 71st annual North-South all-star game, organized by the S.C. Athletic Coaches Association. Horry Electric and South Carolina's 18 other Touchstone Energy Co-ops began sponsoring the game in 2013 to demonstrate our shared value of commitment to community.

During the week leading up to the game, co-ops encourage players to give back, specifically to children in need. Players on opposing sides partner up and take a child on a shopping spree. The experience gives needy children a Christmas to remember while the players gain the rewarding experience of helping others.



South squad teammates (from left) Jaibrion “JB” Favorite, Kenney Solomon and Marcus Grissett. Players and local kids (top) send up a cheer after they went on a Christmas shopping spree together.



One call prevents disaster

THERE'S A FOOTBALL-FIELD length of underground utilities for every person in the country, according to South Carolina 811, a.k.a., the Palmetto Utility Protection Service (PUPS).



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

So call 811 before you dig. It's a free service to use, and it's the law! No matter how small the project, it's important to call 811 or request a locate at sc811.com.

Damaging a utility could result in costly fines, inconvenient outages, injury or even death.

Keep neighbors and yourself safe.

HORRY ONLINE

Student opportunities

There's no Horry Extra section in this month's magazine. Instead, we'll direct you to HorryElectric.com for more co-op news. High school juniors should check out our January pages of *South Carolina Living* for an application for the Washington Youth Tour and the Cooperative Youth Summit. Apply by Feb. 22. See also January's page 20D for info on the \$1,500 scholarship from HEC's chapter of Women Involved in Rural Electrification. Those are due by March 1.