Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

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PowerTouch SYSTEM

TO REPORT POWER OUTAGES ONLY
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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

Are you connected to us?

We've expanded our social media outreach

THE WORLD OF communications has changed a great deal over the course of the past three decades, and our methods of communicating with members has changed with the times.

One of our primary conduits for education and information for our members has been and continues to be this publication, *South Carolina Living* magazine. Since the early 1960s, electric cooperatives in South Carolina have been pooling resources to produce and distribute the magazine. It covers important information for co-op members across the state, but it also includes local news just for you!

A new era

The World Wide Web was opened to the public in 1991, followed by America Online and other online information providers. Google was launched in 1998. It's now a household word and popular online research tool.

We still focused most of our attention on *South Carolina Living* as the primary source for information for members, but as the years rolled on, it became more apparent that we were going to have to go where our members seemed to be turning for information. We launched our first website in 1999.

It grew from there

Going online with a website was just the beginning for Horry Electric.

In 2009, we launched a news blog, which we are getting ready to re-name Current Word, our Facebook page and started a Twitter feed. We also launched a few Pinterest boards.

We've added three more social media channels in recent years. You can now find us on Instagram, YouTube and on Vimeo.

Including our website and blog, there are eight communication channels open to members of Horry Electric Cooperative.

Wait, there's more!

Providing education and information to members is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles on which all businesses that operate as cooperatives are based. It is almost as important as the energy we provide.

Our website has expanded since it was launched in 1999. In 2013, we were able to introduce MyEnergy Online to members. Through this members-only point of access, members are able to manage their account, view daily energy use, pay a bill and even use a Home Energy Calculator tool that uses individual kWh use and billing data to produce a comprehensive report!

If you aren't already connected to Horry Electric Cooperative through any or all of these channels, I urge you to do so. We even have a moble app for members on the go!

For those who aren't fans of online interaction, we're committed to continung to provide *South Carolina Living* Magazine. It has been and will continue to be a vital resource for getting information to our members.

James P. Howle

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

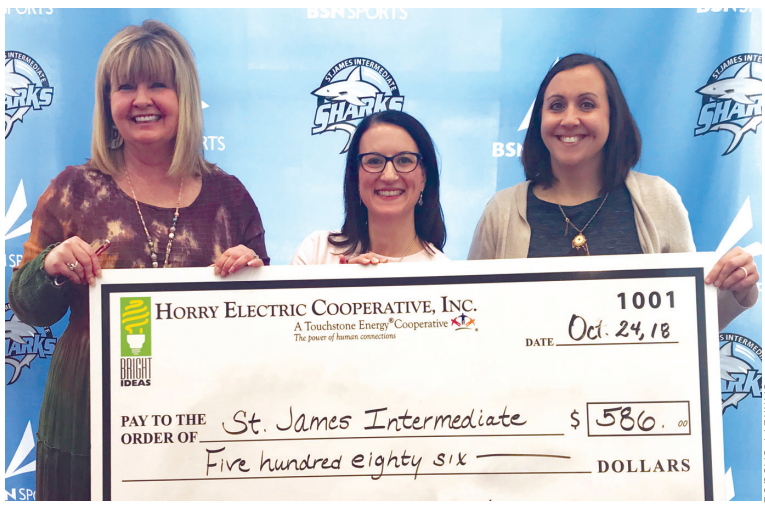
Grants reward innovative teachers

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY Cooperatives, such as Horry Electric, emphasize four core values including Innovation—and it's one we reward through the Bright Ideas grant program.

Since 2007, we've sponsored the Bright Ideas program for Horry County teachers, providing funding for innovative classroom-based education projects.

Bright Ideas grants are intended to fund projects outside normal public school funding parameters and can be made available to all disciplines in grades K-12 in Horry County. A school may submit an application, and teachers are limited to one application per year.

Teachers, download a Bright Ideas application at HorryElectric.com. For program details, email Toni.Gore@HorryElectric.com.



GARRETT GASQUE

Jodie Rowe (right) of St. James Intermediate receives a $586 Bright Ideas grant from Horry Electric's Toni Gore (left). The project, "We've Got the Beat!" was to help students learn to play music and move at the same time.

Bright Ideas grant winner Blake Vaught (second from left) with fellow team member Mariah Hucks Reiss (second from right) receive an $840 grant last fall for their Virtual Reality and Pain Management project. They are teachers at the Academy for the Arts, Science and Technology.

Apply now for 2019 WIRE scholarships

WOMEN RETURNING to school to earn college degrees may now apply for financial assistance from the 2019 Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship program.

Sponsored by Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE), a service organization associated with South Carolina's not-for-profit electric cooperatives, the scholarship is a one-time award based on financial need and personal goals.

Application forms for the 2019 WIRE scholarship are available at your local electric cooperative and at SCLiving.coop/scholarship. Applicants for the program must:

- Be a member of a South Carolina electric cooperative.
- Have graduated from high school or earned a GED at least 10 years ago.
- Be accepted into an accredited S.C. college or university.
- Demonstrate financial need and clear academic goals.

The deadline for applications is June 1. Recipients will receive scholarships for the Fall 2019 or Spring 2020 semester, with funds paid to the college or university.

Mail or fax your application to Peggy Dantzler, The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina, 808 Knox Abbott Dr., Cayce, SC 29033; fax (803) 739-3055.

HORRY EXTRA

High-flying co-op tech

For Reid Williams, HEC's first certified drone pilot, the sky's the limit for any technology that assists co-op linemen—and by extension, co-op members. Williams, one of the Local People, Serving You at Horry Electric Cooperative, is profiled on page 20B.

WALTER ALLREAD

‘I need space!’

If co-op equipment could talk …

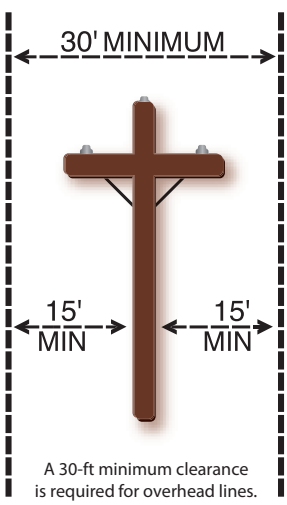
When he saw the photo at left, HEC Right-of-Way Coordinator Buddy Parker said, “I know right where that is! We have to give those trees a flat-top about every year!” Don’t plant in the No Tree Zone, Parker reminds members. See below.

NOTHING PERSONAL but we all need a little space sometimes, right?

If co-op equipment could talk, we imagine its go-to break-up line would be: “Really, it’s not you—it’s me! Sometimes I hurt anyone who gets too close—hurt them bad!”

But seriously, folks, co-op equipment—be it overhead, underground or attached to your home or business—needs space to do its job. It’s all about Safety and Reliability.

In fact, that’s the name of the section of the Storm Central page at HorryElectric.com that outlines space requirements for overhead and underground service. Click on Storm Central, then Safety and Reliability to get the 411 on 811 and more. But, to save you some heartache, here’s the lowdown, in a nutshell.



A 30-ft minimum clearance is required for overhead lines.

Overhead: Help us help you

HEC’s proactive tree-trimming program helps reduce the potential for outages. However, keeping up with tree growth in Horry County is a challenge. We need your help. If you’re considering planting trees near our overhead equipment this spring, please choose the right tree for the right place. The graphic, above right, offers guidance. Our website also links to the handy South Carolina Urban Tree Species Guide.

Remember: We reserve the right to trim trees within the 30-foot right-of-way near our overhead lines.

Underground: Keep your distance

Call before you dig! If you’re planning a home improvement job, planting a tree or installing a fence or deck, call 811 first! Use this toll-free hotline to have underground utilities on your property located, free of charge.

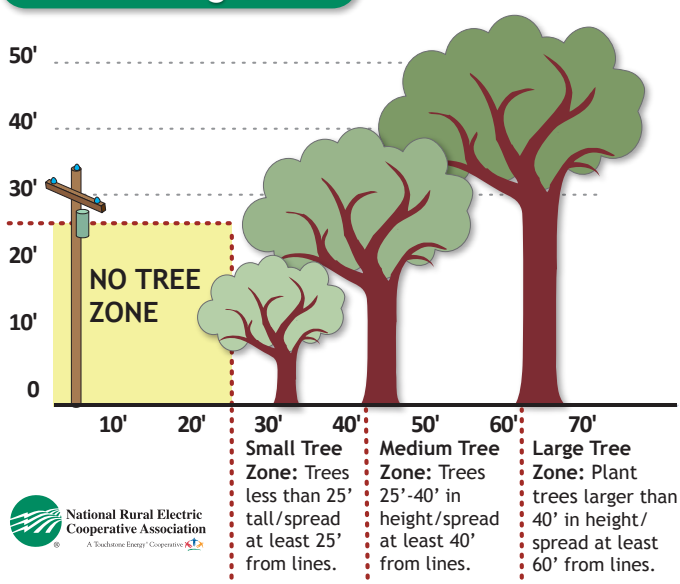
Our underground transformer boxes—sometimes called “green boxes”—are something to steer clear of if you have one on your property, please Keep Your Distance! as our downloadable online brochure underscores.

Keep areas to the sides of and behind the transformer clear to four feet and in front clear to 10 feet. The Underground Service page at our website also answers frequently asked questions about landscaping around transformers.

811 Know what’s **below.** **Call** before you dig.

Now, folks, bear in mind: Space is healthy and being alone does not mean that you have to be lonely—especially if you are a green box. Like co-op poles and lines, they need space!

Tree Planting Guide



National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
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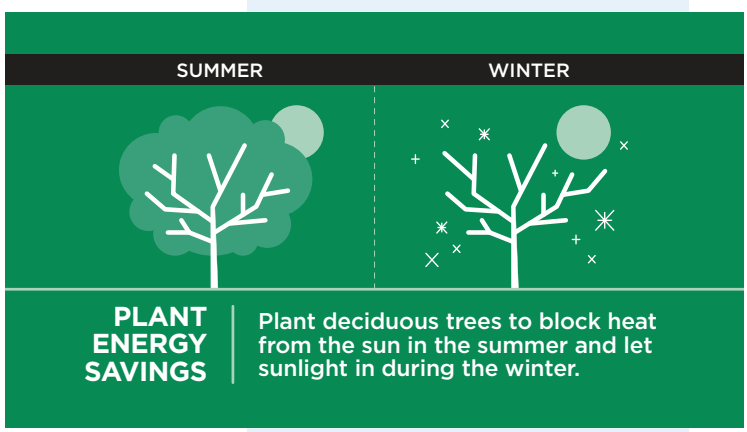
HEC SOCIAL MEDIA

Get more: Energy tips



Follow Horry Electric on Facebook—or Instagram or Twitter—and you just might pick up some spring planting tips that will grow into energy savings!

He's the man for unmanned flight at HEC

HE IS HORRY ELECTRIC'S first certified drone pilot and an ace at mobile apps, but Reid Williams' dreams took flight at age 8 at the controls of his grandfather's videocassette recorder.

"I was staying the summer with my grandfather, and his VCR wouldn't work so I took it apart and figured it out and put it back together," says Williams, a software developer for HEC. "From that day forward, I realized that's what I wanted to do."

Not repair VCRs, mind you, but work in the electronics field.

Fortunately for Williams, who attended Carolina Forest High, his school offered web and desktop application development. "So I took all of their classes, absolutely loved it and I knew 100 percent when I went to Coastal (Carolina University) that I wasn't going to take anything but computer science."

While Williams was earning his computer science degree, he worked one summer at Horry Electric. Impressed, the co-op hired him full-time upon graduation. A decade later, his fledgling work with drones is grounded in serving co-op members.

Thanks in large part to Williams, members can view their bills online. They can also check HorryElectric.com to see if they're owed unclaimed capital credits. He even wrote an app, used at annual meetings, that allows his coworkers to track member registration totals—and progress toward meeting the all-important quorum.

Williams and the team in the Information Technology department, supervised by Brian Swart, write applications for Horry Electric's specific needs in serving you, the members. "You name it, we wrote it," he says. "Inventory ordering systems, the visitor system you use to sign in, we've got our tab books, our spec books on mobile now. Those were just kept in books and spreadsheets but now we have those completely electronic."

He's psyched to contribute as a HEC IT team member. "I've done a ton of things for here," Williams says. "I'm a passionate mobile developer. That's what I'm really passionate about."

Reid Williams controls the co-op's DJI Phantom 4 Professional drone. Check out some of his drone footage at Horry Electric's YouTube and Vimeo channels.

WALTER ALLREAD

Sky's the limit

Talk about going mobile—Williams' interest in drones really took off fast.

"I've been flying for three years. I got interested just out of sport, I just really wanted to play with it and I thought it was fun," he says. "You know, a hobby. Some people like gas-powered cars, some people like going out on the river, I just like technology and I was able to get my hands on and started out with a DJI Phantom 3 Standard, which was about

four generations behind this one (a DJI Phantom 4 Professional).

Before he started working full-time at Horry Electric, Williams also shot commercial videos. "That's actually what I shot most of my commercials with, the Phantom 3 Standard," he notes.

Well, for a while at least.

"I crashed it," Williams says, pausing for effect—comic now, not so funny at the time.

"It's not fun to go home and tell your wife you crashed a really expensive toy. But the good thing was I made enough money in commercials that it paid for my video equipment."

These days, Williams is focused on real toys: He and his wife, Lindsey, a pediatric nurse at Palmetto Pediatrics, have a son, Korbin, now two years old.

A different perspective

Korbin will probably take the controls before you know it, based on his father's enthusiasm for drone piloting. "Yeah, flying is fun," Williams says. "It gives you a completely different perspective of the world. You know, we look at it in a completely linear way. Once you get up in the air, you get to see different features—stuff you've never seen."

Williams also sees how drones could be used to benefit Horry Electric and its members, so he's helped look into applications of drone technology there. "I really wanted to help the co-op," he says.

Using drones could help HEC check co-op lines after major storms, Williams says. "We kind of experienced it during Hurricane Matthew," he says. "We wanted to see some areas that were damaged but may be dangerous to get to by truck or walking. That's what really pushed this whole initiative. That's what our goal is: to be able to keep the guys safe and allow them to fly and look at issues, so they don't have to track down some muddy, wet, windy roads during storms."

Even routine line inspections, which sometimes require use of off-road vehicles, could be enhanced by using a drone, he says. "We might be able to track lines through the woods so that they don't have to get an Argo (all-terrain vehicle) out there. They can just fly the line. It will be a timesaver."

Even though co-op linemen will still walk the line as needed, Williams agrees, with a drone they'll see what they're facing first.

Drones could also enhance and expedite routine system maintenance work, he adds, such as pole-top inspections. "Instead of (line crews) having to get the truck and get a bucket and go up in the bucket and look at everything, they'd have a drone fly up, see what's on the pole, see what the issue may be, or equipment they need to replace, without having to get up in the bucket."

He can see a day when each Horry Electric crew has a drone. "Absolutely. That's been considered."

For now, Williams is all alone with the co-op drone—or drones, actually.

EVERSOURCE

"I have two drones. I have one very similar to this (Phantom 4), but smaller. It actually is in my backpack with me everywhere I go. My work gear goes with me and so does my drone. It can fit in the palm of my hand. So that may be an easier one for a (line crew) truck to carry. They could just take it off from their hood. They have made the quality of them so good in such a small package. It is becoming more foreseeable for that to happen."

How about some 'homegrown' renewable energy?

TO MAKE SOLAR energy more accessible to members, Horry Electric Cooperative made Community Solar available two years ago. Many members jumped at the chance to purchase locally generated renewable energy—and you can, too!

Community Solar lets you share in the benefits of solar without having to really do anything! We've done all the work.

Horry Electric built a 240-kilowatt (KW) Community Solar farm across the street from our Conway office on Cultra Road. All eligible Horry Electric residential members have the opportunity to purchase a maximum of 5 shares of solar power from the farm. It's a terrific option for members.

Community Solar advantages

- It's hassle free. No holes in your roof. No system to set up and maintain.
- The Cooperative assumes all liabilities and maintenance on the solar system.
- No solar panel cleaning.
- No safety concerns.
- No burdensome homeowner association restrictions.
- Subscriptions are transferable from location to location with the member.
- Community Solar creates clean energy that is environmentally friendly.

How it works

Decide how many blocks of solar power are right for you. If you'd like more Community Solar later and it is available, you can select additional blocks.

Complete the subscription agreement. Then, pay the non-refundable upfront charge of $100 per block subscribed. You have the option of subscribing from one to five blocks at the monthly price of $25 per block.

Start receiving solar-energy credits on your monthly electric bill. Each month, you will receive credit for a portion of the production from the Community Solar farm. Your portion is based on how many solar blocks you have selected.

Pricing

Non-refundable
upfront charge–**$100 per block**
Monthly charge–**$25 per block**
Monthly credit–
Average of 150 kWh

How much do I need?

The average residential member uses approximately 1,200 kWh per month.

Please note: These figures are only averages; solar energy production will fluctuate month to month based on weather and time of year.

Ready to sign up? Just call us at (843) 369-2211 and ask about Horry Electric Community Solar! Visit HorryElectric.com to download a Community Solar FAQ sheet and a Community Solar Agreement.

A bird's eye view of the Community Solar farm across the street from Horry Electric's Conway office.

VAN O'CAIN

JENNIFER HARMON

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

Trusted Energy Advisers encourage action

UNPREDICTABLE TEMPERATURES this past winter could carry over into the spring and summer seasons. As temperatures start to climb, Horry Electric needs your help to Beat the Peak. Peak times happen early in the morning during the winter or late in the afternoon in the summer when members are going to be using lots of power.

This is a voluntary program for members, but joining means you can help prevent a heavy load on our system. How? When an abundance of members use power during these peak times, it puts a heavy demand on our system. This means we're paying more money to provide power.

Our Trusted Energy Advisers want to remind you the recommended temperature to keep your thermostat on is 68 degrees in the winter and 78 in the summer.

When you sign up to Beat the Peak, you can choose to be notified about a peak time via call, text or email. There are several ways you can Beat the Peak:

- Lower your thermostat three degrees
- Wash clothes in cold water, if you have to do laundry during the peak time
- Postpone taking a hot shower
- Turn OFF any unused lights

Our Trusted Energy Advisers have put together more tips for you. Just search for Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. on Vimeo and YouTube for their advice.

You can visit our website, horryelectric.com, to sign up and help us Beat the Peak.

BEAT THE PEAK