

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

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**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

Mark your calendars!

Drive-Thru Annual Member Meeting set for May 10, 11



EACH YEAR, every cooperative is required to conduct an Annual Member Meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to hold the election for three positions on the board of trustees, share important financial information and participate

in any other business matters that may need to be addressed.

This is a great opportunity for us to report our status, share our progress over the past year, and announce any plans that will have an impact on you and your cooperative.

Our board of trustees has voted and we're excited to announce the Annual Member Meeting Early Drive-Thru Registration and Voting event will be back for the third year in a row. We will hold Drive-Thru Registration and Voting at our Conway office, located at 2774 Cultra Road, on Tuesday, May 10, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Wednesday, May 11, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. The 2022 Annual Member Meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 11, at 7 p.m. Attendance for the virtual business meeting will be online only. You will be able to access the meeting on horryelectric.com.

Registration requirements will be the same as in 2021. Only members who register in person on these two days, during the scheduled hours, are eligible to receive the registration gift. This year, the gift is a \$25 electric bill credit.

Due to the event, our Socastee office will be closed May 10-11. Our Conway office will also be closed May 10, but will re-open at 1 p.m. on May 11. Regular business hours for both offices will resume on Thursday, May 12.

Please make plans to attend

We encourage members to attend the Drive-Thru Registration and Voting event. We have worked to make this as convenient and rewarding as possible.

Horry Electric's bylaws require a quorum equal to 5% of the membership in order to conduct an official business meeting. With a preliminary estimate of 72,715 members, we'll need to have a minimum of 3,636 members register. If we fail to meet quorum, then we won't be able to do business.

In addition to the registration gift, we will have prize drawings for those who register. Members who register will also be entered in the Grand Prize Drawing for an electric golf cart. Winners will be notified following the virtual meeting.

More information coming soon

Logistics of the Drive-Thru Registration event will be the same for 2022. We have additional details on Page 5.

We are monitoring and taking necessary precautions related to COVID-19. Employees will follow CDC guidelines in order to safely assist our members during the registration process.

Registration postcards will be mailed to all members on record approximately two weeks prior to the meeting. Make sure to bring your registration postcard and photo ID with you to registration.

The April edition of *South Carolina Living* will be mailed to all members and will be your Official Notice for the 2022 Annual Member Meeting.

DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III
Executive Vice President and CEO

Annual Member Meeting details

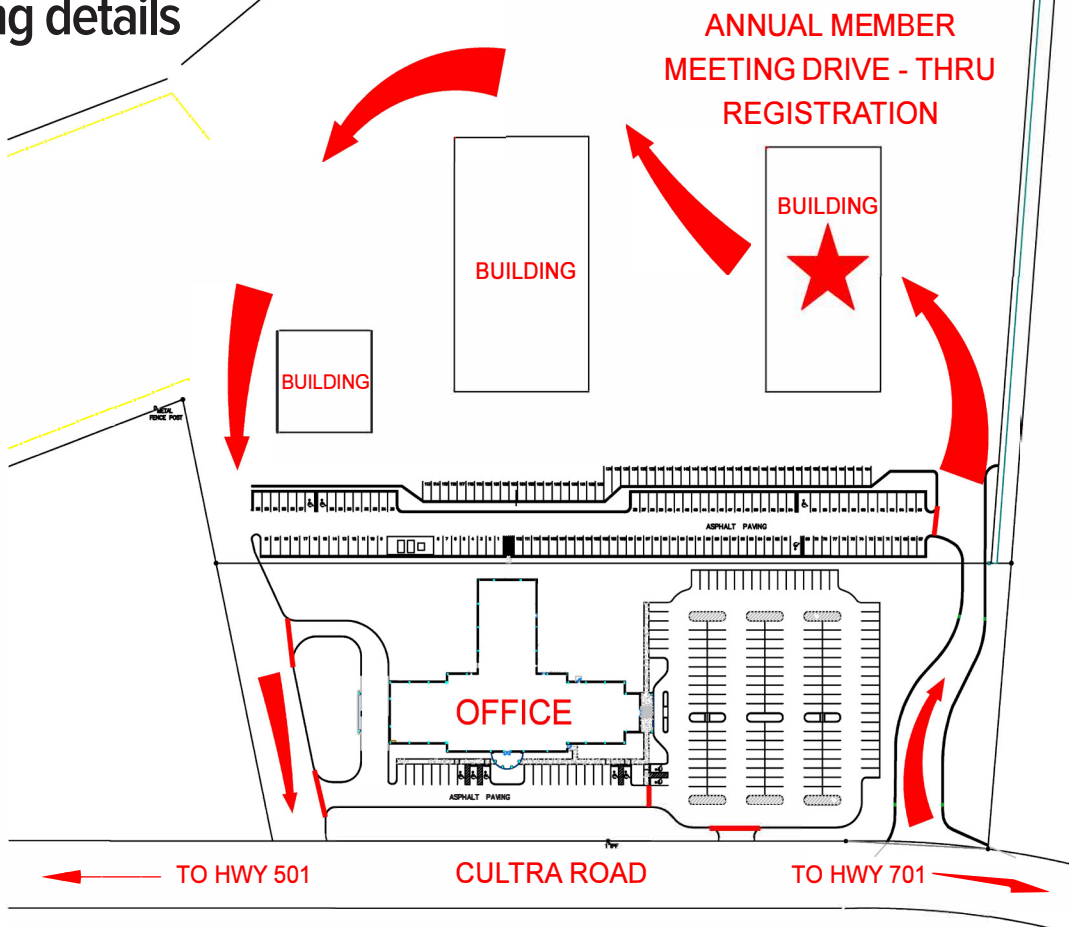
The 2022 Annual Member Meeting Drive-Thru Registration and Voting event will be held at our Conway office, located at 2774 Cultra Road.

Members will enter our employee parking lot from either the Highway 501 or Highway 701 directions. The map pictured on the right shows the exact route.

Members will use the driveway that leads to the back warehouse and traffic attendants will direct vehicles into a registration lane. Each lane, under our truck shed, leads to a registration table, where employees will be ready to assist members.

Once registration and voting is completed, members will exit our parking lot toward Highway 501.

Due to the Annual Member Meeting Drive-Thru event, the Conway office drive-thru lanes will be closed. Members will not have access to the night deposit box nor kiosk beginning Tuesday, May 10 from 5 a.m. until 1 p.m. Wednesday, May 11.



March promotion—Bank Draft

PAY YOUR BILL on time every month without having to write a check through the Horry Electric Bank Draft program. Members can sign up for this easy, safe and convenient way to pay their bill.

When a member signs up, Horry Electric will begin automatically drafting their checking or savings account for the amount of their monthly electric bill the following billing period. Members will still continue to receive statements showing their kilowatt-hour use and the amount due, but will not have to write a check or visit the office. There are also no convenience fees.

During the month of March, any member who signs up as a new participant in the Bank Draft program will be automatically entered into a prize drawing for one of five \$50 electric bill credits.

Members have until 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, March 31 to sign up. Log in to the MyEnergy Online portal to sign up or call (843) 369-2211 to speak to a member service representative during regular business hours. Members can also sign up via our free HEC mobile app.

The winners will be announced in early April. Visit horryelectric.com for the contest rules.

We have also updated the Bank Draft logo (pictured above), so be sure to look for this on our website.

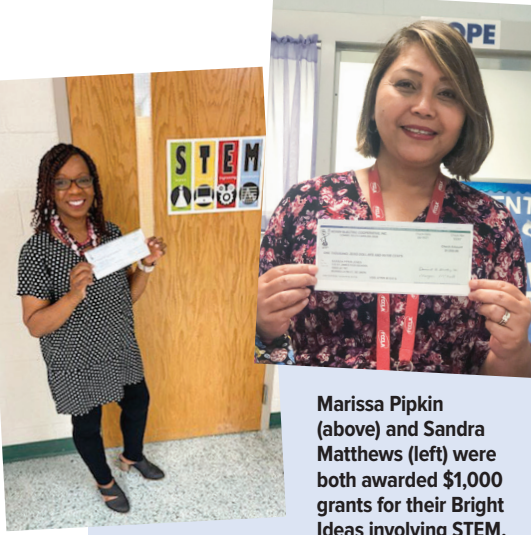


Unclaimed Capital Credits posted online

HORRY ELECTRIC MAILS CAPITAL CREDIT CHECKS to members who have received service in past years. Some of these checks are returned by the postal service as undeliverable. We hold these unclaimed funds for members and they can be found in a searchable database on horryelectric.com. You can find the unclaimed capital credit database by using the search engine on the page or by selecting Capital Credits from the Members 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, contact Horry Electric Cooperative at (843) 369-2211, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please reference unclaimed capital credits as the reason for your call.





Marissa Pipkin (above) and Sandra Matthews (left) were both awarded \$1,000 grants for their Bright Ideas involving STEM.

PHOTOS BY BRIGHT IDEAS WINNERS

Apply now for Bright Ideas grant

INNOVATION IS ONE of the four core principles of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives—and it's something Horry Electric values and loves to recognize through the Bright Ideas grant program.

This program also reflects one of the seven cooperative principles—commitment to community. Bright Ideas provides funding to Horry County teachers for innovative classroom-based education projects.



Teachers can apply for up to \$1,000 to turn their idea into a reality. The grants are intended to fund projects outside normal public and private school funding parameters and is available to all disciplines in grades K-12. A school may submit an application, and teachers are limited to one application per year.

In 2021, nine teachers across the county were awarded grant money, totaling over \$7,200. "This is a great opportunity for teachers in our community," says Toni Gore, coordinator of the Bright Ideas program at Horry Electric. "We love the opportunity to help fund projects for our area schools and we encourage any teacher to apply."

The application deadline for 2022 is June 1.

Teachers can apply online at horryec.info/bright-ideas. For more program details, email Toni.Gore@horryelectric.com.

Revamped and redesigned Horry Electric's website gets a makeover

HORRYELECTRIC.COM HAS A NEW LOOK!

The website has been redesigned to be more user friendly for our members.

The Home Page displays four Quick Links to pay your bill, start or stop service, report an outage and to view the savings calculators. These buttons take members to the most accessed pages on our website, according to Google Analytics.

The main navigation bar at the top of the website has pages dedicated to services Horry Electric offers, member information, energy programs, co-op news, community outreach and the outage center.

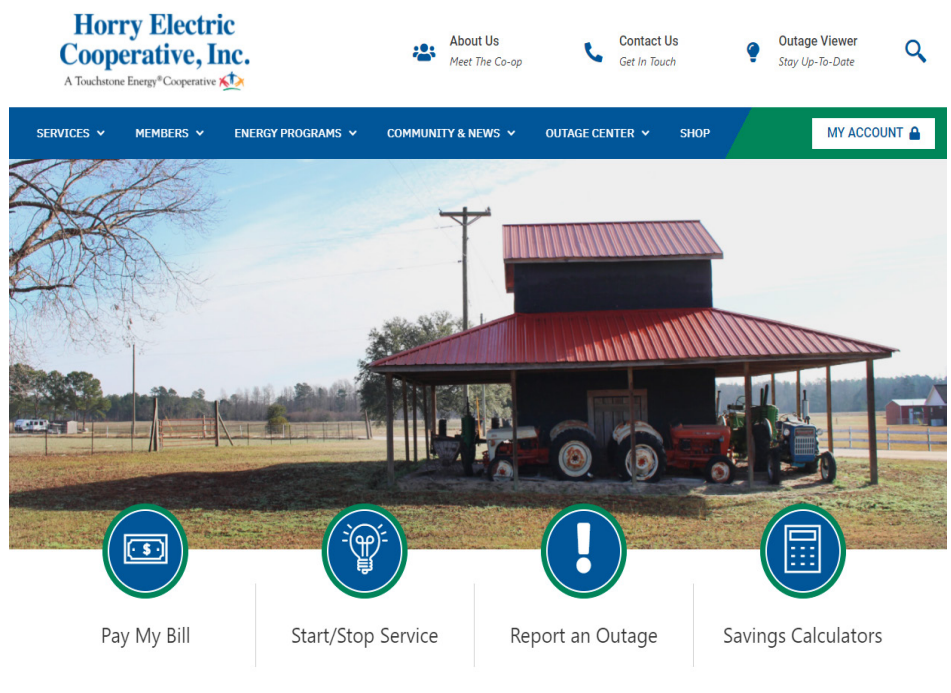
Our design team has included a "Recommended for You" section highlighting some of our frequently asked questions. You will also find a "Featured" section including the latest member information, such as online editions of our local *South Carolina Living* pages, system inspections happening throughout our service area and blog posts.

Engineers have designed interactive maps to better serve our members. You can view maps with our system statistics, and view which board member serves the district where you live. We also have interactive maps for members to report a street light out, or to view the right-of-way tree trimming cycle schedule for the year.

Members can also translate the website to their primary language using the translator in the "Stay Connected" footer at the bottom of the page.

We have also launched an updated version of our outage map. Members can easily view an outline of an area impacted by an outage. The update also includes a graph with outage information from previous days.

Our goal was to make it easier for members to access important information. If you have questions regarding the new website or outage map, please contact Horry Electric during regular business hours at (843) 369-2211.

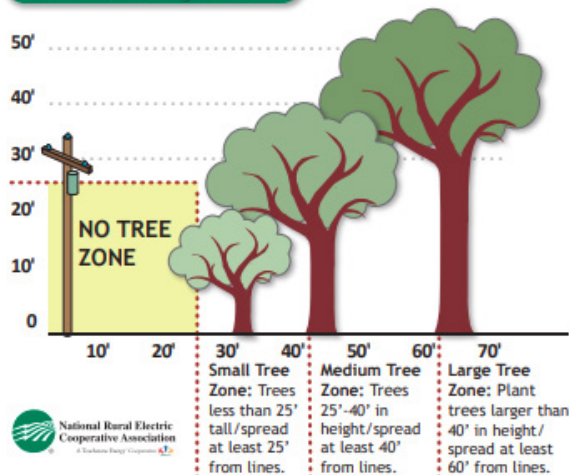


Vegetation management—what does it mean?

SPACE IS KEY when it comes to electric co-op equipment. The overhead and underground equipment connected to your home or business needs space to do its job. Equipment needs to be free from obstructions so we can safely perform maintenance and the lines need space to keep power flowing safely and reliably.

Vegetation management in the electric co-op world refers to controlling and managing the environment—making sure trees, tree limbs and bushes are not growing near or into power lines and other equipment. If tree limbs come in contact with an overhead line, our system is designed to operate. This means members will experience a blink or an outage until that limb is cleared. If you plant shrubs or build fences too close to underground transformers, crews cannot safely do their jobs.

Tree Planting Guide



Overhead requirements

Trees and overhead power lines don't mix. Lightning, high winds, ice, heavy rains or even extremely dry weather can cause a tree to fall, or limbs to come in contact with a power line.

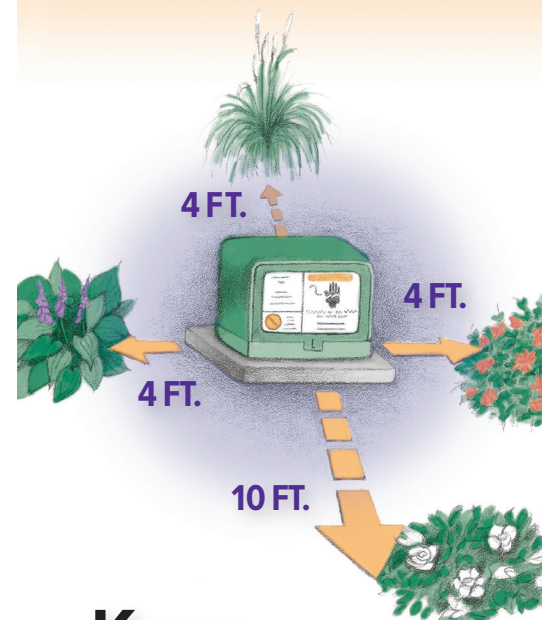
Horry Electric's proactive and aggressive tree-trimming program helps reduce the potential for outages. Keeping up with tree growth in Horry County is challenging. If you're considering planting trees near our overhead equipment this spring, please choose the right tree for the right place. The graphic above offers guidance. A 30-foot right-of-way, 15-feet on each side of the pole, is required for overhead lines. Remember, Horry Electric reserves the right to trim trees within the 30-foot right-of-way.

What is right-of-way?

Right-of-way (ROW) refers to the corridor, or pathway, an electric line follows. This can be alongside the road or through the woods. ROW provides crews with access to lines for improvement, maintenance and repairs.

A clear ROW helps minimize outages, plus improves power quality, reliability and safety.

When it comes to clearing, crews cut, trim or mow the surrounding area. Where they are able and it is permissible, crews apply herbicides. Cutting and trimming are done by trained, professional utility tree trimmers using specific and proven standards typical to the industry.



Keep Your Distance!

Keep your distance

Horry Electric understands there is nothing pretty about underground transformers. However, these are important for delivering electric service. If you have one on your property, it's important to keep your distance.

Crews need access to underground transformers 24 hours a day, so it's important to remember:

- ▶ Keep shrubs, fences and other obstructions well away from the transformer.
- ▶ Never place anything that gets closer than 10 feet from the front or 4 feet from the sides of the transformer. (The handle, lock and sticker are on the front.)
- ▶ Never pour waste oils, chemicals or other liquids on or near the transformer. These liquids can seep into the ground and damage underground cables.
- ▶ Never allow children to play near the transformer.

If you ever have questions regarding right-of-way or how to beautify the area around your transformer, contact our Right-of-Way department at (843) 369-2211.



A freshly cut right-of-way allows space for the power lines to do their job.

JENNIFER CUMMINGS

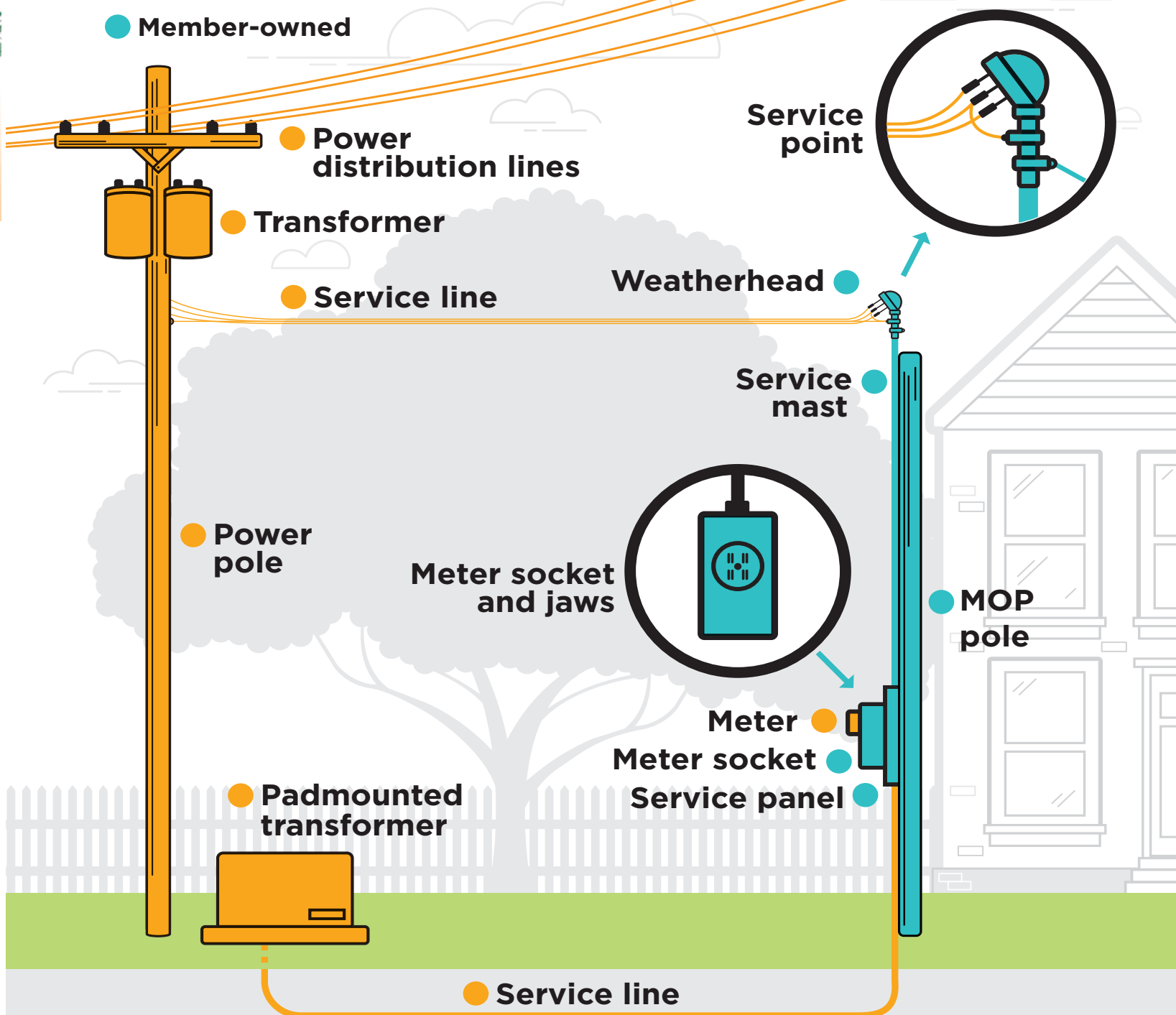
Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.

● Co-op owned

● Member-owned



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.

Live Smart. Save More.



Enjoy up to **23% SAVINGS** on heating and cooling,* plus convenience and control with a **smart thermostat.**



Adjust your home's temperature anytime, anywhere.



Track your energy use to manage costs.



SAVE on power bills by programming the thermostat to adjust automatically when you're not home.

Save even **MORE MONEY** and help **HOLD DOWN** power costs for **ALL** cooperative members, with an exclusive offer from Horry Electric! This includes special pricing and an annual rebate opportunity.

Call us at 843-369-2211 today!



Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

*Visit ecobee.com/savings for details.

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THE PEAK 
Energy Smart Solutions for a Bright Future