### **Co-op**Connection



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Pickens

P.O. Box 277 734 West Main St. Pickens, SC 29671

### Oconee

P.O. Box 329 2328 Sandifer Blvd. Highway 123 Westminster, SC 29693

### Anderson

1212 North Fant St. Anderson, SC 29622

Greenville

3751 Highway 11 Travelers Rest, SC 29690

#### **Mission Statement**

Blue Ridge will be a competitive, quality provider of energy and other services, maintaining its history of integrity and adapting to the challenges of a changing world. While exercising leadership in the community, the organization's focus will be on exceeding customer expectations.

### **Board of Directors**

Kenneth G. Southerlin, *Chairman* J. Mendel Stone, *Vice-Chairman* Joel R. Davis, *Secretary* Joel Spencer Dalton, Jr., *Treasurer* Ben G. Bolt Jimmy Lee Dodgens William G. Elrod Franklin M. Looper, Jr. Len D. Talley



A Touchstone Energy\* Cooperative

# A commitment to service and community

**BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** belongs to a family of utilities that generally score high on member-

satisfaction surveys. Electric co-ops, because they're owned by those they serve, are recognized as the peopledriven segment of the power industry.

At Blue Ridge, that responsibility for serving our member-owners well is always uppermost in our thinking. The cooperative's mission statement, printed in the margin of this page, ends with the commitment of this organization to focus on exceeding our members' expectations.

### Keep the power flowing

That's something worth considering on those oppressively hot summer afternoons or bitterly cold winter mornings, when the cooperative's power grid performs with steady reliability. At those times—and actually at any other point throughout the year—we can be thankful for the 160-plus employees working at Blue Ridge. These individuals possess both the skills and the determination required to keep the power flowing.

Alongside the responsibility for effectively delivering an essential service to its members, the cooperative's mission includes exercising leadership in the community. That leadership role ranges from supporting area schools, to spearheading local economic-development activities, to helping neighboring charities accomplish their benevolent goals through programs like Blue Ridge Fest.

### Jobs, schools, and infrastructure

Your cooperative is concerned about making and keeping our Upstate community strong because jobs, schools, and infrastructure are all vital to your quality of life. We're also intent on attracting and retaining highly capable employees because that has a direct bearing on the level of service you receive.

After more than four decades of personal association with Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, my appreciation for the co-op business model is the strongest it's ever been. With each passing day, it becomes more apparent to me that a cooperative utility is, without question, the best instrument for supplying dependable electric power to the territory we're privileged to serve.

I and my fellow employees have enthusiastically embraced a mission that includes both service excellence and community involvement. Those will always guide our attitudes and actions as Blue Ridge continues to make its way through the 21st Century.

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**Charles E. Dalton** *President and CEO* 



# Blue Ridae News

## Blue Ridge chooses community approach to broaden solar power

**CITING A** "common-sense approach" to solar power, Blue Ridge Co-op is building a community solar farm with plans to break ground on the project this fall. "Community solar is a good fit for electric cooperatives and our members," says CEO Charles Dalton. "This project will produce local, renewable energy for the members who want it." Community or shared solar means multiple people get electricity from a midsize solar farm, offering a convenient option for members who want to buy carbon-free power.

### Solar farm site selected

Blue Ridge has an agreement with the Pickens County School District to locate one site behind Chastain Road Elementary School and the Pickens County Career and Technology Center. The farm will be visible from Hwy. 123. Tim Mays, who has been working with this project, is excited about the learning experience for students. "One important aspect of our agreement with the School District of Pickens County is the opportunity for students to learn about this new technology. Solar energy is gaining in popularity, and this will be in their backyard to see and experience." Another site is being researched in Oconee County. Blue Ridge will have up to 250 kilowatts of community solar installed at these locations.

Once it's up and running, any interested cooperative member will have the option of investing in one or more of the solar panels. The energy generated by these panels will feed directly into the cooperative's distribution system. Community solar has many benefits for Blue Ridge members that have an interest in renewable energy. There is no installation or huge upfront cost, as with rooftop solar. Mays explains, "Some co-op members want the benefits of a solar system, but don't want to bear the expense and maintenance of panels at their home. This is the perfect solution for those folks." The co-op will handle all the details-site planning, construction, operation and maintenance. Members can participate through a monthly "subscription" and receive a bill credit based on how much energy is produced by the solar farm.

### Sign up now

On Sept. 15, the co-op's board of directors approved a pricing schedule for the first 120 kW of solar farm-produced power. The initial investment will be \$50 per solar panel, plus a one-time \$30 administration fee. A monthly charge of \$14 will be applied for each panel, with the member receiving a powerbill credit of 10 cents for every sungenerated kilowatt-hour. Blue Ridge is now ready to sign up subscribers. To reserve a single panel or more, please call Tim Mays at (864) 647-6647.



## **PUBLIC AUCTION**

Saturday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m.

**Preview:** Friday, Oct. 21 9 a.m.–2 p.m.

Location: Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc. Equipment Facility 734 West Main St. Pickens

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