



For All Your Customer Service Needs,  
Call Toll-Free (800) 240-3400

**Automated Outage Reporting**

1-888-BLURIDGE  
www.blueridge.coop

**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**

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A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative

## A first-class standby-generator package

**OLD MAN WINTER** is in control of our weather from now until sometime in March. Consequently, storm emergencies are at the forefront of our minds here at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative. I'm proud to declare the cooperative's 7,000-mile network of distribution power lines to be in excellent condition. Be that as it may, heavy snow and ice are each capable of creating big problems across our system.



Weather events that inflict major destruction can produce power outages that last for days. If the damage is extensive enough, our most-strenuous efforts cannot get the power back on within a time that's satisfactory to either us or our members. While prolonged service interruptions don't suit us one bit, there is an alternative available to our members.

Blue Ridge has an in-house employee team that's devoted to the design, installation, and ongoing testing and maintenance of member-owned standby generators. These folks are experts at what they do. They can come to a member's home and put into place a first-class, turn-key generator installation. Then, should the power fail, the generator would engage immediately and maintain a steady flow of electricity. If someone has already purchased another supplier's generator, but is unhappy with its performance, maintenance, or other issues, we could very well help out with that, too.

The cooperative has generator-installation/maintenance packages that include financing for both members and non-members. However, as a Blue Ridge member, you are eligible for especially attractive terms and discounts. Documentation for the loan application would require only a copy of the member's recent electric bill and a tax receipt or some other proof of land/home ownership. The applicant would also need to pass a credit check.

Upon credit approval, you will have no down payment to purchase a generator and 36-60 months to repay the loan. For added convenience, your payment can be added to your monthly power bill. The entire process will take minimal time with a loan closing scheduled within 3-4 days.

Whenever winter weather visits the Upstate, you can know Blue Ridge will employ every resource to repair the damage and restore service as quickly as humanly possible. As an added safeguard against the ravages of nature, you might consider securing a quality generator as a remedy for those unwelcome electric-service interruptions. I encourage you to stop by or contact any of our local cooperative offices for more details about this program.

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

## Help your cooperative 'Beat the peak'

**BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC** recently started its new Beat the Peak program, a free and voluntary effort to help control energy costs for all cooperative members.

Through Beat the Peak, members of the co-op can sign up to receive alerts asking them to reduce their energy usage during critical periods when wholesale electricity prices spike. These times, known in the industry as "peak demand," are when requirements for electricity are the highest, such as during some hot summer afternoons or cold winter mornings.

As with most commodities, when the demand for electricity rises, so do the costs. When the cooperative purchases large amounts of energy during these peak periods over the course of a year, it puts upward pressure on the electricity rates the co-op and its member-owners pay.

The idea behind Beat the Peak is to shift energy consumption from times when demand is highest. Potentially, this effort can save the cooperative and its member-owners significant money over time by keeping the wholesale power costs low and stable.

Blue Ridge has successfully marketed its 'Power Saver Rewards' for several years to our members.

This program uses a radio-controlled device to cycle water heaters and air conditioners off during periods of high demand. Beat the Peak has the potential to have a bigger impact on controlling demand costs.

When a peak energy-use period is coming, the co-op will issue a Beat the Peak alert to program participants. On the website EnergySmartSC.org, members can select to receive the alerts by text message, email or phone call. Blue Ridge will also

alert members on the co-op's Facebook page.

During a Beat the Peak period, which will typically last only a few hours, members will be encouraged to reduce use of power-intensive activities. These are a few of the actions members

can take:

- ▶ Adjust thermostats by 3 degrees—moving higher during summer afternoons and evenings and lower during mornings in the winter
- ▶ Delay activities that require hot water, such as washing clothes, taking showers, or washing dishes.
- ▶ Postpone using heavy appliances, like clothes dryers and ovens.

"The important thing is that we are not asking our members to altogether stop using certain appliances," said Denise McCormick, manager of Member Services. "We want to get them to consider shifting their use to different hours of the day to help hold down everyone's costs. If we can work together, it's a win-win for everybody. Sign-up is simple. Visit the website EnergySmartSC.org, where you can select to receive Beat the Peak alerts by text message, email or phone call."



### HOW TO BEAT THE PEAK

To participate in the program:

- ▶ Go to the website EnergySmartSC.org
- ▶ Enter your contact information
- ▶ Select the ways you wish to be notified: email, text message or voice message by phone
- ▶ When you receive a Beat the Peak message, conserve energy for a few hours

### HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

## Experience the nation's capital this summer

**YOU COULD BE ONE** of three juniors that will be chosen for an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Students will fly to Washington for the week of June 10-15, 2017.

- ▶ Meet South Carolina's Congress
- ▶ Learn more about electric cooperatives
- ▶ Tour historic sites—some of the sites that will be visited are the U.S. Capitol, Smithsonian, Arlington National Cemetery, Jefferson Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Mount Vernon, The Pentagon, World War II Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and a riverboat cruise down the Potomac. Students will also enjoy some of the best restaurants and entertainment D.C. has to offer!
- ▶ Make new friends

Visit [blueridge.coop](http://blueridge.coop) for applications and more information. Applications must be postmarked no later than February 6.

