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MISSION STATEMENT
 Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative will operate as a competitive provider of energy services and a partner with local communities, with a focus on safety, service and integrity.

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This organization is an equal-opportunity provider.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

EV charging station update



LAST MONTH, the pages of this magazine featured a short item about the electric vehicle charging station Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative recently opened on Interstate 85. This EV oasis is situated in the Fair Play community on Exit 4, near the border between

Anderson and Oconee counties. In addition to a cooperative-owned ChargePoint Express 250 fast charger, a total of 12 Tesla superchargers are now in operation on the premises.

A great deal of before-the-fact analysis by our Blue Ridge Energy Services Department team went into this undertaking. Factors that were under consideration included the following:

- ▶ I-85 is a heavily traveled superhighway.
- ▶ Along the stretch of road between Atlanta and Charlotte, there was little in the way of fast-charging facilities to service EV's.
- ▶ The automobile industry in recent years has demonstrated a growing shift toward embracing electric-powered cars.

Although this initiative represented a new kind of endeavor for Blue Ridge, our energy services folks saw a potential market for these charging stations. Consequently, we launched with the expectation that our efforts would likely bear fruit. In the weeks that immediately followed, we were intent upon learning what kind of reception these electric chargers might receive from the motor-ing public.

Impressive results

The results were quite impressive. In that first billing cycle, the electric meter at the charging location registered a substantial level of kilowatt-hour consumption. Other data collected by the chargers indicated

that autos driven from Chicago, Miami and other distant locales were among those stopping in for a “fill-up.”

Although the cooperative is still in the early stages of evaluating this project, it seems probable that EV's are going to assume a growing portion of the automobile market. Already, some of the world's major auto manufacturers have announced they will soon direct a majority of their resources toward producing total-electric models.

Certain advantages

Proponents of these cars point to certain advantages, such as their lower-maintenance status; that is, they possess fewer moving parts than their gasoline-powered counterparts. It's also true, generally speaking, that electricity has proven to be cheaper than motor fuel as a means of powering a vehicle.

At Blue Ridge, we intend to be ready to confront and comply with whatever demands electric autos could place on our power-distribution system. Fortunately, our business model equips us with the flexibility to adjust quickly to such challenges.

Finally, I would note that this is the November-December issue of *South Carolina Living*. Accordingly, my next report to you will have to wait until the magazine's January edition. That upcoming interval compels me to take notice now of the holiday season that's on the near horizon. With that pleasing reality in view, I want to end this article by wishing you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. My fellow employees and I will welcome the opportunity to continue to be of service to you in 2022.

JIM LOVINGGOOD
 President and CEO

Together we're cutting emissions

BLUE RIDGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is a proud partner with other South Carolina electric cooperatives in the overall decline in the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) released to generate the electricity used to power 1.5 million members throughout the state.

Between 2005 and 2020, South Carolina cooperatives' CO₂ emissions dropped by 41%, far surpassing the national 17% reduction target used by the United States.

The report from Central Electric Power Cooperative—the state's wholesale power buyer for Blue Ridge Electric and the other 19 independent, member-owned cooperatives—also projects that by 2027, emissions will fall by 47% from 2005 levels.

We are achieving this result by:

- ▶ Adopting new technologies that do not rely on burning fossil fuels to produce electricity.
- ▶ Urging their power suppliers to close older, coal-burning power plants.
- ▶ Making agreements with power

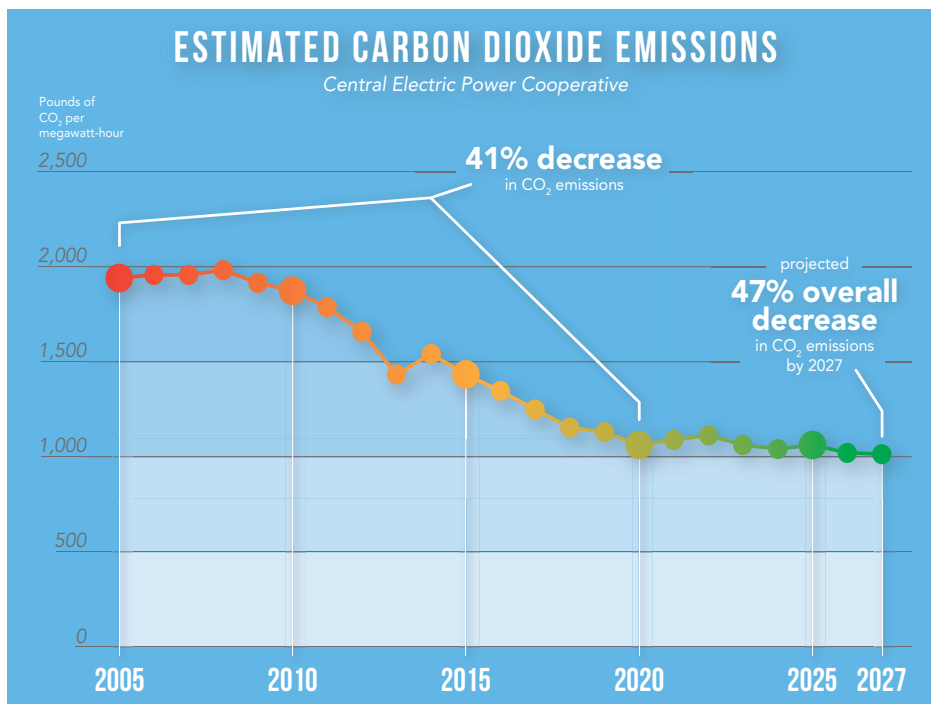
suppliers whose generating portfolios have lower emissions.

Burning fossil fuels, such as coal, to make electricity releases CO₂ and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Reducing these emissions plays a key role in protecting our environment.

At Blue Ridge Electric, these new technologies and initiatives are balanced with the priority to keep rates low for our 69,000 members.

"These investments are important for our future and are strategically planned to optimize savings for our members," says Denise McCormick, vice president of member services and marketing.

We encourage our members to actively take part in the reduction of CO₂ in our atmosphere by participating in programs like Beat the Peak and BREC's Community Solar Program. Being conscious of how and when you consume electricity helps reduce the amount of greenhouse gases released in the air, keep rates low at your cooperative and protect our environment.



Tis the Season!

May the lights of this season fill you with warmth and a joyous spirit!

ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Tues., November 23 at 5:15 pm

Join us as Pickens Mayor Fletcher Perry lights the tree on the lawn at the co-op office in Pickens. This year's event will include a devotional and music. Following the lighting of the tree, light refreshments will be served. We hope you'll choose to be a part of this outdoor holiday tradition that signals the start of the Christmas season.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year from all of us at Blue Ridge Co-op.

THANKSGIVING

Closed Thursday, Nov. 25 & Friday, Nov. 26

CHRISTMAS

Closed Friday, Dec. 24 & Monday, Dec. 27

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Closed Friday, December 31

Although our offices will be closed for the holidays to allow our employees to spend this time with their families, dispatchers will be taking emergency calls and crews will be on standby. You may also access much of your account information or report an outage by using the BREC app that can be downloaded for your device.