

Current **WORD**

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A PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBER/OWNERS OF HORRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling 811 before each job.



Homeowners often make risky assumptions

about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job

requires a call – even small projects

like planting trees and shrubs. The depth

of utility lines varies and there may be

multiple utility lines in a common area. Digging without

calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood,

harm you and those around you and potentially result

in fines and repair costs. Calling 811 before every

digging job gets your underground utility lines marked

for free and helps prevent undesired consequences.

Know what's below.

Call before you dig.

What is 811? It is the national number designated by the Federal Communications Commission to help protect do-it-yourselfers, landscapers and contractors from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects – large and small.

Why call 811? South Carolina Law requires a 72-hour notice (three working days) before you excavate. Why? In order to reduce and/or prevent dig-ins. A dig-in can cause death or injury, damage to public or private property and loss or interruption of services.

Who will I get at 811? In the area served by Horry Electric Cooperative, you'll be connected with PUPS (The Palmetto Utility Protection Service, Inc.). PUPS is a corporation formed and funded by participating utility companies hoping to improve community and job safety, and to promote improved service through damage reduction to utilities.

What happens when I call PUPS?

The computerized notification center will establish a computer link between those who dig underground and those who operate underground facilities. The service is FREE and one call does it all, as long as all of the utilities involved are members of PUPS.

When your call is answered, be prepared to provide the following information:

- Telephone number
- Name of caller
- County and city
- Address or job location
- Start date and time
- Type of work
- Contractor
- Contractor address

The alternate phone number for PUPS is 1-888-721-7877. You can also access PUPS via their website at www.sc1pups.org or through a link at horryelectric.com



Time is Running Out to claim energy efficiency tax credits

Only four months remain to take advantage of energy efficiency tax credits authorized under the federal stimulus bill.

Measures that qualify include:

replacing windows, doors, or roofs with materials that reduce your home's heat loss or gain;
adding insulation;
replacing certain air conditioners;
and installing air-source heat pumps, hot-water boilers, and biomass stoves.

- **You can recover 30 percent up to \$1,500**—of costs associated with buying and installing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and biomass stoves. (*Installation costs are not covered for windows, doors, roofing, and insulation.*)

-  **ENERGY STAR**® provides guidelines on what qualifies for the tax credit at www.energystar.gov/taxcredits.

- **The government also offers a renewable energy tax credit** that expires Dec. 31, 2016 and covers 30 percent of the cost of materials and installation for solar panels, solar water heaters, and geothermal heat pumps.

Be sure to keep your receipts and your Manufacturer's Certification Statement.

"We want to make sure our members know about these tax credits and can take advantage of them before they expire on December 31, 2010. This is an incredible opportunity for folks to invest in residential energy efficiency and see energy bill savings right away."

James P. "Pat" Howle
Executive Vice President and CEO
of Horry Electric.

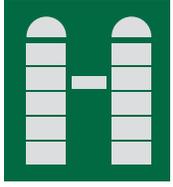
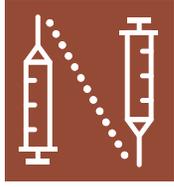
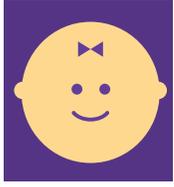
Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Conway: 843-369-2211 | Myrtle Beach: 843-650-7530
www.horryelectric.com

For a list of available state energy efficiency assistance visit www.dsireusa.org.

OCTOBER
IS
CO-OP
MONTH



October is National Cooperative Month. To celebrate, we're taking a look at the important role co-ops play in our community.

Cooperatives are owned by their members – the people who receive services from them – and are guided by seven principles:

- 1. Voluntary And Open Membership:** Membership in a cooperative is available to all who can reasonably use its services, regardless of race, religion, sex, or economic circumstances.
- 2. Democratic Member Control:** Co-ops are democratically controlled, with each member having one vote. As a result, control remains in the hands of all customers. Directors are elected from the membership.
- 3. Members' Economic Participation:** Cooperatives provide services "at cost" and remain not-for-profit regardless of the value of benefits delivered. Any money left over after all expenses are paid—margins—belongs to the members. Each member's share in the margin is determined by the amount of his or her use of the co-op's services.
- 4. Autonomy And Independence:** Cooperatives are self-sustaining, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If cooperatives enter into agreements with others or raise money from outside sources, they do so on terms that maintain democratic control as well as their unique identity.
- 5. Education, Training, and Information:** Keeping members, directors, managers, and employees up to date on issues so they can effectively govern the co-op. Communication, particularly with young members and opinion leaders, helps generate necessary public support for cooperatives.
- 6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Mutual support helps cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.
- 7. Concern For Community:** Cooperatives develop communities with programs supported by the membership.

To learn about electric cooperatives, visit www.nreca.coop.

The Right Tree in the Right Place

Trees can help cool your home and neighborhood, break cold winds to lower your heating costs, and provide food for wildlife. Properly placed trees can lower line clearance costs for utility companies, reduce tree mortality, and result in healthier community forests.

Tall trees surrounding your home, such as maple, oak, pine and spruce, provide summer shade to lower cooling costs and keep out cold winter winds. **Medium trees**, 40 feet or less in mature height, might include Washington hawthorne and Golden raintree.

Smaller trees suitable for planting beneath utility lines might include Redbud, Dogwood, and Crabapple. When planting near utility lines, consider a 25-foot maximum mature height and 20-foot spread.

To learn more about which trees might work best in your yard, visit www.arborday.org.

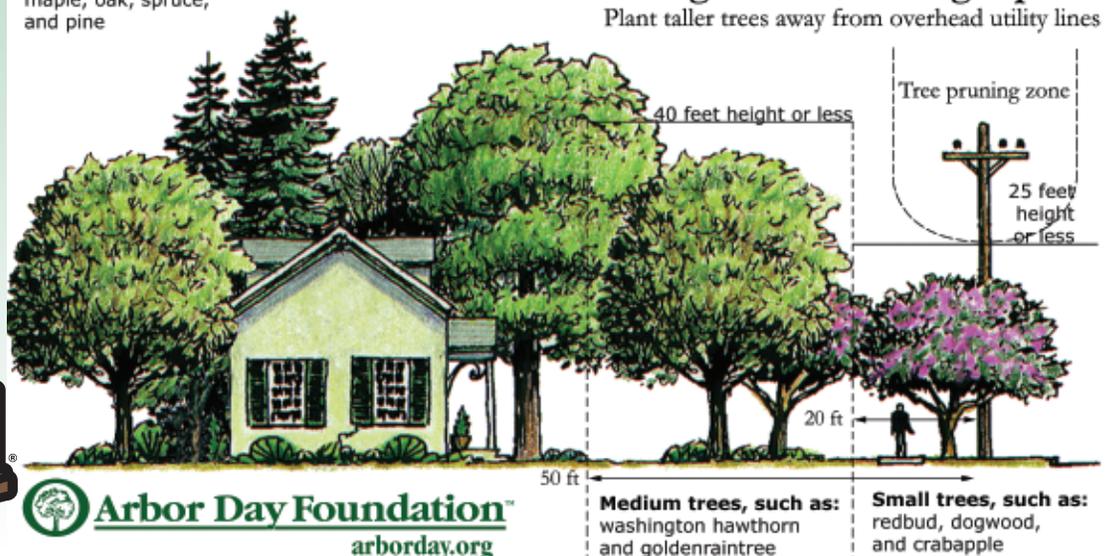
Remember,
before you
dig call



Tall trees, such as:
maple, oak, spruce,
and pine

Plant the right tree in the right place

Plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



Medium trees, such as:
washington hawthorn
and goldenrain tree

Small trees, such as:
redbud, dogwood,
and crabapple

 **Arbor Day Foundation**
arborday.org

The Arbor Day Foundation encourages thoughtful practices that help preserve community trees while also benefiting electric co-op consumers.