

## Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

[www.horryelectric.com](http://www.horryelectric.com)

### Main Office

P.O. Box 119  
Conway, SC 29528-0119  
369-2211



(to report power outages only)

369-2212

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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

## Are you secure?

### October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month

**NO, WE HAVEN'T** forgotten National Co-op Month. We're still celebrating it. I know I usually call attention to it in my October column, but this year I felt the need to focus on National Cybersecurity Awareness Month. I hope you will heed the warnings, follow the advice and be more aware so you're not a victim.



Sony, Target, Home Depot, Yahoo and even the U.S. Office of Personnel Management have all been attacked by cybercriminals. Let's face it: In today's world, the cybersecurity threats facing our nation can seem overwhelming and downright scary. Cybersecurity, specifically the protection and security of consumer-members' assets and the nation's complex, interconnected network of power plants, transmission lines and distribution facilities, is a top priority for electric cooperatives and other segments of the electric power industry.

This October, Horry Electric Cooperative is participating in National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM). Since its inception under leadership from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National Cyber Security Alliance, NCSAM has grown exponentially, reaching consumers, small and medium-sized businesses, corporations, educational institutions and young people across the nation.

By raising awareness and understanding of basic cybersecurity practices, we can all work together to combat cyberthreats.

Horry Electric Cooperative invites you to join us in recognizing NCSAM. Throughout the month, we'll be offering tips via social media and

through our Horry Electric blog. The latest posts are always on the front page of our web site, [HorryElectric.com](http://HorryElectric.com). When we post something, please read it and please share it. That's all part of raising awareness.

You have a role to play in ensuring the security of your personal and professional data. Use the tips below to safeguard your computer:

- ▶ Keep all software on internet-connected devices—including PCs, tablets and smartphones—up to date to reduce risk of infection from malware.
- ▶ Create long passwords that only you will remember, and change them every six months. Remember, a strong password is at least 12 characters long.
- ▶ Avoid the use of thumb drives and other portable memory devices.
- ▶ Don't click on web links or attached files in emails when you're not certain of the sender.
- ▶ Keep pace with new ways to stay safe online. Check trusted websites for the latest information. Share security tips with friends, family and colleagues, and encourage them to be web wise.

We hope you will join us in raising cybersecurity awareness. Use and follow #cyberaware on social media to show and share your support. To learn more about NCSAM, visit [staysafeonline.org](http://staysafeonline.org).

**James P. "Pat" Howle**  
*Executive Vice President and CEO*

## Helping aid recipients rewarding for Wolpert's owner

**THEY COME** in need but leave relieved, at least a little, by the charity of Horry Electric members who support Operation Round Up and community-minded merchants like Gene Mills.

The owner of Wolpert's Department Store, 4111 Main St, Loris, has assisted dozens of Operation Round Up aid recipients over the years. Wolpert's is one of several local businesses in which people who receive aid through the



"Everybody goes through those peaks and valleys," says Gene Mills, owner of Wolpert's in Loris. "Some people, they just need a break to get over."

program can shop with vouchers issued by the program's trust board.

As Mills says, "They're having it hard. They might have lost their job or gotten laid off, or their house has burned."

Needs seem to rise as the temperatures fall, he notes, and winter takes a bite out of family budgets.

"There's a lot of hurt going on," he says. "Everybody goes through those peaks and valleys. Some people, they just need a break to get over."

Operation Round Up aid recipients are grateful, Mills notes. "They'll say, 'If it wasn't for this, I wouldn't be able to get anything.'"

Wolpert's goes above and beyond to help, too. "We give them an extra

15 percent off," Mills says, on anything except sale items. "They get a little bit more for their dollar." The store also participates in Horry Electric's Co-op

Connection discount card program, offering 15 percent off purchases of regular-priced clothing and shoes for HEC members who present their Co-op Connections card.

Wolpert's, a Loris landmark, opened around 1927, he says. Mills took over the business in 1991. He now has seven full-time employees, including his grandson, Cameron.

### Almost 100 applications approved for assistance so far this year

The Horry Electric Trust, a volunteer board that administers the co-op's Operation Round Up program, has approved 99 aid applications as of the end of July. About 20 percent of the co-op's membership supports Operation Round Up. Participation is simple and convenient: Co-op members' bills are rounded to the next highest dollar each month. The average member contributes about \$6 a year. Contributions are tax-deductible. All new co-op members are automatically included in Operation Round Up when they sign up for service. If members do not wish to participate, they can simply contact the co-op to opt out. If you have questions about Operation Round Up, or previously opted out and now wish to contribute again, contact Horry Electric at (843) 369-2211.



### Horry Extra Vampire loads?

Are vampires lurking in your home, sucking up energy? Find out on page 20B. We have a serious story for grownups and a fun game for kids in this month's Horry Extra section.



## GET THE MESSAGE!

Sign up today and help



We'll send you a message when we expect heavy electricity use. You can save energy—and help us all save money—if we reduce peak power use.

On "peak" days, we'll contact you via your choice:



**LET'S SAVE ENERGY—TOGETHER.**



Watch our video to learn more.

[EnergySmartSC.org](http://EnergySmartSC.org)



Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives  
The power of human connections®

#WHOPOWERSYOU

# Your community. Your inspiration.

➔ [WhoPowersYou.com/Enter](http://WhoPowersYou.com/Enter)

Nominate someone today for  
the **#WhoPowersYou** contest

This is your chance to honor someone in your community and celebrate the power of human connections. Visit [whopowersyou.com/enter](http://whopowersyou.com/enter) between 10/2/17 and 11/4/17 and submit a photo of your nominee. Then tell us why that person inspires you and how they make a difference in your co-op community—and they could win a cash prize!

## CONTEST PRIZES

GRAND PRIZE **\$5,000**

SECOND PLACE **\$2,000**

THIRD PLACE **\$1,500**

HONORABLE MENTION **\$500**

## Together, let's celebrate the power of human connections

As the national network of more than 740 co-ops, Touchstone Energy Cooperatives value the people who elevate and energize our communities. That's why we are launching a contest to honor inspirational community members across the country.

Winners will be selected by a panel of judges based on the impact they have on the community. All entries must be submitted by November 4, 2017. Winners will be announced January 2018. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Visit [whopowersyou.com](http://whopowersyou.com) for full contest rules.

## The dreaded vampire loads

BY TOM TATE

PERHAPS YOU ARE familiar with an undesirable aspect of the electronic and IOT (Internet of Things) revolution: vampire loads. Vampire loads come from devices that use electricity even when they appear to be off. The primary culprits are chargers, set-top television boxes, instant-on televisions and gaming systems. There are others, but these four represent the major offenders.

Let's look at how these vampire loads occur and why they are approaching 10 percent of average household electric use according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Chargers take the 120 VAC (volts alternating current) power at the outlet and reduce it down to the voltage required by the connected

device, usually 5 to 12 VDC (volts direct current). Obviously, when your device is charging, the charger is using electricity, but you might be surprised to learn that chargers are still using small amounts of energy even when they're not connected to a device.

Television set-top boxes also consume energy when they appear to be inactive. Anytime the set-top box's lights are on, it is using power. Like chargers, they use more when the television is on, but they are always working - even when the TV is off. This is especially true for those devices with a DVR function that records your favorite TV shows.

The instant-on television is another culprit. The intention of the "instant-on" feature is instant gratification for the viewer, meaning no waiting for the TV to turn on and warm up.

Unfortunately, for that convenience, the TV must be on at nearly full power. So, in this mode, it can be a real energy drain.

The typical gaming console can use as much energy as a regular refrigerator even when it's not being used. Make sure to check the console settings and disable automatic updates, which is where the energy drain comes from. Games on the console are frequently updated, which requires a lot of electricity.

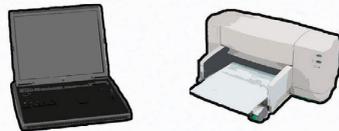
So, how does the average family combat these dreaded vampire loads? Garlic garlands? Silver bullets?

### Spotting Vampire Electronics

Many devices constantly draw power while plugged in, which can quickly add up on monthly electric bills. Keep an eye out for the following clues as to what should be unplugged when not in use:

#### External power supplies

Computers, printers



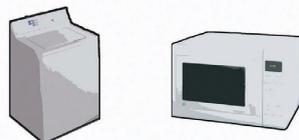
#### Remote controls

Window AC units, TVs, DVD players



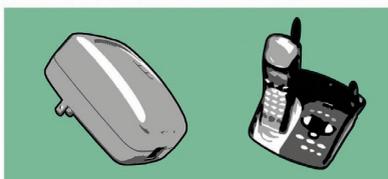
#### Digital displays

Washing machines, microwaves, VCRs



#### Rechargeable batteries

Battery chargers, cordless telephones, power tools



Source: U.S. Department of Energy



WALTER ALIREAD

Get a load of vampire-in-training Chase Martin, 7. He's the son of Horry Electric members Jenny and William Martin and brother of Charlie and Emily.

Fortunately, none of the remedies of fable are necessary. You just need to change how you handle these energy-sucking electronics. Here are a few suggestions.

- ▶ Unplug chargers when not in use.
- ▶ Invest in smart power strips. These look like normal power strips but have a twist; one of the outlets is the "master" that receives power all the time. The others are off. When the device connected to the master outlet turns on, the rest of the outlets receive power, too. Ingenious and perfect for entertainment set ups. Have the television in the master outlet and when you turn it on, the set-top box, speakers,



Gremlin? No, just an empty USB charger, sucking up energy!

streaming devices, etc. will turn on, too. They are also ideal for PCs and their peripherals.

- ▶ Turn off the instant-on function on your TV. Turn off set-top boxes that do not contain the DVR functionality or use a smart power strip.
- ▶ Disable automatic updates in gaming consoles and turn the console completely off when you finish using it.
- ▶ When replacing any device or appliance, look for an EnergyStar

rated product.

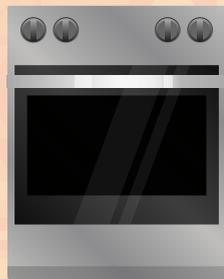
Vampire loads are a real problem that will only continue to grow as the digital age advances. But, you can fight the vampires with vigilance and application of the recommendations above. Visit [HorryElectric.com](http://HorryElectric.com) for additional suggestions and energy-saving advice.

Tom Tate writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

## ENERGY VAMPIRES ARE LURKING IN YOUR HOME



Save energy in your home by locating energy vampires! These are the electronics and appliances that consume energy even when they are not being used. **Circle the energy vampires below, and use the key to check your answers.**



OVEN



CELL PHONE CHARGER



CABLE/SET TOP BOX



LAPTOP CHARGER



DISHWASHER



LAMP



Answer Key: Cell phone charger, Laptop charger, Cable box

## October is Co-op Month!



## ELECTRIC CO-OPS COMMIT CO-OP MONTH 2017



#COOPMONTH

# Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

## You've never had so many convenient ways to pay your co-op bill!

**HORRY ELECTRIC** offers a variety of convenient and easy payment options.



**Bank Draft:** The easiest, most convenient and least expensive way to do business with HEC is Bank Draft. You will receive a bill each month stating your charges, but instead of having to write a check, your payment is automatically drafted from your account!

**By mail:** Mail your check or money order, along with your payment stub, to: Horry Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 119, Conway, SC 29528-0119.

**In person:** Pay with cash, personal check, money order or cashier's check at our Conway office, 2774 Cultra Road, or our Socastee office, 5889 Highway

707, during business hours, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday.

**By phone:** Dial (843) 369-2211 and listen carefully to the menu options to access your account or to pay by credit card. Transactions are processed through Southeastern Data Cooperative (SEDC). Transaction fees apply.

**MyEnergy Online:** You'll need your account number and password to log into the system to view your account and make a payment online. All transactions are processed through SEDC.

# MyEnergy @online

Transaction fees apply. With MyEnergy Online, you can also use our Mobile Apps and Mobile Web App. Get the details at [HorryElectric.com](http://HorryElectric.com).

Payments made online through financial institutions are also accepted; however, be aware that these payments do not post immediately.

## Don't forget these conveniently located HEC pay stations at banks in Horry County

### Anderson Brothers Bank

- ▶ 2651 Church St., Conway
- ▶ 500 Main St., Conway
- ▶ 71 Cloverleaf Drive, Longs
- ▶ 302 Hwy. 701 North, Loris
- ▶ 4230 E. Main St., Loris
- ▶ 1799 Hwy. 17 N, North Myrtle Beach
- ▶ 617 8th Ave., Aynor
- ▶ 4705 Oleander Dr., Myrtle Beach

**Hours:** 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Thursday, 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Friday.

### Conway National Bank

- ▶ 2605 Highway 501 E., Aynor
- ▶ 1360 Highway 501, Conway (Red Hill)
- ▶ 2380 Hwy. 9 E. in Longs (intersection of Hwys. 9 and 57/Little River)
- ▶ 110 Highway 17 N., North Myrtle Beach
- ▶ 2810 Church St., West, Conway
- ▶ 9726 Hwy. 17 N., Myrtle Beach (Northside)
- ▶ 1353 21st Avenue N., Myrtle Beach

- ▶ 10608 Ocean Hwy., Pawleys Island
- ▶ 4345 Hwy. 17 Bypass, Murrells Inlet
- ▶ 425 Hwy. 17 & 5th Ave. North, Surfside Beach
- ▶ Highway 17 Bypass S./3591 Northgate Dr., Myrtle Beach (Socastee)
- ▶ 2601 Main St., North, Conway
- ▶ 1411 Fourth Ave., Conway (Conway Banking Office)
- ▶ 309 Main St., Conway (downtown)

**Hours:** 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Thursday, 8:30 a.m.–6 p.m. Friday.

### United Community Bank, d.b.a. Horry County State Bank

- ▶ 5009 Broad St., Loris
- ▶ 3187 Hwy. 9 East, Little River
- ▶ 5264 Hwy. 9, Green Sea
- ▶ 1300 Second Ave., Conway

**Hours:** 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday; drive-through service available 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday.

When using a pay station, you must present your payment stub along with your payment. You will be required to pay at least the balance due. No partial payments will be accepted or processed.



You can pay your HEC bill at four branches of United Community Bank, d.b.a. Horry County State Bank. At the Loris location, Jeanie Gore, an Horry Electric member herself, will be glad to assist you.