

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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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Penelope D. Hinson
penelope.hinson@horryelectric.com

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

The benefits of community solar

HAVE YOU EVER walked out of your house on a sunny day and thought, "I wish I could harness the sun's energy to power my home"?



Okay. Maybe you haven't. But I'm sure you have noticed solar panels on top of homes in your community, and maybe you have even seen a solar farm here or there. If you have considered solar as a part of your home's energy mix—but have been dissuaded by high costs and maintenance requirements—we at Horry Electric are happy to tell you that solar energy is more accessible than you might think!

To make solar energy more accessible for our members, we recently completed construction of a 240-kilowatt (kW) solar farm at our Conway office. Community or "shared" solar means multiple people get electricity from a midsized solar array, offering a convenient option for consumers who want a part of their monthly power to come from the carbon-free resource.

Like most traditional community solar arrangements, Horry Electric Cooperative is responsible for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the solar plant. We are selling subscriptions in one-kilowatt (kW) blocks of the solar farm's generating capacity on a first-come, first-served basis. A portion of the subscription is paid upfront, and the remainder is paid in a monthly subscription fee. Each subscriber will receive a production credit on their bill each month for the kilowatt-hours the block produces.

Community solar programs often cost less than installing a solar system at your home or business. Participating in community solar keeps you from having to worry about

Horry Extra Ready to shine

Our 240-kilowatt Community Solar farm was nearing completion when this photo was taken Jan. 27. Turn to page 20B in this month's Horry Extra section to learn more about Community Solar. We've even included a contract on page 20D, in case you're ready to let Community Solar shine on you!



zoning restrictions or appealing to your homeowners' association. It also eliminates maintenance costs and concerns that can be a hassle for those who own and maintain their own residential solar system.

With Community Solar, Horry Electric takes care of installation, maintenance and insurance fees, making it easy for members to participate.

Community Solar is a terrific option for many of our members. It's affordable. It's safe. And we'll make sure it's reliable. To learn more about Community Solar, see this month's Horry Extra section, in the middle of the magazine.

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



Teachers, crank up your creativity!

WHAT WILL they think of next, those bright Horry County educators?

Last fall, local K-12 teachers earned Bright Ideas grants for some great projects with titles like “Robots and Rubik’s Cubes,” “Gator Garden” and “S.T.E.M. TO S.T.E.A.M., a 21st Century Learning Project.”

HEC launched Bright Ideas in 2007 and has funded dozens of creative classroom projects since then. Well, now it’s time to do it again, teachers! Horry Electric is now accepting applications through June 1.

Bright Ideas grants help fund projects outside normal public school funding parameters and can be made available to all disciplines in grades K-12 in Horry County. A school may submit an application, and teachers are limited to one application per year.

Applications are available at HorryElectric.com. For details, contact Toni.Gore@HorryElectric.com.

Unclaimed capital credits posted online

HORRY ELECTRIC MAELS capital credit checks to members who have received service in past years. Many of these checks are returned by the postal service. We hold them for those listed in a searchable database at our website, located at horryelectric.com/capitalCredits.aspx.

You can find the database by using the search engine on the page or by selecting Capital Credits from the My Co-op tab on the home page. In addition to the online database, Horry Electric publishes the unclaimed capital credit list in *The Horry Independent* on an annual basis.

In order to claim funds, please contact Horry Electric Cooperative’s main office in Conway between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays at (843) 369-2211. Please reference your call as concerning unclaimed capital credits.

Almost \$95,000 in local assistance granted

OPERATION ROUND UP assisted 223 local individuals in need with food, shelter, clothing and medicines last year. Grants for 2016 totaled \$94,976.05, up from \$43,035.36 in 2015.

That’s according to a recent year-end review by the Horry Electric Trust, a volunteer board that administers member donations to the co-op’s charitable giving program. As it did in 2015, the trust received and reviewed about 20 aid applications a month in 2016.

Member participation in Operation



Round Up continues to increase alongside co-op growth. Last year, owners of

about 3,400 new accounts allowed the co-op to round up their bills to the next dollar to help neighbors in need. That’s roughly 21 percent of the co-op’s accounts, which currently number about 73,879. The same percentage was added in 2014-15, when HEC had approximately 71,400 accounts.

All funds donated through Operation Round Up stay in Horry County. The program reflects HEC’s adherence to the Cooperative Principle of Commitment to Community. Eight trust members



He sees how donations help

Dickie Gore is the store manager at KJ’s Market in Aynor, one of several IGA stores where people who receive vouchers for Operation Round Up aid can redeem them for food. “We’re glad to participate,” says Gore. KJ’s Market has served aid recipients for more than 10 years, but the nice new location offers more choices for food staples to get them through rough patches. Gore recalls a local couple who worked for a company that closed down without warning employees: “They were living month to month and had children in school,” he says, so Operation Round Up’s assistance was right on time. “They’re doing well now.” Store employees feel good about helping Operation Round Up aid recipients. “We’ve helped victims of house fires and elderly people on fixed incomes facing unexpected expenses,” says Gore, an HEC member who lets the co-op round up his own bill.

from around the county serve on the board. Before each meeting, they contact aid applicants from their areas to determine needs and help fellow board members determine eligibility.

Participation in Operation Round Up 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. New co-op members are automatically included in Operation Round Up when they sign up for service. If a member does not wish to participate, he/she can contact the co-op to opt out.

Planting? Digging?

For safety's sake, do the right thing this spring

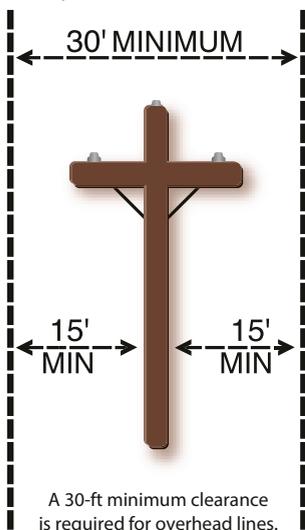
SAFETY AND RELIABILITY are the primary reasons Horry Electric Cooperative takes a proactive approach to right-of-way maintenance. Key point here: Whether it is located overhead, underground or attached to your home or business, our electrical equipment needs its space to do its job.

The requirements for overhead and underground service are different. Learn how at HorryElectric.com. Click on Storm Central, then Safety and Reliability, where you'll find details about each. But here it is, in a nutshell:

Overhead: Respect the 'No Tree Zone'

Horry Electric's tree-trimming program helps reduce the potential for outages. However, keeping up with tree growth in Horry County is a challenge. We need your help. If you're considering planting trees near our overhead equipment this spring, please choose the right tree for the right place.

The graphic at right offers guidance. Our website also includes a link to a good resource, the South Carolina Urban Tree Species Guide. Remember: We reserve the right to trim trees within the 30-foot right of way near our overhead lines. And if you see trees growing into power lines that may be dangerous, let us know immediately.



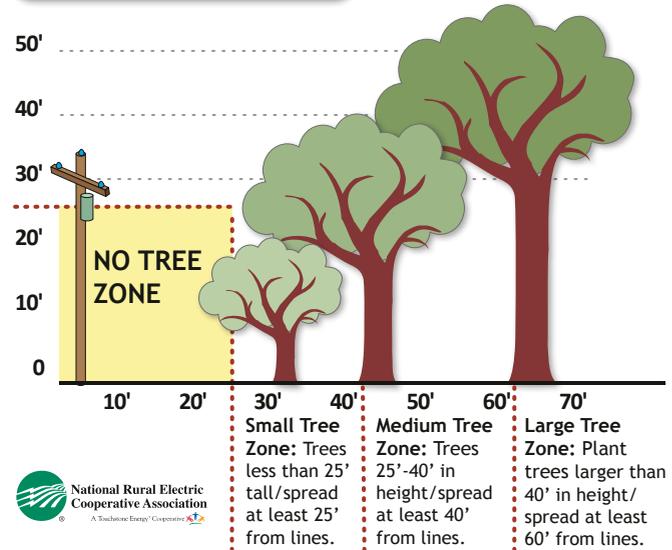
A 30-ft minimum clearance is required for overhead lines.



The oak at left, on Hwy. 501, will have to be trimmed to ensure safety and reliability. Unfortunately, the cedars below, directly under a co-op line near Conway, were also planted in the "No Tree Zone," shown in the graphic below.



Tree Planting Guide



Underground: Keep your distance

Call before you dig! If you're planning a home-improvement job, planting a tree or installing a fence or deck, call 811 first! Use this toll-free hotline to have underground utility lines on your property located, free of charge.



And, while some may disagree, we actually think our underground transformer boxes are beautiful. However you see those "green boxes," they are best viewed from a safe distance. If you have one on your property, please Keep Your Distance! as our downloadable online brochure underscores.

Basically, it says, keep the areas in front of and behind the transformer clear for four feet and the area in front clear to 10 feet. The Underground Service page at the website also offers frequently asked questions about landscaping around transformers. ☺

Right-of-way Map

Zoom in on where our contract crews are working



To help keep your service reliable, contract right-of-way maintenance crews work year-round in HEC's service area. They move, on rotating basis, to areas that most need attention. Where are they now? Zoom in on the action by accessing the Right-of-Way Map at HorryElectric.com. It's under Quick Links.



YOU CAN NOW GO SOLAR WITHOUT INSTALLING PANELS ON YOUR PROPERTY

Community Solar lets you share in the benefits of solar power, even if you can't, or prefer not to, install solar panels on your property.



HOW IT WORKS



Decide how many blocks of solar power are right for you. If you'd like more Community Solar later and it is available, you can select additional blocks.



Complete the subscription agreement. Then pay the non-refundable upfront charge of \$100 per block subscribed. You have the option of subscribing from one to five blocks at the monthly price of \$25 per block.



Once you're a Community Solar participant, you will be notified when the solar farm is up and running.



Start receiving solar-energy credits on your monthly electric bill. Each month, you will receive credit for a portion of the production from the Community Solar farm. Your portion is based on how many solar blocks you have selected.

PRICING

UPFRONT CHARGE: \$100 per block

MONTHLY CHARGE: \$25 per block

MONTHLY CREDIT: Average of 150 kWh

HOW MUCH DO I NEED?

The average residential member uses approximately 1,200 kWh per month.

# of blocks	Approximate kilowatt-hours	Percent of an average home's monthly use
1 block	= 150 kWh	= 12.5%
2 blocks	= 300 kWh	= 25%
3 blocks	= 450 kWh	= 37.5%
4 blocks	= 600 kWh	= 50%
5 blocks	= 750 kWh	= 62.5%

Please note: these figures are only averages; solar energy production will fluctuate month to month based on weather and time of year.

REASONS TO GO COMMUNITY SOLAR

- It's hassle-free. No holes in your roof. No system to set up and maintain.
- The Co-op assumes all liabilities and maintenance of the solar system.
- No burdensome homeowner association restrictions.
- Subscriptions are transferable.
- Community Solar creates clean energy that's environmentally friendly.



WHAT IS COMMUNITY SOLAR?

Solar communities are groups of solar panels installed at one location. They offer you a solar-energy option. This means you get a kWh credit on your bill for the solar energy generated without needing to have equipment attached to your home.

HOW DOES COMMUNITY SOLAR WORK?

You subscribe to the output from the co-op's Community Solar site. Choose the number of blocks you would like, up to five. You can add more blocks at any time, as long as they are available.

Once energy-production begins, each month you will receive a kWh credit for a portion of the production from the Community Solar farm, based on the number of blocks you have chosen.

You pay a portion of the cost per block upfront, and the remainder of the cost is paid in a monthly charge. The output of those blocks is credited back to you on a kWh basis. You pay a one-time fee to cover administrative costs.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any HEC regular residential service may participate in the Community Solar program on a first-come, first-served basis. Advanced Pay services are ineligible at this time.

AM I BUYING A PORTION OF THE COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM OR JUST THE ENERGY FROM IT?

You are subscribing to the energy produced by the solar farm in blocks of kWh.

ARE THERE PARTICIPATION TERM LIMITS?

The overall program term is 25 years. There is no minimum term, but a 30-day notice is required for cancellation.

IS THERE A LIMIT TO HOW MANY BLOCKS I CAN CHOOSE?

The minimum subscription is one block. The maximum is five blocks.

WHAT IS THE AVERAGE PRODUCTION PER YEAR?

HEC's first Community Solar array will produce approximately 250 kWh per month, which is roughly equivalent to the energy used by 31 average homes in HEC's service area. However, it is important to note that solar production will vary from month to month based on weather and time of year. For the average home, one block will cover approximately 12.5 percent of the home's energy use.

HOW DOES THE COST OF COMMUNITY SOLAR COMPARE TO INSTALLING A SOLAR POWER SYSTEM ON MY HOUSE?

While the cost of installing solar panels on your home varies greatly from house to house, the pricing for our Community Solar program is in line with the average cost of putting solar panels on the home — without having equipment installed on your property.

IF MY SOLAR SUBSCRIPTION PRODUCES MORE ENERGY THAN I USE, DOES THE CO-OP BUY IT BACK?

If your subscription produces more energy than your home consumes in one month, the extra solar energy goes into a "bank" on your account that will be used in the next month or months. Any excess production credit will be rolled over to the following month and be reset to zero annually each June 1.

HOW DO SOLAR TAX CREDITS WORK?

Applicable tax credits are figured into the Community Solar program pricing.

WHAT IF THERE IS STORM DAMAGE TO THE COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM?

If the Community Solar arrays are damaged during a storm, you will receive a proportionate share of the energy produced by any non-damaged panels while repairs are made.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I MOVE?

If you move to another home served by the co-op, the solar energy subscription moves with you. If you move out of the co-op's service area, your subscription terminates and will be re-marketed by the co-op. The upfront charge paid when beginning the program is not refundable.

**Call (843) 369-2211 or visit
MyScsolar.com to sign up today!**

Disclaimer: This is a general description of the Community Solar program, but the terms of the program are governed solely and exclusively by the Subscription Agreement you will sign if you choose to participate in the program.

HORRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

COMMUNITY SOLAR APPLICATION – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- 1) Subject to Member's agreement to these Terms and Conditions by signing below and Cooperative's approval of this Application, Member will subscribe, and Cooperative will grant to Member a Subscription, in and to Units/Blocks of the capacity of the Solar Farm. The Subscription entitles member to receive a monthly kWh credit calculated by multiplying the Solar Farm's Metered Output by the Member's Proportionate Share. The product of this calculation is then subtracted from the number of kilowatt-hours consumed by the member during that month. Thus, if the member purchased five Units of a 250-kilowatt solar farm, and each Unit is one kilowatt, Member's Proportionate Share would be $(5 \times 1)/250$, or 0.02. In this example, the member would be entitled to 2% of the Solar Farm's Metered output for each month subscribed. **Member shall not be entitled in any given billing period to a kWh Production Credit that exceeds the member's kWh consumption for that billing period. Any excess Production Credit will be rolled over to the following month and reset to zero annually each June 1st.**
- 2) A non-refundable upfront charge of \$100 per Unit/Block will be charged. A monthly subscription fee in the amount of \$25.00 per Unit/Block shall be added to the member's bill from the Cooperative beginning in the following calendar month after execution of this Application (or whenever the Solar Farm begins producing power, whichever is later). A monthly kWh credit will be posted to the member's account the following month after the monthly output from the Community Solar is calculated. (Ex: **April 3rd**, member signs up for the community solar. The member's **May bill** will be charged for the installment due. The member's May bill will reflect the proportionate share of the solar kWh output as a credit calculated from the solar output from the month of April.)
- 3) In the event that the Member relocates to another service address within the Cooperative's service territory, Member's account shall remain an Eligible Account and the Production Credit will be applied to the new service address. In the event the member relocates outside the territory of the Cooperative, the Subscription will be null and void. If member disconnects service and the monthly Production Credit exceeds the final use of the Member's account, the monthly fee shall not be prorated, and any remaining Production Credit will be forfeited by the member.
- 4) Subscriber acknowledges that unsubscribed output from the Solar Farm will be provided to the cooperative grid system and not credited to any particular Cooperative Member.
- 5) Nothing in these Terms and Conditions shall be deemed to alter or modify any rate, charge, term or condition of the electric service provided by Cooperative to Subscriber or to modify in any way Subscriber's rights and obligations as a Member of Cooperative. All Cooperative rates, charges, and terms and conditions of electric service shall remain subject to change in accordance with applicable laws at any time.
- 6) Subscriber acknowledges and agrees it has no ownership interest in any Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) or other environmental attributes associated with its Subscription or in any manner related to the Solar Farm.
- 7) The Terms and Conditions shall be construed and governed in accordance with the laws of the State of South Carolina.
- 8) Cooperative does not make any, and does expressly disclaim, all warranties or representations of any kind with respect to the design, manufacture, construction, safety, performance or effectiveness of the Solar Farm, solar panels and/or services rendered by any person or entity in connection with the solar Subscription program. COOPERATIVE DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED UNDER LAW, WHETHER STATUTORY OR OTHERWISE, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE.
- 9) Receipt of the Production Credit pursuant to the Terms and Conditions may result in taxable income to Subscriber, and Subscriber is solely responsible for payment and reporting with respect to Subscriber's taxes. Subscriber acknowledges that Cooperative has made no representation or warranty of any kind regarding the tax ramifications of Subscriber's entry into its Subscription, and Subscriber has had the opportunity to consult its tax adviser prior to agreeing to the Terms and Conditions for the Subscription. Nothing in these Terms and Conditions constitutes tax advice, and nothing herein may be used for the purpose of avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or applicable state law.
- 10) **FOR AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, MEMBER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THIS SUBSCRIPTION PROVIDES NO OWNERSHIP OR POSSESSORY INTEREST IN THE SOLAR FARM OR THE LAND UPON WHICH THE SOLAR FARM IS SITUATED, AND FURTHER THAT THE SUBSCRIPTION DOES NOT GRANT ANY RIGHT OF ACCESS TO THE SOLAR FARM, THE SITE UPON WHICH THE SOLAR FARM IS LOCATED, OR TO ANY SOLAR PANEL, FOR ANY PURPOSE.**
- 11) **SUBSCRIBER ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT COOPERATIVE HAS MARKETED THE SUBSCRIPTIONS ONLY AS A MEANS TO PARTICIPATE IN A RENEWABLE ENERGY PROGRAM AND HAS MADE NO WARRANTY OR REPRESENTATION, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, THAT SUBSCRIBER MAY OR WILL DERIVE AN ECONOMIC BENEFIT FROM ITS SUBSCRIPTION. SUBSCRIBER FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT COOPERATIVE MAKES NO WARRANTY OR REPRESENTATION, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED REGARDING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SOLAR FARM OR THE AMOUNT OF PRODUCTION CREDIT, IF ANY, THAT SUBSCRIBER WILL RECEIVE DURING ANY BILLING PERIOD DURING THE TERM. THIS COMMUNITY SOLAR PROGRAM MAY BE DISCONTINUED AT ANY TIME AT THE OPTION OF THE COOPERATIVE. THIS SUBSCRIPTION MAY BE TERMINATED AT ANY TIME AT THE OPTION OF EITHER PARTY.**

ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By signing below, I do hereby certify that:

1. I am the Member/Subscriber or am authorized to sign on Member/Subscriber's behalf.
2. I have read, understand and agree to be bound by and comply with the Terms and Conditions as set forth in this Subscription Application.
3. I understand that entering into this document may have legal and tax ramifications for me and that I have been encouraged by Cooperative and had the opportunity to seek legal and tax advice from a qualified professional.

MEMBER/SUBSCRIBER:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Number of Units/Blocks Subscribed: _____ Upfront Fee Collected: _____

Member Sep Number: _____

Eligibility: Participation is on a first come, first serve basis. At this time, only regular residential service account holders may participate. Advance Pay program participants are not eligible.

