

Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.horryelectric.com

MAIN OFFICE

P.O. Box 119
Conway, SC 29528-0119
(843) 369-2211



**TO REPORT
POWER OUTAGES ONLY**
(843) 369-2212

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CO-OP NEWS EDITOR
Jennifer A. Cummings
jennifer.cummings@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



Horry Electric's power bill explained

DID YOU KNOW your cooperative pays a power bill too? It's true. Horry Electric was organized to bring power

to rural areas. This includes building, operating and maintaining power lines connected to substations across the communities we serve. Central Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (CEPCI), our generation and transmission provider, bills us for the power we receive through the meters at each of those substations.

So, we have meters and receive a bill just like you. You might wonder if our bill looks like yours. As you might imagine, the bottom line is a bit larger than the one we send you, but it does have some of the same components as your bill.

We pay a fixed charge at each of our substations. This covers metering, communications and other items that are not dependent on the amount of power we buy to deliver to you. We also pay for every kilowatt-hour we deliver to you, as well as every kilowatt-hour we use on our own system.

One major difference between our power bill and the one we send to most members is we pay a demand charge. Our demand charge is calculated based on the single hour of the month when the overall statewide cooperative system is peaking.

The demand charge is how electric cooperatives pay for the fixed cost of the transmission and generation systems needed to deliver those kilowatt-hours to our members.

Did you know there are 20 electric cooperatives in South Carolina that all buy power as a group?

When the month is over, CEPCI analyzes each hour of the month to determine the peak demand for that month. Once that hour is known, they bill each cooperative (Horry Electric and 19 others) for its share of the peak. That's how our demand charge is determined. When you consider how many hours there are in an average month, it probably seems like knowing ahead of time when the peak might be would be difficult, but it's not. The peak during summer months is almost always between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m., and the peak during winter months is almost always between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. If you're wondering why, it is because our peaks are typically driven by our members' HVAC systems.

The reason this matters to you is that you can, and often do, take action that helps us save on our power bill. You can help Horry Electric by installing a smart thermostat and delaying use of major appliances during the peak times I mentioned above. When you charge your electric vehicle during off-peak hours, you help make a difference. As a member-owned cooperative, our savings are your savings.

Daniel B. Shelley, III

DANIEL B. SHELLEY, III
Executive Vice President and CEO



Your voice matters. Help shape the future of energy

AMERICA'S ENERGY SYSTEM is undergoing a fundamental transformation. But much of the focus related to energy issues in Washington is on large utilities in urban areas. Electric cooperatives are different. Horry Electric Cooperative is owned by its members, and we care about the future of your family and our communities.

Horry Electric works hard to provide your family, friends and neighbors with safe, affordable and reliable electricity. Energy affordability and reliability mean different things to different communities. Members living in the rural areas of America have a different set of challenges than members in more populated areas.

Elected officials need to hear from their constituents about the issues that matter to them to make informed decisions regarding what is best for those they represent. By building relationships with our representatives and senators, we can influence the outcome of public policy debates that affect the way cooperatives operate. This is why Horry Electric is partnering with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) to make it easier for members to join the discussion and let our voices be heard.

Join Voices for Cooperative Power

Voices for Cooperative Power (VCP) is a new nationwide community designed to help co-op members like you share your story with elected officials. We know one size doesn't fit all when it comes to energy policies. As an electric cooperative member, speaking up on issues that impact your co-op sends a message to elected officials about the needs of our communities, and their constituents.

VCP makes it easy to have a say in policy decisions that impact you because you can choose the issues that matter most to you, from energy efficiency to renewable energy and rural development. VCP members will receive updates on those issues, as well as information on how to contact elected officials and government agencies on proposed legislation or regulations.

It's quick, easy and free to join VCP. Visit voicesforcooperativepower.com or check out the Voices for Cooperative Power pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (@voices4coops).

We cannot shape the future of energy at Horry Electric and across the United States without your input. Co-ops have democracy built into their business models, so we encourage you to use your voice to help ensure Horry Electric can continue providing reliable, affordable energy to members for generations to come.

JOIN TODAY

VCP

**Voices for
Cooperative
Power**

United for Stronger
Communities

**LOOKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR
COMMUNITY AND FOR YOUR LOCAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE? THEN JOIN VCP!**



**SCAN ME
TO LEARN
MORE
AND JOIN!**

**VCP is a network of electric co-op members working
together to influence public policy decisions that
impact our co-ops and our way of life.**


[VOICESFORCOOPERATIVEPOWER.COM](https://voicesforcooperativepower.com)






[@VOICES4COOPS](https://www.instagram.com/voices4coops)

Tabias Hennigan, Kayliegh Lloyd and Mark Singleton represented Horry Electric on Cooperative Youth Summit.

Three local teens experience new heights

HEC sends high schoolers to Cooperative Youth Summit

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

AS A RISING high school junior, Mark Singleton obviously has a few items left on his bucket list, but being lifted high in the air by an actual bucket truck he can cross off. Meeting Gov. Henry McMaster in his office? Scratch that one off, too.

Singleton was among 45 high school students from across the state to participate in Cooperative Youth Summit, a four-day journey of new experiences for teens selected by their local electric cooperatives.

The three Horry Electric Cooperative delegates—Mark Singleton of Aynor High, Kayliegh Lloyd of Green Sea Floyds High and Tabias Hennigan of Carolina Forest High—toured the State House grounds before crowding into Gov. Henry McMaster's office and taking turns sitting at his desk, a privilege suggested by the governor after he welcomed the students and answered some of their questions. Horry Electric employee Annette Harris served as a chaperone on the trip.

"I've been to the State House once, but I've never been inside the governor's office or met him and that was really cool," says Singleton.

Before their sit down with McMaster, the Cooperative Youth Summit students learned about political advocacy and civic duty from two state legislators—Rep. Micah Caskey and Rep. Russell Ott—and John Frick, vice president of government relations for The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. Frick related the story of Benjamin Franklin's post-Constitutional Convention exchange with a woman asking if the nation would be a monarchy or a republic. Franklin's response came in the form of a challenge—"a republic, if you can keep it."

PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER



Mark Singleton took a ride in one of Newberry Electric's bucket trucks during the visit to the cooperative.



All of the students, including Tabias Hennigan, were invited to sit at Gov. Henry McMaster's desk.

That challenge resonated with Singleton. "I think it's very important to make sure we know how everything works," says Singleton. "We need to stay involved so we don't lose our republic. We can keep it going."

The students also traveled to Newberry Electric Cooperative, a visit highlighted by a lift in one of NEC's bucket trucks, which are typically used in maintenance and restoration work on utility poles. They saw the cooperative's community solar farm and learned about how the cooperative has made high-speed broadband available to their entire membership.

"I never knew that little fiber optic wire was so important," says Singleton. "It's used in so many ways."

Throughout the week and after, the students worked in teams on podcasts around the theme of living in South Carolina. They interviewed legislators and community leaders to get their perspectives on what's great about the state and how it can improve.

The students also participated in the Soda Pop Co-op, which sold snacks and beverages. Some students served as the cooperative's board members. Others were a part of the management team. As member-consumers, the students received capital credits, their share of the co-op's end-of-trip margins. The exercise allowed the students to learn first-hand how the not-for-profit co-op business model works.

September is National Preparedness Month

What to do before, during and after the storm

SEVERE WEATHER can impact Horry County at any time, especially during the peak of hurricane season. Horry Electric is preparing and members are encouraged to do the same.

September is National Preparedness Month and Horry Electric wants to make sure you stay safe during any storm.

Before the storm

There is power in preparation. Preparing can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency.

Assemble an emergency kit Put together the essential items you need in the event of a prolonged power outage or natural disaster. Include items like nonperishable foods, water (one gallon per person, per day), batteries, flashlights, first-aid supplies, medicine and phone chargers.

Protect documents Store important documents like birth certificates and property deeds in a safe place away from your home, such as a bank safe deposit box.

Keep pets safe Create an emergency kit for your pets, too. Include shelf-safe food, bottled water and medication. Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and they could wander off. Microchip your pet and ensure your contact information is up to date.

Have cash available During a power outage, electronic card readers and ATMs may not work. It's a good idea to have cash on hand for emergencies. Also, make sure you have a full tank of gas in your vehicle.



Horry Electric keeps a pantry stocked with nonperishable foods so employees have food to eat while working during emergencies.



Advanced Line Technician Carluss King snapped this picture of an HEC truck in a field after a storm.

During the storm

Once a storm moves into the area, stay tuned to local news stations for up-to-date information on the storm. In the event of a natural disaster, remember:

- ▶ Stay away from windows and doors.
- ▶ Get to higher ground or a second level of your home if flooding occurs.
- ▶ Do not use any electrical appliances, outlets, switches, etc. if flooding occurs.
- ▶ If possible, avoid driving. If you have to be on the roads, stay clear of flooded roadways.
- ▶ Stay away from downed power lines. All downed lines should be treated as if they were energized and potentially deadly.

After the storm

Once the storm has passed, report all outages and downed power lines immediately. There are five ways to report an outage:

- ▶ Text "OUT" to MyOutage at 1 (844) 369-2767.
- ▶ Call PowerTouch at (843) 369-2212.
- ▶ Download the HEC Mobile app.
- ▶ Visit MyEnergy Online.
- ▶ Text "OUTAGE" to 352-667.

If your power is out, leave on a single light to alert you when service is restored. If you're cleaning up debris, do not put it near any electric utility equipment (poles, transformers, junction boxes, etc.).

Food safety reminder

During an outage, avoid opening your refrigerator and freezer unless it's absolutely necessary. An unopened refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for about 24 hours, and a full freezer for about 48 hours.

If it looks like the power outage will last longer than four hours, dry ice can be used to preserve food in the freezer or you can move important perishable items to an ice-filled cooler.

If refrigerated foods have been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours, the American Red Cross recommends discarding those items. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out.

For more information on storm preparedness or generator safety, visit the Outage Center on horryelectric.com.

Geared up for safety

Horry Electric Cooperative lineworkers are considered our heroes because they put their lives on the line to keep your power on. Like any first responder, our lineworkers are equipped with a special uniform, tools and equipment that protect them while they work in often difficult and dangerous conditions.

Whether an apprentice lineman or a journeyman, Horry Electric lineworkers never respond to an outage without this gear. Keeping our lineworkers safe is a crucial part of providing members with reliable electricity.

Hunter Gardner (right) is a 25-year-old Line Technician A-Class with Horry Electric. He wears the protective clothing and gear required of our lineworkers. Normally 150 pounds, Gardner's personal protective equipment and tools adds almost 30 pounds of weight.

BUCKET GEAR

HARD HAT

Impact and penetration resistant to high voltage (Class 1 Type E). Hat protects against falling debris and electrical contact. Extended brim provides protection from the sun.

SAFETY GLASSES: ANSI Z87.1

Safety glasses with side shields that protect employees exposed to electrical flashes, dust and projectiles.

RUBBER SLEEVES

Class 3 rubber electrical sleeves are used when working in the minimum approach distance to primary voltage (over 600 volts).

HARNES/LANYARD

Personal fall protection device worn while working in a bucket truck.

RUBBER GLOVES

Class 3 Type 1 30K Volt electrical gloves with leather glove protectors. Used for work over 600 volts. HEC primary voltage is as high as 14,400 volts.

CLIMBING GEAR

LEATHER GLOVES

Used for protecting hands from sharp edges, or any other potentially hazardous material.

SHIRT & PANTS

(HRC) Hazard Risk Category 2 (8 cal arc rated—long-sleeved shirts and pants) Flame resistant fabric worn to protect the employee while working on energized lines.

HANDLINE

Hoisting device secured to the pole to safely pull up needed materials that the lineman cannot carry. Also may be used to rescue injured workers.

BUCK SQUEEZE

Fall protection device used to secure linemen to the pole, so they don't fall while working in elevated areas.

CLIMBERS

Allow linemen to safely climb wooden poles. Climbers have gaffs that cut into the pole, allowing the linemen to climb.

CLIMBING BELT

Holds lanyard and tool pouch. Belt holds the lanyard so linemen can stay secured to the pole.

WORK BOOTS

Slip and oil resistant steel/composite toe and electrical hazard rating to protect lineworkers' feet from terrain, as well as falling objects. Boots must have steel shanks for climbing poles.



Surge Guard helps prevent power surges

Enroll now and you could win

PROTECT YOUR HOME from indirect lightning strikes and power surges by enrolling in Horry Electric's Surge Guard program. Lightning is one of the top causes of power outages, but it can also cause problems inside your home.

The Surge Guard program helps protect against unexpected voltage surges that can harm or ruin electronic devices such as major appliances, TVs or computers.

For just \$5.35 a month, members can enjoy comfort, convenience and peace of mind knowing they have utility grade protection from nearby lightning strikes.

During September, any member who enrolls as a new participant will be entered into a prize drawing for a chance to win an indoor plug-in surge protective strip and a \$50 electric bill credit.

Visit horryec.info/surge-guard and choose "Apply Now" to complete the participation agreement. A Trusted Energy Advisor will contact you to schedule installation. The monthly charge is added as a line item on your monthly electric bill.

Members have until 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 30 to enroll. The winners will be announced in October. Visit horryelectric.com to read the contest rules.

If you have questions about the Surge Guard program, contact a Trusted Energy Advisor by calling (843) 369-2211 and selecting option 5.



Do you know a young, creative mind?

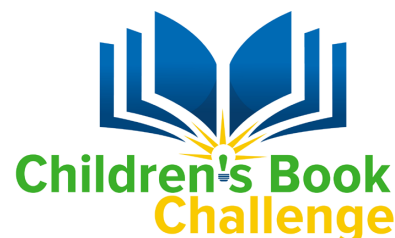
Students can become published authors through Children's Book Challenge

DO YOU KNOW any creative writers or artists in the fourth or fifth grade? If so, encourage them to enter Horry Electric's Children's Book Challenge. They could become published authors by next summer!

Sponsored by South Carolina's electric cooperatives, the EnlightenSC Children's Book Challenge gives fourth and fifth grade students the opportunity to write and illustrate a book while learning about energy, the environment and community. It's also a great opportunity for classrooms to meet education standards in art, science, language arts and social studies.

In addition, students and their teachers can win cash prizes, have their books distributed to schools across the state and be recognized at the South Carolina Statehouse. Winners are selected and awarded prize money at the local level. All local winners are automatically entered for a chance to win the statewide prize of \$500. Statewide winning books are printed and shared with elementary school libraries in South Carolina.

Getting started is simple. Visit enlightensc.org/book to learn more about the program and to register. The deadline for teachers to register their students is Nov. 10.



Electrical safety tips for hunters

AS THEY PEER ACROSS A FIELD, tracking their prey, hunters must be aware of their surroundings if they are to have a successful hunt. Horry Electric encourages members to look for any electrical equipment in the fields and woodlands where they hunt.

For dove hunters—whose season opened Sept. 2—shooting a bird on a wire is not only contrary to hunter ethics, it's unsafe. A direct hit to a conductor can cause damage that has expensive consequences.

"The wire might survive for a period of time, but will eventually burn through," explains Burroughs Nobles, Horry Electric's manager of operations. "Now repair costs turn into restoration costs and members served by the damaged line are without power."

South Carolina's Department of Natural Resources offers the following guidance to avoid power lines while hunting:

- ▶ Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
- ▶ Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.
- ▶ Never shoot a bird at less than a 45-degree angle.
- ▶ Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- ▶ Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
- ▶ Do not place decoys on power lines or other equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to line crews.

Visit the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources online at dnr.sc.gov/hunting to find out more information on hunting seasons and requirements.