



For All Your Customer Service Needs,
Call Toll-Free (800) 240-3400

Automated Outage Reporting
1-888-BLUERIDGE
www.blueridge.coop

Pickens
P.O. Box 277
734 West Main St.
Pickens, SC 29671

Oconee
P.O. Box 329
2328 Sandifer Blvd.
Highway 123
Westminster, SC 29693

Anderson
1212 North Fant St.
Anderson, SC 29622

Greenville
3751 Highway 11
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

Mission Statement
Blue Ridge will be a competitive, quality provider of energy and other services, maintaining its history of integrity and adapting to the challenges of a changing world. While exercising leadership in the community, the organization's focus will be on exceeding customer expectations.

Board of Directors
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Bank draft grows in popularity

IT WAS SEVERAL decades ago that Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative first introduced bank draft as an option for



our members. This service offered folks a convenient way of paying their monthly power bills. As a matter of fact, our earliest advertisement promoting bank draft stated, "Now you can pay your power bill without paying attention."

In retrospect, I'm not so sure that was the clearest message the cooperative could have directed toward its members. With the emphasis Blue Ridge has always placed on the wise use of energy, I'd be the last person to suggest that you shouldn't pay attention to your electric bill. Of course, that wasn't the original intent of the ad; the idea was to spotlight the convenience the service provided.

5,000 members

Be that as it may, bank draft has seen a gradual, steady increase in popularity. As of the end of this past May, an even 5,000 members were utilizing the service.

The process of initiating this payment method is quite simple. All that's required is a copy of a member's canceled check. Once any one of our member services employees has that information in hand, the transaction

will then be completed for the member without any further action on his or her part.

From that point on, the member will still receive a copy of each month's power invoice. However, remembering to pay the bill and then employing the cash, check, or other means of doing so will all be a thing of the past. It can't get much easier or more automatic than that, and I expect that's one reason bank draft continues to gain participants.

Other avenues for payment

Having highlighted bank draft, I don't want to end my report without mentioning the other avenues available to members for paying their power bills. Thousands of members make it a practice to come to the office, while many others remit their payments via the mail. Credit-card drafts, online credit-card payments, and e-checks are especially seeing increasing member use.

Whatever way might be your favorite, we're here to help. If you'd like more details about any of these services, I encourage you to contact your local Blue Ridge office.

Charles E. Dalton
President and CEO

Celebrating the holiday

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative will be closed on September 5 for the Labor Day holiday. Labor Day is observed on every first Monday in September as a day to recognize the contributions of American workers of all industries to the U.S. economy. It is also meant to give workers a well-earned day off to relax at home or to get out for recreation. To many, Labor Day marks the end of the summer season, even as Memorial Day marks its beginning. So enjoy your holiday, knowing that Blue Ridge will be on standby for any outage related emergencies during this long weekend.



Sign up today for convenience and a \$20 Bill Credit

MAKE BILL-PAYING easy with a monthly draft from your checking or savings account. From now until Oct. 1, we'll give you a \$20 bill credit when you sign up for bank draft. It's so easy—just complete the form below and mail it to Blue Ridge along with a canceled check from your bank. We'll do the rest!

Bank Draft Authorization Form

Blue Ridge Co-op Account Number(s) _____

Name of Bank _____ Checking Savings

A VOIDED CHECK MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM

Please mail this form and a voided check to:
Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc. ATTN: Amy Craig
PO Box 329 · Westminster, SC 29693

*Signature _____

Phone # _____

*I hereby authorize Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative to draw drafts against my account for payment of my electric bill(s). I further authorize the bank to pay these draws from my account. This draft is to remain in force until my intent to withdraw is given in writing or by phone to Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative and the bank at least 30 days prior to the presentation of a draft or revoked by Blue Ridge Electric for two dishonored drafts within a year.

You will continue to receive your electric bill each month. A message will appear on your monthly electric bill stating TO BE PAID BY DRAFT. Once this message appears on your statement, your bill will be drafted 3-4 business days prior to your Due Date.

Use Your Co-op Connections® Card On the Road!



Whether you're heading to the beach, to the mountains or another region of the country, there is a good chance you'll be able to use your Co-op Connections Card for great savings during your travels.

The Co-op Connections smartphone app locates the closest deals wherever you are. That could mean discounts on some good seafood or a show, or both! You can also save on lodging at several hotel chains, such as Wyndham, Best Western and Days Inn, to name a few. Save on vehicle rentals as well, with Co-op Connections discounts from Budget, Hertz and Enterprise.

You can download the app through the Apple App Store or Google Play. For more information or to print out a card to carry with you, go to www.connections.coop.

