



TO REPORT OUTAGES
 Call: 1-888-253-4232

DISTRICT OFFICES
 Hours: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

AWENDAW
 North 7200, US-17
 Awendaw, SC 29426
 (843) 884-7525
 AWMemberRequests@bec.coop

GOOSE CREEK
 2 Springhall Road
 Goose Creek, SC 29445
 (843) 553-5020
 GCMemberRequests@bec.coop

JOHNS ISLAND
 1135 Main Road
 Johns Island, SC 29455
 (843) 559-2458
 JIMemberRequests@bec.coop

MONCK'S CORNER
 1732 US-52 West
 Moncks Corner, SC 29461
 (843) 761-8200/(843) 825-3383
 MCMemberRequests@bec.coop

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Recycle for a clean energy future

AS MANY OF YOU know, we recently announced the largest economic development project in the state's history with the plans for Redwood Materials to invest \$3.5 billion in its second U.S. facility, which will be served by Berkeley Electric. In case you aren't familiar with Redwood

Materials, the company makes electric vehicle battery parts by reclaiming and recycling batteries and other electronic waste to produce anode and cathode battery components.

Additionally, the cooperative is partnering with Redwood to launch one of the only consumer lithium-ion battery recycling programs in the country. Berkeley members can now drop off rechargeable batteries and devices at collection bins located in the lobbies of each co-op district office. Redwood accepts cell phones, laptops, tablets, cordless power tools, electric toothbrushes, wireless headphones, old vacuum batteries and any other rechargeable device with a lithium-ion battery.

Why is this important? Because one of the largest sources of lithium and cobalt in the Western Hemisphere can be found in the junk drawers of America. Redwood's technology can recover more than 95% of the critical minerals and rare earth elements from batteries (like nickel, cobalt, lithium and copper) and then reintroduce those materials back into the supply for U.S. manufacturers to make batteries.

This recycling program helps create a circular supply chain which helps strengthen American manufacturing by reducing our dependence on foreign markets. It also has local benefits by reducing the amount of waste in landfills. Improper disposal of batteries in landfills can lead to toxic chemicals leaching into soil and water, posing risks to our environment and our health. Recycling not only prevents these pollutants from entering the environment but also prevents potential fires and explosions that can result from battery breakdown.

It may seem like a small step, but recycling lithium-ion batteries stands at the intersection of technology, environmental stewardship and sustainable economic growth. By embracing recycling practices, we move closer to not only safeguarding our environment and finite resources but a more sustainable future as well.

Sincerely,

MIKE FULLER
 President & CEO



Members can now drop off lithium-ion batteries and other rechargeable devices for recycling at any BEC office.

MICAH PONCE

Awendaw Farmers & Artisans Market



BERKELEY ELECTRIC
7200 NORTH
HIGHWAY 17, AWENDAW.

EVERY 2ND THURSDAY
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
JULY - DECEMBER



MICAH PONCE

Honor a veteran

BERKELEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is offering members a chance to honor local service men and women by purchasing an engraved paver for its new veterans' memorial. Located by the lobby of the new Moncks Corner facility, the monument features a patio with over 100 bricks honoring local service men and women. There is no limit on the number of pavers that can be purchased.

Please return the form below or apply online at berkeleyelectric.coop by Oct. 31. If purchasing a paver, please enclose payment and three line engraving with the form or stop by your local district office.

VETERANS MEMORIAL

Member name:

Account No.:

Paver Inscription (3 lines/13 spaces per line incl spaces):

I am interested in: Paver



MICAH PONCE

Calendar Contest deadline

THIS IS IT! Your last chance to win in our calendar contest. Send us your best "Backroads" image that can only be found off the beaten path. If your photo is chosen, you **win \$100!**

Contest ends on Friday, Sept. 30. All submissions must be landscape orientation (horizontal) and print quality so send us the **highest resolution** image possible. E-mail all submissions to micahp@bec.coop with the subject line "Calendar Contest" and include the location. Visit berkeleyelectric.coop for details. **You must be a BEC member to enter!**



SAM GOURDINE
Trustee, District 4

Power in your hands

RECENTLY, ONE OF our newer employees asked me what makes electric co-ops different than other types of utilities. It is good timing for that question since our Annual Meeting of Members is just around the corner. So, this month, I thought I'd tell you a few of the things I told her.

First, because we're a co-op, we operate a little differently than other utilities. For example, everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here—to pay for the electricity used, or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders five states away. We're a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you, our local members.

You may notice that throughout the year, we schedule opportunities for you to attend co-op events, such as our annual meeting coming up in November, so we can hear from you. We also conduct an annual survey to gather your feedback on co-op programs and services so that we can plan and adjust for the future. And, most importantly, we go out into our communities to hear from you directly, whether it's at a local festival, school or sporting event, or member appreciation day. Our success lies in your satisfaction, which is why we offer these opportunities to engage and listen to what you have to say.

Because you're part of an electric cooperative, you can count on our team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity and first-class service, no matter what the economy—and supply chain issues—throw at us.

Berkeley Electric is striving to keep our costs as low as possible so we can keep more money in your pocket. We want to help you maximize the value you can receive from our services and



Voting for trustees at the Annual Meeting is one way members have a voice in how their co-op is operated.

offerings. For example, we can help you save on energy bills through our free energy audit program and efficiency rebates. We are also your source of reliable information on electric vehicles and solar power and will gladly evaluate your solar PV proposal for free to help ensure that you are getting what you are paying for.

Please know that you—the members of Berkeley Electric—are at the heart of everything we do. Co-ops adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service. We pride ourselves on our commitment to the communities we serve. This even extends to electing local members, like me, to serve as trustees and ensure that the decisions the co-op makes reflect the needs of our members, who are also our friends and neighbors.

If you want to receive important information from Berkeley Electric, such as power restoration updates and energy tips, sign up for our free Smarthub app and be sure to follow us on social media—and keep reading the magazine!

We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve. While we've grown over the years, we're still driven by the same guiding principles to serve our community. We hope to see or hear from you soon. This co-op was created for you, the members. The power is in your hands.

Sincerely,

BERKELEY AT-A-GLANCE	MAY 2022	MAY 2023
Total kWh sold	349,785,847	370,156,183
No. meters served	118,728	123,830
Avg. residential kWh/meter	1,073	958
Avg. residential bill/meter	\$147.37	\$145.65
Miles of line	6158	6282
Avg. daily high temperature	85	81
Avg. daily low temperature	66	62

It's crab crackin' time!

GRAB YOUR MALLET and crab cracker and join us for the ultimate Lowcountry pickin' at this year's Awendaw Blue Crab Festival. The festival returns to its new home at the gorgeous Town of Awendaw Municipal Park on Saturday, Oct. 7, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Crabs will be served by the bucket with your choice of flavor—traditional, garlic or Cajun! If crabs aren't your thing, no problem. They've got you covered with an abundance of local food trucks to satisfy all the cravings. And that's just the tip of the bushel with live music, tons of vendors, hayrides and pontoon boat rides and a free kids area, plus beer and wine for the adults.

Festival history

It all began in 1994 when a small group of residents gathered under the live oak tree at Town Hall to eat a few bushels of crabs. Since then, the Awendaw Blue Crab Festival has grown to an annual event celebrating Awendaw life where over 100 bushels of Lowcountry blue crabs are steamed and served.

The Awendaw Blue Crab Festival is an exciting event that hosts over 2,000 folks from all over the country. After the festival's modest beginnings at Town Hall, it relocated to Camp Sewee on Doar Road for several years. Today the festival is at its permanent home, The Town of Awendaw Municipal Park, located at 7900 Doar Road and is supported by community sponsors like Berkeley Electric Cooperative.

Event information

Please be aware that all crab buckets, beer and wine, hayrides and boat rides require tickets, which may be purchased at the Ticket & Merchandise booth. Leashed pets are permitted but no outside beverages, coolers or tents. Bicycles must be kept outside the fence. Please feel free to bring chairs and blankets. Free parking on-site until it lasts. Premium parking is available for \$20. Credit card and cash accepted for parking. Advance tickets are available at townofawendawsc.org.



SATURDAY, OCT. 7
11 a.m.–5 p.m.

Town of Awendaw Municipal Park
7900 Doar Road

General Admission:
\$10 in advance • \$15 at the door
12 & under are Free



Local teens experience Youth Summit

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

KELSY MCBEE'S TRIP to the State House was a memorable one. It might not be her last.

The Berkeley High School junior was able to meet Gov. Henry McMaster and sit at his desk as part of her journey with the Cooperative Youth Summit.

"It definitely seemed like a situation that doesn't happen often, so that was really cool," says McBee. "Hopefully, if I go on the right career path, I might be able to go back."

McBee was one of 45 student-delegates selected and sponsored by their local electric cooperatives to participate in the four-day exploration of their state's capital, energy-related technologies and the cooperative business model. The 11 local teens from Berkeley Electric's service area that went on the trip were McBee, Jaden Robinson of Abeka Academy, Josh Wallace of Berkeley High School, Bri Bennett and J.R. Robinson of Cross High School, Jordan Smith of Goose Creek, Leila Blackwell of Lowcountry Accelerations Academy, Janiyah Burns and Jason Smith of Stratford High School and Cora Scott of Timberland High School.

The students toured the State House grounds before crowding into Gov. Henry McMaster's office and taking turns in his chair, a privilege suggested by the governor after he welcomed the students and answered some of their questions. 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.

"You always hear and see things about the State House on the news," says Scott. "But to actually experience it in real life was amazing. It gave me a better understanding of our government and its role in our lives."

That same week, they 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. Newberry Electric officials also showed off their outage management and communications center, their community solar farm and their fiber-optic system that is providing high-speed internet to their members.

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. Jordan Smith took the opportunity to interview Rep. Ott.

"He encouraged us to vote once we turn 18 but told us that things are not going to happen overnight," says Smith. "We've got to keep voting."



Berkeley Electric sponsored 11 students on the Cooperative Youth Summit, (front, from left) Bri Bennett, Cora Scott, Janiyah Burns, Mary Elizabeth Williams, Jaden Robinson, (back) Joshua Wallace, Kelsey McBee, Jordan Smith, Jason Smith, J.R. Robinson and (not pictured) Leila Blackwell.



Leila Blackwell is ready to make big decisions from behind Gov. McMaster's desk.

Growth spurs projects systemwide

AS THE LOWCOUNTRY'S population expands and its economy continues to thrive, Berkeley Electric has experienced continuous residential and commercial growth. This surge in development places considerable demands on essential infrastructure, particularly the electrical grid. This growth has spurred numerous projects systemwide that play a vital role in ensuring that the power supply keeps pace with the rising demand, both for homes and businesses.

One of these projects was the completion of the co-op's 37th substation. The Millbranch sub is located adjacent to Camp Hall Business Park. Located in the Ridgeville area, Camp Hall is home to industries like Volvo and Redwood Materials. This new substation allows BEC to prepare for future growth in the Camp Hall area. It is designed with the capability to add more circuits and a second transformer to facilitate growth and economic development in the Lowcountry.



MEADE AGENCY

Berkeley recently energized a new substation to serve the Camp Hall Business Park to help encourage economic development in the Lowcountry.



MICAH PONCE

Linemen Kyle Childers (left) and Ashby Freeman prep one of several underground transformers that will serve a new subdivision in Carnes Crossroads.

The project began in late 2021 with site work starting in late 2022. Timing was crucial to the project as supply chain issues have caused delays in obtaining transformers which now have a two- to five-year lead time. In addition to commercial growth, Berkeley Electric continues to experience significant residential growth as well. Although the pace of growth seems to be slowing slightly, the co-op continues to add approximately 7,000 services annually. Much of this residential growth is centered around planned communities such as Carnes Crossroads in Goose Creek.

Crews from Berkeley Electric recently began laying the infrastructure to serve the next subdivision in the development by installing a series of pad mount transformers. Hewing Farms, is part of the next phase of the planned community which will eventually be home to a total of 4,500 homes.

Whenever possible, the co-op installs new services underground to help increase service reliability. The majority of Berkeley's more than 6,000 miles of line are now underground.

Building new services is only part of the equation, however. Crews must also maintain existing infrastructure and just completed an uncommon job in the Johns Island district. An underwater electric cable crosses the Stono River and connects to a series of elevated cabinets in the marsh.

Over time, saltwater had corroded the support platforms for the cabinets creating the need to replace them for safety reasons. The equipment is only accessible by boat and crews had to wait for low tide before replacing the old platforms with new stainless-steel versions.



BERKELEY ELECTRIC

Accessible only by boat, these electrical cabinets serving an underwater cable crossing the Stono River needed to have the platforms replaced due to saltwater corrosion.