



Berkeley Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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

MONCKS CORNER

1732 US-52 West

Moncks Corner, SC 29461

(843) 761-8200/825-3383

MCMemberRequests@bec.coop

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Mike Fuller

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Scrambling to keep costs down



MIKE FULLER
President & CEO

If you have lived in the South for a while, you have probably heard the expression that "eggs are cheaper in the country." Unfortunately, that old adage is no longer true as the avian flu, disruptions in the supply chain and the effects of inflation have driven the cost of a dozen eggs higher than the hourly minimum wage in some areas. I wish I could say that I was shocked but some of those same factors have been affecting us as a cooperative as well.

Although inflation finally seems to be easing off a bit it has still impacted our costs to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power. Material shortages have also played a role. For example, the ongoing pandemic has led to disruptions in supply chains, making it more difficult and expensive to obtain materials needed to deliver electricity. Not only have equipment lead times

doubled, so have the prices we're paying for things like the pad mount transformers that you see in people's yards. With our rapid system growth, we have a high demand for those transformers which have increased in price from \$1,600 to \$3,200 in the last two years. That same type of increase is also impacting everything else that's needed to build and maintain our system.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, we remain committed to providing our members the power they rely on at, or near, cost. However, factors outside of our control continue to make this a challenging task. Although our system grew at around the same pace last year as it did in 2021, we ended up paying about \$7 million more in goods and services. That's on top of the \$73 million increase in power prices we saw last year as well.

We understand that any increase in costs can be difficult for our members and are constantly exploring ways to reduce the potential impact. For example, we use proactive billing to alert members about unusually high bills and offer our free Smarthub app that allows members to monitor their energy use daily and set up high use alerts. We also offer programs and services to help members use less electricity and provide in-home and online energy audits to identify ways to save money.

I want to assure all our members that we are doing everything in our power to keep energy costs as low as possible. We are constantly working with our vendors and energy suppliers to look for ways to lessen the impact of inflation and material shortages. As we work our way through these challenges, I will continue to keep our members informed and engaged in the process of finding solutions to these issues. Eggs may no longer be cheaper in the country, but we are going to do our best to make sure that electricity remains an everyday value.

Sincerely,



The cost for a typical pad mount transformer has doubled in the last two years

BRIGHT IDEAS 5K



PRESENTED BY



PARIC
EXPERIENCE. EXCELLENCE.

We're back! It's almost time for the 2nd Annual Bright Ideas 5K.

Help raise money for local teachers' classroom projects as this unique off-road race winds through historic Cypress Gardens while this beautiful blackwater swamp is in full bloom.

The race sold out last year so sign up soon and take advantage of the early bird pricing!

Let's romp in the swamp!

For event details visit berkeleyelectric.coop

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

8 A.M.

CYPRESS GARDENS

MONCK'S CORNER

REGISTER

ONLINE:

\$35 PER PERSON

INCLUDES T-SHIRT



Cold snap sets record peak demand

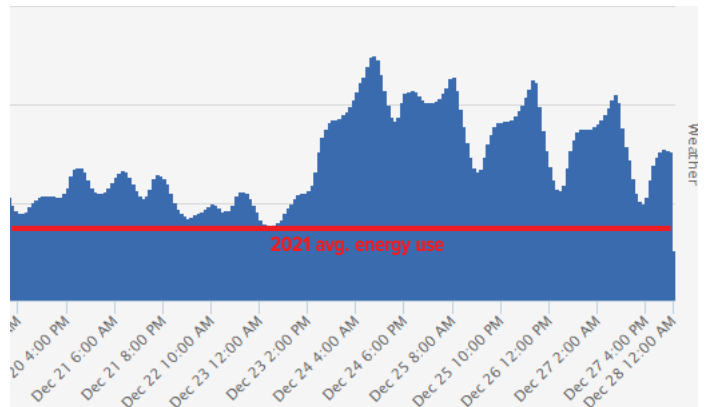
It may not have been a white Christmas or the present that we asked for, but Berkeley Electric was gifted with the largest peak demand in system history at the end of December. Although other utilities had to institute rolling blackouts in parts of the state, Berkeley's system was able to handle the historic 896,517 kilowatt (kW) peak load. This peak was 229,115 kW (>25%) higher than the average for the last five years. To put it in perspective, the average home uses 1,078 kWh per month so this is almost the same as adding 2,000 homes to the system at once. Starting with a temperature of 17 degrees on Christmas Eve morning, the week-long cold snap doubled the electric use of Berkeley members compared to the same time-period last year.

When temperatures go below freezing, heat pumps do not work as efficiently. To help maintain thermostat settings, the heat pump will run longer and engage auxiliary heat strips which can cause electric bills to skyrocket. With winter still lingering, members need to pay close attention to their heating systems which can account for up to 50% of their monthly bill.

Berkeley Electric recommends downloading the free Smarthub app that allows members to monitor their electric use daily and set high usage alerts. Members can also sign up for free Beat the Peak alerts which will notify them of peak demand periods. By reducing use during peak times, members can help lower overall energy costs for the entire system. For more tips on how to save energy, contact your local office or visit us online at berkeleyelectric.coop.



Although we didn't snow this winter, the famous Pineapple Fountain froze solid once again during the December cold snap



Residential members averaged twice as much energy use per day during the last five days of December compared to the same period last year

Co-op congratulates retirees



After being voted as one of the "Best Places to Work in South Carolina" last year, it is no surprise that many of our employees have stayed with the co-op throughout most of their careers. Please join us in congratulating our most recent group of employees who reached their well-earned retirement. We would like to take this chance to thank them for their dedication, leadership and service to both the co-op and its members.

- **Tony Simmons**, District Line Superintendent - 38 years
- **Janet Lewis**, System Controller A - 23 years
- **Paul Elsey**, Service Planner - 29 years
- **Suzanne Hill**, Billing Specialist - 31 years
- **Nelia Boykin**, Benefits Specialist, 17 years
- **Bouvia Rembert**, System Control Supervisor - 36 years

Berkeley lands historic industrial deal



Berkeley Electric Cooperative will serve the largest economic development investment in state history. Redwood Materials, a producer of anode and cathode battery components for electric vehicles, recently announced a \$3.5 billion investment to establish and build a plant in Berkeley County. The company projects that 1,500 new jobs will be created.

"It's a huge load. They're projecting 325-megawatts by 2027," said Mike Fuller, Berkeley CEO and Charleston Regional Development Alliance board chairman. The 325-megawatt load will be equivalent to adding 200,000 residential homes to Berkeley's system each month.

"This is a record-setting economic development win, and it will have a significant positive return on investment for our community," said Fuller. "Large loads, like these, also play an important part in helping keep electric rates low for all members."

The Redwood said it will use its South Carolina campus to create a "circular supply chain" for electric vehicles. It plans to "onshore production of the most critical components in batteries - the anode and cathode - to drive down costs and emissions." In the process, the company said it will be "securing the supply chain within the United States."

Nearly 100% of the components required for electric vehicle batteries are manufactured overseas. Redwood Materials works to recover more than 95% of the minerals and rare earth elements from batteries, like nickel, cobalt, lithium, and copper, and then reintroduce those materials into the supply chain

through the anode and cathode materials it produces for U.S. battery manufacturers.

The more than 600-acre campus, located at Camp Hall Commerce Park in Ridgeville, will initially produce enough anode and cathode material for 100 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of battery cell production, or 1 million electric vehicles each year. Operations will begin in 2023.

Redwood Materials is headquartered in Nevada and was founded by JB Straubel, the Tesla car company's former chief technology officer and co-founder.



Berkeley Electric played an important part in the economic development team which met at Camp Hall for the first time last year to discuss Project Drift, aka Redwood Materials. (L to R - Bill McCall, Dan Camp, Mandy Brawley, Megan Anderson, Eddie Plowden, Bert Walling, Bidd Smith, Kristen Lanier



Board dates announced

Berkeley Electric Cooperative's nine-member board of trustees is elected from the general membership of the cooperative. The trustees meet monthly to receive reports regarding the operation of the Cooperative and conduct the monthly board meeting in accordance with the bylaws. These dates are subject to change so please visit the "My Co-op/About Us" page at berkeleyelectric.coop for the most current list.

- **January 23 - 1 p.m.**
- **February 27 - 1 p.m.**
- **March 27 - 1 p.m.**
- **April 24 - 1 p.m.**
- **May 22 - 1 p.m.**
- **June 26 - 1 p.m.**
- **July 24 - 1 p.m.**
- **August 28 - 1 p.m.**
- **September 25 - 1 p.m.**
- **October 23 - 1 p.m.**
- **November 27 - 1 p.m.**
- **December 15 - 10 am**

Cooperative members may request to address the board of trustees. The request must be submitted in writing using a form available from the cooperative's attorney, John B. Williams at Williams & Hulst, LLC.

Board meeting minutes are posted in the Member Portal which can be accessed through the Smarthub app for review. The Member Portal can also be accessed on the co-op's website.

Hard copies of the board minutes are available for review upon request in the Moncks Corner district office at the receptionist's desk.



The cooperative's yearly system reliability program is currently underway. Berkeley Electric has contracted with Osmose Utility Services to perform pole inspections and treatments to ensure the safety and reliability of the co-op's distribution system. Inspections are primarily being conducted in the Lebanon, Cane Bay and Windwood areas.

Osmose contractors have been temporarily provided with cooperative identification and all contractor vehicles will be clearly marked with the Osmose logo. Please be aware that contractors may need to enter or cross your property while conducting inspections. If you have any questions call us at (800) 327-9615.

BERKELEY AT-A-GLANCE	OCTOBER 2021	OCTOBER 2022
Total kWh sold	319,694,162	332,244,986
No. meters served	115,139	120,530
Avg. residential kWh/meter	942	849
Avg. residential bill/meter	\$132.97	\$121.15
Miles of line	6083	6214
Avg. daily high temperature	77	75
Avg. daily low temperature	57	54



TRUST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2023

Seniors, you could receive
\$2,500 towards your
college education



 SCAN ME

Apply by March 31



Berkeley Electric Cooperative