

7 Cooperative Principles

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance.

Cooperatives trace the roots of these principles to the modern cooperative founded in Rochdale, England, in 1844. These principles are a key reason that America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of their members first.

1. Open and Voluntary Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community



Co-ops power over 21 million businesses, homes, schools and farms in 48 states.

BARC ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 264
Millboro, VA 24460-0264
1-800-846-2272

Office Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
barcelectric.com
barconnects.net

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Chief Executive Officer
Bill Buchanan

BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Celebrating Membership

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say BARC celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you. After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. Concern for Community is one of seven guiding principles that all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions — because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

BARC works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board made up of neighbors who live right here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our scholarship programs. With your help, we offer Power from the Heart to help our neighbors in need. We partner with and support other local charitable organizations, as well.



Manager's Message

Bill Buchanan
CEO, BARC Electric Cooperative

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together towards a common goal — mutually benefitting one another and the larger community. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community in which we live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know that saving energy and money is important to you. That's why we have numerous programs in place to help, including the Energy Usage Tool at barcelectric.com.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you to consider our Energy Monitor program. Simply plug the monitor into the wall, plug your appliance into the monitor, and it will tell you the amount of energy used, along with the cost. And we're of course here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

BARC is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently, while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve.

Co-ops Cooperate

BARC crews along the southern Alabama coast in 2020.

Mutual-aid program illustrates cooperative difference

Severe storms can cause interruptions to electric service throughout the year. Electric cooperative crews are often faced with challenges during power restoration due to the rural, and sometimes rugged, nature of the service area. BARC crews must maintain and repair a system that crosses some of the roughest terrain in Virginia.

Years ago, the nation's electric co-ops created its unique mutual-aid program. Designed to help one another during times of crisis, this assistance program allows lineworkers and others to travel to impacted areas to restore power more quickly.

Over the past few years, BARC lineworkers have deployed on several missions to restore power following the storm. In addition to assisting sister co-ops throughout Virginia, 10 lineworkers traveled to southern Alabama in September 2020 when Hurricane Sally knocked out power to more than 78,000 Baldwin EMC members.

The BARC crew was part of a 70-person response team from six electric co-ops in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware. In total, more than 1,000 lineworkers from across the U.S. responded to the call for assistance.

Your electric co-op is located in one of the most beautiful areas of the commonwealth. But, that mountainous beauty quickly becomes treacherous working conditions when a storm passes through. This was especially true in June 2012 when the infamous derecho left a trail of destruction.

Derechos are widespread, long-lived wind storms that can include bands of fast-moving heavy rain showers, tornadoes, hail and straight-line winds.

Former BARC lineworker Phil Jarvis, who now coordinates the mutual-aid program for the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, recalls assistance crews coming in from Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. BARC also solicited help from some retirees, who served as navigators, or bird dogs, for the out-of-town crews.

The most memorable part of that June storm for Jarvis was the heat. Fortunately, dry conditions made it easier to access the broken poles and lines that were down.

"I think we had in the neighborhood of 150 broken poles," says Jarvis. "Without the mutual-aid crews, the response would have been much longer than the seven to eight days we had for full restoration."

Depending on the level of damage caused by a storm or other disaster, additional co-op resources are also shared, including engineers, purchasing agents and communications professionals.

Despite the fact that storms are likely to affect, and possibly damage, the BARC service area, members can rest assured that assistance crews eagerly await the call to come lend a hand. Likewise, your BARC crews look forward to helping our extended co-op family. It's just part of the cooperative difference.

Power from the Heart



Help others in need by rounding up your month bill.

Learn more at barcelectric.com/power-from-heart.

Energy-Efficiency BARC TIP OF THE MONTH

SEAL AIR LEAKS AROUND WINDOWS

With winter weather on the way, now is the time to seal drafty windows. If you can see daylight around a window frame or if you can rattle a window (movement means possible leaks), the window likely needs to be sealed.

Most window leaks can be sealed with caulk or weather stripping, which come in a variety of compounds and materials.

Visit energy.gov/energysaver to learn how and where to seal air leaks.



Source: energy.gov



A young fairgoer embraces his new doll, Butch.



Connecting with Fairgoers

Is there a better place to visit with members of our rural communities than a county fair? Likely not. A handful of BARC employees spent their Friday evening engaging with co-op members and others at the Rockbridge County Fair in early September.

Fairgoers learned about energy efficiency, broadband progress, community solar and more while enjoying great conversation. Kids of all ages, even some adults, took home a stuffed doll of BARC mascot Butch.

Concern for Community, the seventh of BARC's guiding principles, is defined as cooperatives working for the sustainable development of their communities through policies approved by their members. Supporting community events like county fairs is just one way your co-op demonstrates its commitment to improving the quality of life throughout and around the Shenandoah Valley.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by to visit with us in Glasgow last month. We look forward to seeing more of our members at future events.



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