

Considering Solar? We're Here to Help.

by Billy Reid, Director of Business Development

Today's consumers want and expect options, including the type of energy powering their homes. Many homeowners are looking for a less expensive form of energy with ongoing savings. Some are looking for a green energy source. These two motives are why many homeowners are exploring rooftop solar panels.

The interest in alternative energy sources is also being fueled by decreasing costs for rooftop solar, the availability of financial incentives, and the proliferation of companies offering solar panel installation.

However, as attractive and popular as rooftop solar may appear, it is important for consumers to fully understand its true costs, the operational reality of this form of energy and actual energy savings. To determine whether rooftop solar is right for their particular situation, homeowners must undertake their due diligence.

We're here to help.

As your trusted energy adviser, BARC can offer a candid assessment of your specific situation. After all, BARC has a different "bottom line" that is not directly tied to the sale of a product or service. We



constantly strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently.

BARC Electric Cooperative is seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment and evolving technology. We are exploring more options that will help you manage your energy. We take a more holistic, objective approach toward achieving energy savings.

Is rooftop solar right for you?

To help determine whether rooftop solar is right for you, BARC's energy advisers will look at the:

- Overall energy efficiency of the home/building;
- Age and pitch of the roof;
- Orientation of the sun in relation to the home/building;
- Tree coverage near the home/building; and
- Weather patterns for the region.

Unlike a solar company that has one objective — to sell their products and services — we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home.

While rooftop solar certainly works for many people, it's not the answer for all. When helping co-op members determine whether rooftop solar is right for them, a co-op energy adviser will also discuss the many financial considerations:

- Is there a large, up-front payment required, or are fees spread out over time?
- Will the homeowner own the panels,

or will they be leased?

- Are there any hidden costs, i.e., does the roof need to be replaced before installing the panels?
- Are there ongoing maintenance fees?
- Are there rebates or other financial incentives available?
- Is the estimated energy savings worth the investment?
- Is it more cost-effective to invest in other energy-saving measures?

Most importantly, an energy adviser will provide perspective on the total energy puzzle. Taking into account current energy consumption, the home "envelope," age and efficiency of the HVAC system and home site, an energy adviser can help co-op members determine whether rooftop solar is the best choice given the homeowners' objectives.

When assessing solar options, it is an excellent time to examine other potential energy-efficiency improvements for your home. For example, it may make sense to insulate the attic at the same time as installing solar.

BARC recognizes that consumer interest in green energy sources and renewables is at an all-time high, and we stand ready to help our members determine their best options.

Contact Billy Reid at 800-846-2272 or visit barcelectric.com/solar.

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BARC Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

■ WATER

Three-day supply, 1 gallon per person per day.

■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA weather radio with tone alert.

■ FIRST-AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First-aid supplies, hand sanitizer, and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.



We're Here for You!

At BARC, we're committed to providing the best possible member experience. Our member services representatives are available to help members with a variety of services, including:

- Requests to connect/disconnect service
- Completing new member paperwork
- Understanding capital credits
- Billing explanations
- Payment processing
- Outage preparation and reporting

Contact a member services representative for assistance at 1-800-846-2272. Select option 1 and then option 2 to speak with a MSR.

Right-of-Way Maintenance

BARC Electric will be working in the following areas over the next few months:

Falling Springs

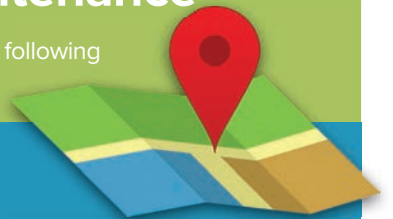
beginning in July/August

Bacova

beginning in August/September

Spring Valley and Buffalo Creek

expected to begin in October/November



For more information about right-of-way maintenance, including maps of where work is taking place, visit barcelectric.com/right-of-way.

Learn more at www.ready.gov

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.



NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING DAY

FRIDAY | AUGUST 11

811 DAY

IT'S A BIG DAY!

Know what's below.

811 before you dig.

August 11th (or 8-11 Day) serves as a BIG reminder...

to always contact Virginia 811 before doing any digging project. Whether you're a professional excavator or weekend warrior, you have an important role in preventing damage to underground utilities. No matter how big or small your project is, contacting Virginia 811 to request utility line markings before you dig will help avoid physical injury, property damage, costly repairs, and service interruptions.

BARC Communities

Big Events in Virginia's Least Populous County!

There's no better place to find solitude in nature than the mountains and waters of Highland County, Va. Several upcoming events and attractions highlight the charm of this rural community.

Aug. 5 – Mountain Mama Road Bike Challenge – This annual event features two states, three counties, nine mountains, 105 miles and over 10,000 feet of climb. Grab your friends for a bicyclists' dream.

Aug. 26 (Horse Show) and Aug. 30-Sept. 2 – Highland County Fair – Experience one of Virginia's oldest fairs over Labor Day weekend with a parade, rides, games, fireworks, demolition derbies, truck and tractor pulls, live music and more.

Sept. 1-3 – 18th-Century Trades Fair – Colonial-era craftsmen demonstrate and sell their wares at this new event at Fair Lawn Farm south of Monterey.





Oct. 6-8 – Hands & Harvest Festival – Celebrate fall during your holiday weekend in the scenic mountains with a Harvest Trail of farm tours and activities, arts and crafts, square dance, seasonal food and family fun!

Sounding Knob Fire Tower – Just a short drive east of Monterey, climb over 100 steps up this restored fire tower for breathtaking 360-degree views from sunrise to sunset.

McDowell Battlefield Trail – Immerse yourself in history with interpretive signage while hiking on this pivotal Civil War battlefield.

Highland County Barn Quilt Trail – While exploring the beautiful country roads, see how many colorful wooden barn-quilt squares and diamonds you can find using our popular brochure on Virginia's first barn quilt trail.

Virginia Maple Syrup Trail – Grab an official passport and schedule tours with local maple syrup producers year-round outside of the Highland County Maple Festival. Get your passport stamped at them all for a free gift!

Learn more at:  highlandcounty.org  [HighlandCounty](https://www.facebook.com/HighlandCounty)
 [highland_county_va](https://www.instagram.com/highland_county_va)  [540-468-2550](tel:540-468-2550)

Wings & Wheels

Aug. 26 – 13th Annual Wings & Wheels Air/Car Show will be held at historic Ingalls Field Airport in Hot Springs, Va. Gates open at 10 a.m. for the car show, food and craft vendors, with the air show starting at 1 p.m. Wings and Wheels is the largest regional air show/car show in western Virginia, held at the highest public-use airport east of the Mississippi. Visit wingsandwheelsbathcountyyva.com for more information.



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TOGETHER WE SHINE BRIGHTER

BARC is now making owning
solar easier and more affordable.



Contact BARC today: Billy Reid, Director, Business Development
800-846-2272, barcelectric.com/solar



TIGERSOLAR

