


WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Non-Discrimination Notice &
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WREC MEMBER NEWSLETTER

➤ Understanding Right-of-Way & Vegetation Management

What is right-of-way? A right-of-way (ROW) is the land WREC uses to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. ROW enables utility services, like WREC, to provide clearance from trees or other obstructions that could hinder power line installation, maintenance or operation. WREC must be able to access the ROW in order to maintain our overhead and underground power lines. The overall goal of WREC's Vegetation Management Department/Policy/Program is to provide reliable power to our Members while being able to maintain our community's beauty. WREC employs ACRT, a licensed arborist vegetation management company to plan and manage vegetation in the ROW. ACRT is highly experienced where they not only cut away trees and shrubs that could interfere with the power lines, but their experience and efficiency keep the health and value of the vegetation, keeping our community's beauty up to standard.

There are three major benefits of vegetation management: Safety, Reliability and Affordability. We care about the safety of our Members and our employees. When there is overgrown vegetation and trees near power lines, it poses a safety threat. Vegetation touching a power line could catch fire, if it falls on a power line during severe weather this can cause outages and it even has the potential of allowing the power to jump from the line to a tree. If anyone is near that tree or touching it when that occurs, it could be dangerous for all. Keeping the vegetation managed helps keep everyone safe.

A large benefit of our vegetation management program is the reliability. Performing strategic tree trimming reduces the amount of downed power lines which can cause prolonged outages. Healthy vegetation is less likely to affect the power lines. Which helps prevent outages during severe weather. It also allows us to keep our communities looking beautiful.

WREC is a not-for-profit electric Co-op and we strive to keep costs down. Planning ahead and having vegetation management in place keeps costs down while preventing outages. Please remember the importance of letting WREC and it's contractors like ACRT have access to the right-of-way and understand why vegetation management is crucial to maintain your electric service.

MOVE OVER - IT'S THE LAW

When approaching an authorized emergency, sanitation or utility service vehicle on the side of the road, do not forget to do the following:

- Move out of the lane closest to their vehicle.
- If you cannot move over, slow speed down to 20 miles per hour under the posted speed limit.


This is especially important to remember during storm season when there are more trucks out restoring power.

Thanks for helping keep our crews safe!



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STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc., is the recipient of Rural Development funding assistance from the **Rural Utilities Service**. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication or program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc) should contact the responsible Agency USDA's Target Center at (202)720-2600 (voice and TDD) or contact the USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is Kristina Walzak, Manager of Human Resources. Any individual, or specific class of individual, who feels this organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a program discrimination complaint by completing the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Cooperative Rewards

WREC is offering a smart thermostat program called Cooperative Rewards. This program is designed to help save money on energy costs and lower WREC's energy consumption at peak times. It's simple, convenient, and by enrolling in WREC's Cooperative Rewards program, you can save money while saving energy!

What is a smart thermostat? Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled devices that help manage the energy used by your home's heating and cooling system. The smart thermostat will learn your temperature preferences and automatically adjust your home's heating and cooling system to save energy.

Cooperative Rewards is a voluntary demand-response program which rewards Members for reducing their electricity use during periods of high demand. Participation helps increase the reliability and affordability of the electric grid. Participants may earn up to \$30.00/year for their participation. To learn more about this program please call your local WREC district office or visit www.cooperative-rewards.com.

To Report An Inoperative Or Malfunctioning Street Light

Please call your local Cooperative Office, OR you may also log on to wrec.net and click on the **Repair Street Light** button, then complete and submit the **Street Light Repair Request Form**, or you can download the **SmartHub** app and request a street light repair.

CONNECTIONS is published by: Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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VISIT US ON THE INTERNET AT: WREC.NET

Your Board of Trustees meets on the Third Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Corporate Office in Dade City to conduct the business of the Cooperative and its' subsidiaries.

LEGAL NOTICE: Operation Round-Up is a Registered Trade Name for WRECares. 100% of all contributions are available for disbursement. Registration #SC-02353. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free from within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State. 1-800-435-7352.

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WREC OFFICES

PASCO: Billy E. Brown Corporate Center: 352-567-5133 - Dade City, FL
One Pasco Center District Office: 352-588-5115 | New Tampa/Wesley Chapel: 813-979-9732
Bayonet Point District Office: 727-868-9465 | Land O' Lakes/Odessa: 813-972-9233
CITRUS: Crystal River District Office: 352-795-4382 | Dunnellon: 352-489-6818
HERNANDO: West Hernando District Office: 352-596-4000
POLK: One Pasco Center District Office: 863-687-4396
SUMTER: Bushnell: 352-793-7813

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