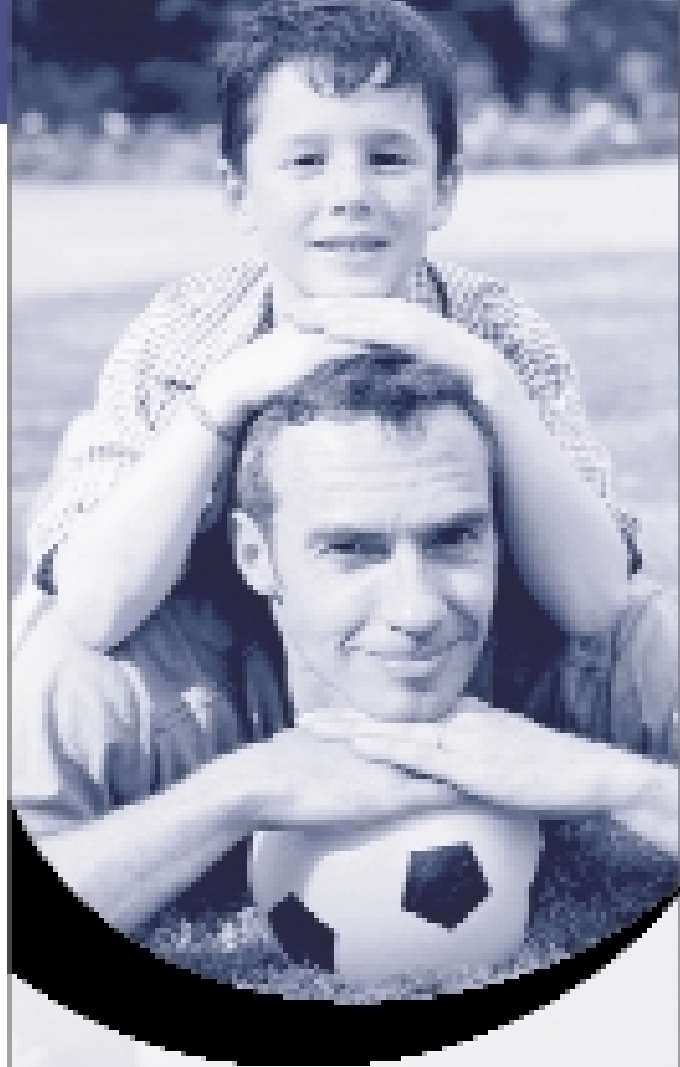


Cooperative Principles

All cooperative businesses adhere to these seven guiding principles:

- 1) Voluntary and Open Membership**
Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political, or religious discrimination.
- 2) Democratic Member Control**
Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in the cooperative. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. Members have equal voting rights — one vote per member.
- 3) Members' Economic Participation**
Members contribute equitably to the capital of their cooperative. Members receive no compensation on capital subscribed as a condition of membership. Surpluses are allocated for the development of the cooperative.
- 4) Autonomy and Independence**
Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.
- 5) Education, Training, and Information**
Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.





- 6) **Cooperation Among Cooperatives**
Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional, and international structures.
- 7) **Concern for Community**
While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

Electric Cooperatives Across America

FACTS AT A GLANCE

More than 900 electric cooperatives serve:

- 39 million people in 47 states
- 15 million businesses, homes, schools, churches, farms, irrigation systems, and other establishments in 2,500 of 3,128 counties in the U.S.
- 12 percent of the nation's population

To perform their mission, electric cooperatives:

- Own assets worth \$76 billion
- Own and maintain 2.3 million miles, or 43 percent, of the nation's electric distribution lines, covering three quarters of the nation's landmass
- Deliver 9 percent of the total kilowatt-hours sold in the U.S. each year
- Generate five percent of the total electricity produced in the U.S. each year
- Employ nearly 60,000 people in the United States
- Pay more than \$707 million in state and local taxes annually

