



### **BrightRidge breaks ground for a new Solar Learning Lab**



BrightRidge, Silicon Ranch Corporation, LightWave Solar, LLC and the Tennessee Valley Authority broke ground in March on a new solar learning lab at BrightRidge's campus. The Solar Lab will produce 498.4 megawatt hours (MWh) annually which will offset 100% of the usage for its Administration Building. BrightRidge will own the system and its output will go directly on to the electric grid.

"BrightRidge continues to lead the way under TVA's Generation Flexibility Program by putting solar power on the grid, increasing our distribution system resilience, localizing power production and providing the diversified power mix expected by today's businesses," BrightRidge CEO Jeff Dykes said. "While this is a small-scale demonstration project, it will offset a significant portion of our internal electricity usage and serve as a front door welcoming the community to learn about distributed generation and how we put green power to work."

The Solar Lab will feature over 800 fixed solar panels, bringing a third type of solar generation to BrightRidge's solar portfolio. The 5 MW Telford Community Solar Farm has tracking panels and the 9 MW Martin Solar Farm has bi-directional tracking panels. By offering fixed panels, the Solar Lab will allow local students to compare the performance of the three panel types and learn more about photovoltaic energy generation. Online resources and data will be available to any educational system in BrightRidge's service area.

Working with the construction partners on the project, Silicon Ranch and Light Wave Solar, the layout of the Solar Lab will feature a 'golden row' that will face Boones Creek Road so motorists will be able to identify the Solar Lab. All other rows will face the other direction to meet our production needs. BrightRidge anticipates the Solar Lab to be fully functional by late summer.

## **BrightSpots**

by BrightRidge®

### **Who is BrightRidge?**

This quarter's BrightSpots by BrightRidge introduces you to your local public power company. Or for our long term customers, a good re-introduction! Hello! We're BrightRidge, your local public power company. Owned by and located in your community, and operated by your neighbors and friends, BrightRidge is literally for the people, by the people!

Our story starts in Johnson City where we purchased the electric distribution system from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in 1945. This created the Johnson City Power Board to distribute electricity to portions of Washington, Greene, Sullivan, and Carter counties. And with help from TVA, we've kept power prices 70% below the national average. Not too bad of a deal, if we say so ourselves.

In 2017, we changed our name to BrightRidge. We remain the locally owned power company that began in 1945, with a local board of directors, as well as management and employee team. The reason for a new name? Since we cover more than just Johnson City, it felt appropriate to have a name that included the greater East Tennessee area. BrightRidge also reflects our innovative visions and how we've expanded our services from just power.

Around four years ago, we began to offer internet services to our customers. We've invested much into this project and have brought a state-of-the-art fiber broadband service with speeds up to 10 gigabytes to our community. So state of the art that we are one of just six communities in the entire U.S. to have such a fast and reliable internet service!

We think you can already tell that being a public power company is a pretty big deal for us. But what does that mean for you? Well, beyond stimulating the local economy with jobs, BrightRidge is the largest taxpayer for both Johnson City and Washington County. We are proud to be able to help our community in more ways than simply providing power.

Keep looking for more BrightSpots by BrightRidge in our community!

# From the CEO



**BrightRidge**

2600 Boones Creek Road  
Johnson City, TN 37615  
423-952-5000  
www.brightridge.com

Jeff Dykes, Chief Executive Officer  
Ceilya Campbell, Administrative  
Assistant  
Carrie Boeve, Publication Editor

Visit website for Board Member and  
Administrative Staff Directories.

**“Progress means getting nearer to the place where you want to be.”**

**– C.S. Lewis**

As BrightRidge broke ground for our Solar Lab, it signaled progress for our employees and our community. The lab will supply power to our campus here at BrightRidge, but also will be used as a training lab for local universities, high schools, and elementary schools. The lab will be used as an educational tool to show students a renewable form of energy generation in an up-close way. Once completed, the lab will be opened to students to observe, study, and learn about solar generation.

As electric vehicles (EV) continue to increase in market share of cars sold, BrightRidge has worked with local communities and businesses to install EV charging stations throughout our system. Our first fast charging station is scheduled to be installed in downtown Johnson City. As charging improves and battery distance increases, we expect to see more and more electric vehicles traveling about in our area.

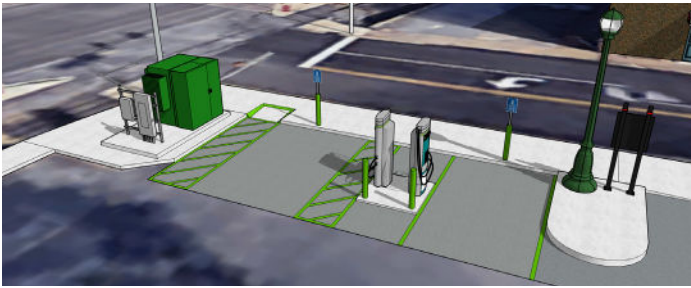
As the summer months are upon us, we hope you enjoy a great time of the year on trips and celebrations with family and friends. We are blessed to live in an area of the country with so many things one can do outdoors. With boating, fishing, hiking, bicycling, outdoor sports and just sitting on the porch enjoying what God has blessed us with, I hope you have a great summer.

**“Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning.” – Benjamin Franklin**

Jeffrey R. Dykes,  
Chief Executive Officer

**“As a customer who takes power for granted...thank you guys for working hard this morning through this (storm). Our power is restored. Thank you!” An email from D.L. of Gray on March 22, 2023.**

## EV Fast Charging Station Coming to Johnson City



BrightRidge and the City of Johnson City have partnered to locate a fast-charging electric vehicle (EV) charging station downtown. Funded through a grant from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), this fast-charging station will offer two chargers in the existing municipal parking lot at 110 Cherry Street, located at the intersection of State of Franklin and Roan Street.

Johnson City was designated as an eligible location, offering access off I-26, as identified as a priority corridor for TDEC. Deemed as part of the *Fast Charge TN Network*, this location advances the State's goal of establishing a statewide corridor fast-charging network that improves vehicle emissions, promotes EV adoption, and strengthens the resiliency of the transportation network.

The competitive grant process started early in 2022 with BrightRidge applying for a two-station option, and was awarded funds in late 2022. BrightRidge then approached the City about partnering on a location.

BrightRidge will own and maintain the station, with the City providing the parking spaces in the existing parking lot. Wayfinder signs and appropriate parking lot markings will be installed to direct EV drivers to the two charging spots. One of the spots will support the ability for van accessible EV charging space. Once functional, the fast-charging station will be featured on local, state and nation-wide charging applications for drivers looking to plug in.

Construction is scheduled to start this summer and the station is expected to be fully operational before the holiday season later this year. This project is funded under a grant contract with the State of Tennessee.

## NOTICE TO ELECTRIC SYSTEM CUSTOMERS OF INVESTMENT IN COMMERCIAL BROADBAND

BrightRidge requested authorization from its regulator, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), to invest electric system revenues in its commercial broadband division. This Notice is being provided to BrightRidge's customers pursuant to TVA's regulatory transparency requirements.

In 2018, BrightRidge filed an application with TVA requesting authorization to invest its electric system revenues in its broadband division. Specifically, BrightRidge's broadband division, has borrowed \$35 million approved in 2018 and \$47 million in approved in 2021 from the electric system revenues to finance the deployment of broadband equipment for its commercial broadband business in its service territory.

For 2023, BrightRidge's broadband division is borrowing an additional \$8 million from the electric division. Combined with the first two loans, the total combined fiber investment for electric and commercial broadband purposes is projected at \$90 million. Per TVA requirements and conditions of TVA's authorization, BrightRidge's broadband division is required to repay BrightRidge's electric division for the electric funds being loaned to it for commercial broadband purposes. It is estimated that the total investment for both electric and commercial broadband will not have rate impacts associated with the investment.

Any questions regarding this broadband investment should be directed to BrightRidge's Public Relations & Governmental Affairs Director at Post Office Box 1636, Johnson City, Tennessee 37605-1636, by email at [publicrecords@brightridge.com](mailto:publicrecords@brightridge.com), or by phone at 423-952-5000.

### REMINDER

#### Update Your Information!

BrightRidge encourages customers to keep up-to-date contact information on file for your services. Updating your contact information makes it easier to report an outage and stay informed. Call 423-952-5000 to update your phone number or email.

## Join Us for Summer Fun

BrightRidge is a proud sponsor of the Meet the Mountains Festival, scheduled for August 18 & 19. This free festival showcases Northeast Tennessee's outdoor recreation assets with a focus on experiencing the outdoors. Family and dog friendly, this two-day festival offers numerous fun activities, demonstrations, and hands-on experiences.

New this year, the festival will take place at Winged Deer Park in Johnson City and will be divided into three zones: Air, Water, and Earth. Check out the activities planned for these zones and the entire festival schedule at the festival's website [www.mtmfest.org](http://www.mtmfest.org).

Be sure to visit BrightRidge's booth as we promote customer programs, broadband services and have some good outdoor fun at Meet the Mountains Festival!



# BrightRidge Broadband Updates

It was only in January that BrightRidge celebrated adding our 10,000<sup>th</sup> Broadband customer, and then in April we surpassed our 11,000<sup>th</sup> customer. Now we are connecting our 12,000<sup>th</sup> household this month (July 2023) with continued growth expected in the future.

If you already have our Broadband product, thank you for trusting us to be your provider of choice!

A majority of participants selected BrightRidge as the Johnson City Press “2022 Best Internet provider” and we are committed to maintaining our 10Gig Fiber Broadband solution as one of the best available in the country.

Demand has been tremendous with more than 12,000 local families and businesses making the switch to our nation-leading Broadband services. Don't settle for marginal internet service and poor support, when you can get the best with local people supporting you. What's holding you back from making the switch and getting a better product for your family?

## Status of Broadband Deployment

**Phase 5:** The fiber build resulting from the partnership between the city of Johnson City and BrightRidge was completed in June. This includes the areas of Plymouth Park, Melrose, Georgia Terrace, Stoney Brook, Keystone, Piney Grove, Hillrise, and Oak Park. We are now 100% complete with the overhead and underground fiber broadband deployment in this section, with over 7,000 homes and businesses that can sign up for our broadband services now.

**Phase 6:** Most of the construction of the Broadband network in our Phase 6 area has been completed. This includes the areas with overhead utility lines from the “I26/N Roan St” intersection north to Piney Flats. Check availability for your address at [www.mybrihtridge.com](http://www.mybrihtridge.com)

## Should you switch to a free third-party email service?

If you haven't moved to a dedicated or third-party email service yet, you should. Examples of some of the free email services are Gmail from Google, Hotmail (now Outlook.com), or Yahoo.

## Why should you drop your Internet Service Provider (ISP) email address for a third-party option?

- 1. Independence:** By using a third-party email service, consumers are not tied to a specific ISP. This means that if they switch ISPs in the future, they can keep using the same email address without any disruption. Also as ISPs are sold or changed names, it could result in your email address changing or being discontinued.
- 2. Reliability:** Third-party email services often have robust infrastructure and dedicated teams that focus solely on email delivery. This can result in better reliability and uptime compared to email services provided by ISPs, which may prioritize their core internet connectivity services over email.
- 3. Enhanced Features:** Third-party email services typically offer a wider range of features and functionalities compared to ISP-provided email. These can include advanced spam filtering, encryption, larger storage capacities, advanced search capabilities, and integration with other productivity tools.
- 4. Cross-Platform Access:** Third-party email services are often designed to work seamlessly across various devices and platforms. This means users can access their emails from computers, smartphones, tablets, and web browsers, regardless of the ISP or operating system they are using.
- 5. Privacy and Security:** Some consumers may have concerns about their ISP having access to their emails and potentially monitoring their communications. By using a third-party email service, they can choose providers that prioritize privacy and offer enhanced security measures, such as end-to-end encryption or two-factor authentication.
- 6. Better User Interface:** Third-party email services often invest heavily in creating user-friendly interfaces that are intuitive and easy to navigate. This can improve the overall email experience for consumers, making it more efficient and enjoyable to manage their messages.



**BrightRidge<sup>®</sup>**  
Broadband

## CONNECT WITH CONFIDENCE

With our cutting-edge technology, you can trust that your online experience will be fast, reliable, and uninterrupted.

[LEARN MORE](#) [www.mybrihtridge.com](http://www.mybrihtridge.com)