



17494 US 421 S • Dunn, NC 28334 • (910)892-8071/800-338-5530 • www.sremc.com

State Energy Office Rewards Energy Star Purchases

In April, North Carolinians will be able to save on major appliance purchases thanks to \$8.8 million awarded to the North Carolina State Energy Office through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The state will offer an instant 15% point-of-purchase rebate (discount) for Earth Day weekend, April 22-25.

Dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers and clothes washers are eligible for the one-time discount.

The incentive is offered to reward North

Carolinians for making energy-efficient appliance choices. Shoppers can receive rebates on more than one appliance, but they must be different appliances. For example, you can receive a rebate on a clothes washer and dishwasher, but not two refrigerators.

Plus, South River EMC will also give you a \$25 rebate on the same appliances (see page G for more information).



Energy Efficient Resources

Your cooperative has a series of resources available to help you make energy-efficient choices and energy-saving home improvements.

The Energy Savers Guide

This educational guide helps identify a home's typical energy use, as well as providing energy saving tips. The guide offers short-term, low-cost energy saving options as well as long-term investments.

101 Easy Ways To Save Energy And Money

The easy-to-read guide lists 101 ways to save both energy and money featuring sections on water heating, laundry, your kitchen, lighting, heating and air conditioning, as well as numerous miscellaneous recommendations.

South River EMC Web site (www.sremc.com)

Our Web site has numerous applications that can help you save energy and money. Visit the HomeEnergy Suite to learn how you are using energy in your home and how simple changes can help make your home more energy efficient. Our Web site also offers a series of energy calculators to help you see how certain energy choices affect your bottom line. The appliance calculator puts into hard numbers how much it costs to run individual household appliances. The lighting calculator calculates the savings potential for switching from standard incandescents to CFLs. If you use space heaters around your home, check out the calculator dedicated solely to

providing hard numbers that show these little heaters can be big energy users.

Adults can learn more about their energy choices by visiting the energy library. Children can learn more about where their electricity comes from and how to use it safely by visiting the Kids Korner!

Local Community Action Programs

If your home is an energy hog, but you don't have the resources to make the necessary weatherization improvements, you may be eligible for weatherization assistance through community action. Community action programs focus on conducting an energy assessment to find the most cost-effective energy improvements that need to be performed. Typical services include: sealing air leaks, installing insulation in attics, floors and walls, sealing and insulating ducts and replacing existing lighting with energy-efficient lighting.

If you live in Sampson or Cumberland counties, contact the Cumberland Community Action Program, Inc. at 910-485-6131. For residents of Johnston and Harnett counties, contact Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action at 919-934-2145 (Johnston) or 910-814-8360 (Harnett).

Cooperative Rebates

South River EMC offers members several rebates for making energy efficient improvements in their homes. Visit pages F-H of this newsletter for complete information on South River EMC's rebates.

Rate Change Takes Effect March 1

South River EMC will implement a change to its base rates come March 1. This change signifies a major change in the cooperative's rate structures, but most members won't even notice the difference.

The change in the facilities charge.

The facilities charge partially represents the expense of delivering electricity to you – including, but not limited to; the cost for substations, poles and lines; the cost and maintenance of trucks and buildings; employee expenses like wages and benefits; and the costs associated with maintaining records, processing, printing and mailing of bills.

However, a facilities charge is not truly representative of all expenses associated with the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. Therefore, the remainder of those expenses is rolled into the energy charge. In the best-case scenario, all costs associated with the delivery of electricity to your home or business should be recovered through the facilities charge and the energy fees would be only for energy expenses. The change in the facilities charge is movement toward this goal.

The residential rate.

This new rate breaks down what was originally the general service rate. The residential service rate, or Schedule R, is specifically for homes. The facilities charge was originally \$12.75 for single phase, and \$38.25 for three- phase lines. With this rate change, single phase facilities charges are \$20.00 and three phase charges are \$40.00.

Another change is that all non-residential services less than 50 kilowatts, or kw, but not a home, will be placed on the small general service, or SGS, rate. That rate is 10.31¢ from May through October and 9.31¢ per kilowatt-hour, or kwh, from November through April.

Because we have been using the wholesale power cost adjustment, WPCA, for over a year, the transition should be virtually unnoticed. The average household uses about 1,320 kwh a month and the WPCA for the average household bill equals \$11.62 monthly.

In many cases members will find their bills lower than they were before the WPCA, especially in the winter.

The SGS rate.

This rate allows the Cooperative to differentiate between homes and other non-residential services. This rate class will include barns, water pumps, small commercial accounts, electric fences and many other non-residential services that require less than 50 kw of electricity monthly.

Facilities charges:

single-phase	\$22 monthly
three-phase	\$44 monthly

Energy charges:

The first 750 kwh	10.82¢ per kwh
The next 1,250 kwh	9.52¢ per kwh
The next 2,000 kwh	9.04¢ per kwh
All kwh above 4,000	8.59¢ per kwh

Elimination of the energy-efficient home discount.

Because of ever-changing building codes and efficiency improvements, the majority of homes currently receiving the energy-efficient home, five-percent discount, are no longer exceeding state and federal energy-efficiency standards. The discount will be removed from accounts.

Elimination of the interruptible rate (IS 90).

Wholesale power contracts were once purchased at a specific price with an additional charge for the highest demand each month. This made it important for utilities to implement programs to help reduce the monthly peak.

In recent years, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have been able to secure purchased power contracts that are no longer tied to costly peak demand charges. Blocks of power are now more uniformly priced, removing the emphasis from shifting load off peak. As a result, we can no longer offer IS 90 without operating at a loss, and this rate will no longer be available.



Win An Easter Basket!

The Power Source Volunteers will be holding a drawing for one Easter basket at each cooperative office.

The baskets will come with all the trimmings for an Easter meal, as well as a \$50 Food Lion gift card and a \$100 credit applied to the winner's electric account!

You can register for the drawing in either South River EMC office beginning March 1. The drawing will be held March 29.



South River EMC offices will be closed Friday, April 2, in observance of Easter.



Fun and Information at the Annual Meeting

Entertainment

6:15-7:25 p.m.

The evening's entertainment will be provided by The Fantastic Shakers. The Fantastic Shakers, known as the "South's Finest Show Band," have performed over 6,000 engagements including over 400 wedding receptions, 700 conventions, and numerous clubs. With five lead vocalists and up to three horns, they can perform almost any style of music from up-tempo dance and rock to the smooth easy listening. The Shakers have won many awards through the various beach music award associations. This includes two-time show group of the year, three time album of the year, and lead singer Bo Schronce has been named male vocalist of the year on four different occasions as well as induction into the Hall of Fame.



Bazaar

6-7:30 p.m.

Welcome back the Cooperative Bazaar for another great year! Comprised of business representatives from the area to speak with you about their various products and services, we have had over 50 vendors in the past. This year we are on pace to have even more businesses represented at the bazaar. So, come early! Booth spaces are

still available. Call Julie Wahl at 910-892-8071, ext. 2151, or send an email to jwahl@sremc.com to reserve your spot today!

Kids' Korner

6 p.m. - end of the business meeting

We aim to make the children's entertainment better each year! The Kids' Korner offers a safe, secure, fun place for you to leave your children

(ages 4- to 12-years-old) while you enjoy the meeting. We will have inflatable rides for the children. Each child will receive a t-shirt at the end of the night. Snacks will also be available for children.

You're Invited to South River EMC's Annual Meeting of Members

Thursday, April 15
Crown Arena & Theatre, Fayetteville
Entertainment and Registration
begin at 6 p.m.
Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Committee Meets To Make Nominations

The South River EMC nominating committee met on January 4 to make nominations for the election of directors to be held during the 2010 Annual Meeting of Members on April 15 at the Crown Arena and Theatre in Fayetteville.

Prior to the meeting, each committee member was given a copy of the bylaws and the cooperative's Policy No. 632, Qualifications for Directors. These materials help the committee make the best possible decision.

South River EMC Attorney, Robert H. Jones, is the committee's chairperson and Iris Lucas is secretary.

The following members have been nominated:

District 4: Carlton Martin

District 6: Mary Talley

District 8: Glenn Riddle

Terms of office for directors are staggered so only three expire each year.

The ways which directors may be elected:

1. By petition. Any 15 members of the cooperative, acting together, may make nominations in writing, listing the nominees separately with respect to the particular term and the particular directorate district from which they are nominated, not less than 25 business days prior to the meeting.

2. From nominations by a committee on nominations.

District 1 - Van Buie, 1680 Buie Rd., Broadway, NC; represents South River EMC service area west of Highway 401 in Harnett County.

District 2 - Rebecca O'Dell, 276 Austin Ln., Newton Grove; represents South River EMC service area east of Highway 421 and north of Highway 13 in Sampson and Johnston counties.

District 3 - Iris Lucas, 887 Junious Lucas Rd., Faison; represents South River EMC service area east of Highway 242 and south of Highway 13 in Sampson County.

District 4 - Elwood Williams, 2197 Fayetteville Hwy., Dunn; represents South River EMC service area in Sampson County southwest of Highway 421 and west of Highway 242, east of Dunn Road and



Left to right: Wayne Collier Jr., Joseph Marsh, Rebecca O'Dell, Iris Lucas, Carol Hudson, Van Buie, Ronald Hedgepeth, Alexander Eastman and Elwood Williams.

Carroll Store Road to Maxwell Rd., east of South River School Rd. and Bluman Rd. to the Harnett- Sampson-Cumberland county lines and north to Highway 421.

District 5 - Ronald D. Hedgepeth, 615 Vander Rd., Salemburg; represents South River EMC service area south of Maxwell Rd., west of Carroll Store Rd. and Dunn Rd., west of Highway 242 and Highway 411 to Highway 701, northeast of Old Fayetteville Rd. and Turnbull Rd. to the Sampson-Cumberland county line and north to Maxwell Rd.

District 6 - Carol Hudson, 3661 Murphy Road, Fayetteville; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland County north of Highway 24, east of the Cape Fear River, south of the Cumberland- Harnett county line and west of the Cumberland- Sampson county line.

District 7 - Wayne Collier Jr., 5489 Indian Ridge Rd., Linden; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland County north of Highway 24, west of the Cape Fear River, south of the Cumberland- Harnett county line, and all of Harnett County east of Highway 401.

District 8 - Mr. Joseph Wilson Marsh, 3608 Blossom Road, Fayetteville; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland and Bladen counties, south of Highway 53.

At Large - Alexander Eastman, 995 Butler Road, Salemburg; may nominate from any South River EMC district.



Top Notch Students Named As Winners

Not only did the following students bring home good grades, they also received a \$50 Savings Bond for all their hard work! Another drawing will take place in July.

Mikayla Peterson
Clement Elementary

Spencer Sinclair
Hobpton Middle School

Justin West
Gray's Creek High

Aniya Williams
JW Seabrook Elementary

William Battle
Cape Fear High School

Christian Jayne
Gray's Creek Elementary

Avery Powers
Village Christian Academy

Callie Aman
Midway Middle School

Isabela Torres
Berean Baptist Academy

Hunter Rhodes
Four Oaks Middle

Quan'Dasia Smith
JW Seabrook Elementary



Clean Well, Clean Safely

It's that time again, the time when many of us clean our homes from top to bottom to get ready for spring. Your spring cleaning may never become effortless, but you can make the project more manageable and safe by following these easy tips.

Around the House:

- Do not mix cleaning products. They contain various chemicals that can create dangerous chemical reactions if you combine the wrong products. Stick with one product to get the job done.

- Choose non-toxic products when possible. Vinegar and water is an inexpensive and effective window cleaning solution.

- Avoid leaving buckets of water sitting around; they may cause you to slip and are a drowning hazard for small children.

- Take a few minutes at the end of your day to make sure all cleaning supplies are accounted for and back in a safe spot. It is easy for a child or pet to get hold of a bottle of cleaner that has not been properly stored away.

- Wear gloves while you clean whenever possible. Scrubbing with harsh chemicals can do a lot of damage to your hands if you don't properly protect them.

Garage:

- Discard toxic and flammable materials you no longer need. Place remaining materials high and out of reach.

- Keep toxic products in

their original containers. If you transfer a non-toxic product from a large bin to a small container, be sure to label the new container.

- Tidy loose papers, old rags, and debris in the garage that could contribute to a fire.
- Before using paints or pesticides like ant spray, read the label and follow usage directions carefully.

Yard:

- Before starting a project, put on proper protective clothing for the task — a hat, gloves, safety glasses and earplugs depending on the task.

- Choose non-toxic fertilizers, insecticides and gardening supplies.

- Lift heavy objects with your knees, not your back.

- Never use a ladder on uneven, soft or wet ground. To avoid reaching too high or leaning too far to one side on a ladder, keep your bellybutton within the top step and sides of the ladder.

- When using a ladder, stand at or below the highest safe standing level. For a step ladder, the safe standing level is the second rung from the top, and for an extension ladder, it's the fourth rung from the top.

You may be tempted to work as fast as you can to get the job done, but you should pace yourself and take frequent breaks. If you are tired, you are much more likely to get hurt. These tips will help you safely and effectively clean your house, inside and out.





South River EMC's Touchstone Energy Savers

Brighten More Efficiently



Purchasing CFLs? Send South River EMC the receipt!

South River EMC
CFL Rebate
PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335

Receipts must include: name, South River EMC account number, mailing address and a daytime telephone number. Please include the number of bulbs purchased, if not located on the receipt.

For more information visit www.sremc.com or call our office at 910-892-8071.

Make A Cool Change And Save

Cut back on the energy used running your refrigerator by following these steps:

- **Set the appropriate temperature-** Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38° Fahrenheit.
- **Place your fridge in a cool place-** Position your refrigerator away from heat sources such as an oven, a dishwasher, or direct sunlight.
- **Check the door seals-** Make sure the refrigerator seals around the door are airtight. If not, replace them.
- **Keep the door closed-** Minimize the amount of time the refrigerator door is open.
- **Allow air circulation behind the fridge-** Leave a few inches between the wall and the refrigerator, and keep the condenser coils clean if you have an older model.
- **Recycle your second refrigerator-** If it's old, it's using more energy than is necessary.

Recycling can save you money and earn you some as well if you participate in South River EMC's \$50 second refrigerator/freezer turn-in rebate. Visit www.sremc.com for more information or call our office at 910-230-2982.



Could You Be Saving By Heating With The Sun

One of the most cost-effective ways to include renewable technologies is by incorporating solar water heating in your home.

A typical residential solar water-heating system reduces the need for conventional water heating by about two-thirds. It minimizes the expense of electricity or fossil fuel to heat the water and reduces the associated environmental impacts.

Once you recover the higher initial costs of a solar system, your system will require expenditures only for maintenance. And when you include the cost of a solar water heater in a mortgage on a new home, the system often provides a positive monthly cash flow from the first day of ownership.

Solar water heaters and other solar technology applications do not pollute. They also allow you to burn less

natural gas in your home.

Solar water heaters use the sun to heat water or a heat-transfer fluid in the collector. Heated water is then held in the storage tank ready for use, with a conventional system providing additional heating as necessary. The tank can be a modified standard water heater, but it is usually larger and very well insulated.

Members of South River EMC who install a solar water heater with an electric back-up can apply for a \$1,000 rebate from the Cooperative.

Not only that, but installing such a unit may make you applicable for federal and state tax incentives.

For more information on the rebate offered by South River EMC visit www.sremc.com/solarwater.aspx. For state and federal rebates visit www.dsireusa.org.





Cool Off With A Heat Pump

Are you looking to replace or install a heat pump? If so, an Energy Star certified model can save you money. South River EMC saves you even more by offering members a \$200 or \$300 rebate on the installation of a high efficiency heat pump.

Before purchasing your equipment be sure that your unit is the appropriate size for your home by following these tips from Energy Star (www.energystar.gov):

- You can request a copy of the design load calculation used to determine the right size of equipment for your home. A good contractor will not size your equipment solely on the square footage of your house or assume that your existing equipment was sized properly in the first place. Proper equipment sizing is based on your home's heat loss during cold weather and heat gains during warm weather.

- To complete the design load calculation the contractor will need to take measurements during the initial visit to your home and ask you some questions. The calculation is usually done using software, and should be based on professional guidelines.

Oversized equipment can cause reduced comfort and excessive "air" noise. Oversizing will shorten the life of the equipment by causing it to cycle on and off more frequently than a properly-sized unit. Undersized equipment, with airflow that is too low, can reduce the efficiency of the air distribution and accelerate wear on system components, leading to earlier failure.

For information regarding the heat pump rebate program at South River EMC, visit www.sremc.com or call 910-230-2982.



Save With Agricultural Efficient Lighting

Cutting costs in turkey, chicken and hog houses is tough. You need to cut costs, but you also need to protect your animals. Switching from standard incandescent bulbs to compact fluorescent or cold cathode lamps saves members money, as well as being safe for animals. No temperature adjustments or fan changes—just make the light switch!

South River EMC offers a 25 percent rebate for the cost incurred by farmers to fully convert the lighting in hog, turkey and chicken houses from incandescent lighting to cold cathode or compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). **Rebate is based solely on the cost of materials.**



Appliances You Can Save On

Purchasing an Energy Star appliance will not only save you money, it will earn you money too!

If you purchase an Energy Star certified clothes washer, dishwasher, refrigerator, freezer or programmable thermostat, you can receive a \$25 rebate from South River EMC.

Complete an application and mail it in to South River EMC with your original receipt as well as the EnergyGuide. Appliance must be purchased within 90 days of application.

For more information, or to receive an application, visit www.sremc.com or call 910-892-8071.

Mail information to:
South River EMC
ES Appliance Rebate
PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335





Insulate Efficiently With An Energy Star Home

Insulation is one of the keys to a comfortable, energy-efficient home. But simply having the right amount of insulation is not enough. If insulation is not properly installed, a home can have excessive heat gain during the summer and heat loss in the winter—forcing the heating and cooling systems to work overtime.

Properly installed insulation will completely blanket the home—exterior walls, ceiling, and floors—without gaps, voids, or compressions, and it will be in full contact with the interior air barrier (for example, drywall). Continuous sealing of the air barrier along the insulation is also critical to protecting against moisture damage that can be caused by warm air flow through the insulation to colder surfaces where it can condense. Expect Energy Star qualified homes to have insulation that meets or exceeds the latest national code requirements, providing year-round comfort while reducing utility bills.

Benefits Of Properly Installed Insulation

- **Enhanced Comfort-** Properly installed insulation minimizes temperature variability indoors and helps keep rooms warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.
- **Lower Utility Bills-** As much as half of the energy used in your home goes to heating and cooling. By preventing heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer, a properly installed insulation barrier reduces utility bills year round.
- **Improved Durability-** When insulation is



properly installed, the potential for condensation that can lead to decay of building materials is reduced, helping to improve the durability of your home.

- **Better Resale Position-** The improved comfort, lower utility bills, and improved dura-

bility of a properly installed insulation barrier can translate into higher resale value compared to less efficient homes.

South River EMC offers members a rebate for purchasing an Energy Star certified home, for more information visit our Web site www.sremc.com.

Properly installed insulation is just one of the benefits of purchasing an Energy Star certified home. To learn more about what you get from an Energy Star certified home visit www.energystar.gov.

Water Heater Efficiency Tips

Try some of these tip to save money on water heating.



- Lower the thermostat on your water heater; water heaters sometimes come from the factory with high temperature settings, but a setting of 120 F provides comfortable hot water for most uses.
- Take more showers than baths. Bathing uses the most hot water in the average household.
- Drain a quart of water from your water tank every three months to remove sediment that impedes heat transfer and lowers the efficiency of your water heater. Follow manufacturer's advice.
- Repair leaky faucets promptly; a leaky faucet wastes gallons of water in a short period of time.
- Install aerating, water-efficient faucets and showerheads.
- Insulate your electric water heater storage tank, but be careful not to cover the thermostat.
- Insulate the first six feet of the hot and cold water pipes connected to the water heater.

South River EMC sells water heater efficiency kits for \$12 which includes a water heater blanket, pipe insulation, two regular faucet aerators, a kitchen faucet aerator and a water efficient showerhead.

For an additional \$10 a South River EMC employee will install this energy saving kit for you.

For more information, or to place an order, call 910-892-8071 or send an e-mail to sremc@sremc.com