

South River EMC Communicator

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Give Your Mom A Unique Gift

Your mom deserves a great gift this Mother's Day, and South River EMC can help!

Purchase a gift certificate and let her worry a little less about her bills.

Electricity is a gift that keeps on giving, whether it's cooking her famous recipes or visiting with friends and family in the evenings.

Visit either South River EMC office or call 910-892-8071 to purchase a gift certificate for the special lady in your life.



Making Sure Members Voices Are Heard

Co-op Owners for Political Action, or COPA, gives you the opportunity to support those representatives working on Capitol Hill for issues that are important to you and your Cooperative.



Members participation in COPA ensures the voice of rural electrification remains loud and clear in helping shape electric cooperatives futures.

NRECA CEO, Glenn English, sees this program as a new opportunity for members to become more involved in the political process and supportive of the cooperative they own.

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Send In Those A's!

School's almost out, did you make the grade?

South River EMC's Give Us An A program is a way of recognizing students for their hard work and rewarding them for their efforts.

Drawings are held twice a year for students who receive at least one A on their report card. Eleven names are drawn and each of the students receives a \$50 US Savings Bond.

The program is open to students who are members, or children of members, of South River EMC. Just make a copy of your student's most recent report card with at least one A and send it to the Cooperative by July 7.

Please include: The member's name, account number, the student's social security number and a daytime phone number.

Report cards should be sent to:

South River EMC
Give Us An A
PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335



South River EMC offices will be closed Monday, May 31, in honor of Memorial Day.



Members Encouraged To Continue Conversation

by CEO and Executive Vice President Buddy G. Creed



In Washington, D.C., the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, is aggressively moving to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, or GHG, under the Clean Air Act.

Since Congress has not been successful in garnering support for climate change legislation, the EPA is moving forward with plans to regulate GHGs under the Clean Air Act, which was never intended to apply to GHGs.

The EPA issued a finding that six GHGs, including carbon dioxide, endanger public health and welfare, and that emission of four of those GHGs from motor vehicles, including carbon dioxide, contributes to air pollution that endangers public health and welfare. Finalization of the endangerment finding opens the door for EPA to regulate motor vehicle GHG emissions under the Clean Air Act by setting new standards.

Since publication of the finding, many states and industry groups have filed petitions for review challenging EPA's endangerment finding. There have also been multiple legislative proposals introduced in both chambers of Congress aimed at blocking EPA regulation of GHGs under the Clean Air Act.

We believe that Congress needs to step in and prevent EPA from using the Clean Air Act as a tool for reducing GHG emissions. It's the role of Congress to determine greenhouse gas policy that is fair and affordable for all Americans.

Since December, three bills and resolutions have been introduced by members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to stop the EPA's regulation of GHGs.

Furthermore, on February 19, Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-WV), along with seven other democratic senators, sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson requesting that the agency halt efforts to curb GHG emissions until Congress acts on the issue. Rockefeller has also introduced a bill that would prohibit EPA from regulating stationary sources of GHGs, such as power plants, for two years, but would allow regulation of mobile sources to move forward.

In response to the letter, Jackson responded by stating that the EPA will start regulating automobile emissions and phase-in rules for stationary sources in 2011. She also said EPA's initial threshold for stationary source regulation will be "substantially higher" than the 25,000 metric tons originally proposed.

We urge you to contact your Legislators on this issue. EPA's regulation of GHGs can be more damaging than provisions in the Climate Change Legislation discussed in 2009. You can have your voice heard on this topic by sending a letter through the Our Energy, Our Future program. Visit www.ourenergy.coop to send a letter now.



Are You Using Your Co-ops Connection Card?

South River EMC members like you have saved nearly \$31,000 on prescription costs since November 1. Visit www.sremc.com for complete details and locations accepting the Co-op Connections card.

ACRE Continued From Page A

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification, or ACRE, is the political action committee of the Nation Rural Electrification Association, or, NRECA.

Formed in 1966 this political action committee, commonly called a PAC, was organized with the mission of making the voices of rural electric cooperatives, like South River EMC, heard in Congress.

One of the 100 largest PACs, ACRE has over 30,000 participating individuals. Nearly 6,000 are members like yourself, who joined COPA.

COPA was introduced to members at this year's Annual Meeting of Members in April.

If you would like information on COPA, please contact Catherine O'Dell at 910-230-2982 or by e-mail at copa@sremc.com.

Power Source Volunteers Award Scholarships

This year, South River EMC's volunteer committee, the Power Source Volunteers, or PSV, presented six scholarships to high school seniors.



Marcus Page

Marcus Page, son of Glenn Page and Anita Strother of Roseboro, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to assist with his expenses at the school of his choice, where he plans to pursue a degree in civil engineering or agricultural business management.

He is currently a senior at Lakewood High School.

Kristyn Hobbs, daughter of Rodney and Gail Hobbs of Lillington, will be receiving a



Kristyn Hobbs

\$1,000 scholarship to assist with her expenses at the school of her choice, where she plans to receive a degree in elementary education. Kristyn is a senior at Harnett Central High.

Chris Boyette, son of Gene and Kay Boyette of Clinton, will receive a \$500 scholarship to attend the

Chris Boyette

University of North Carolina at Wilmington and obtain a degree in communication studies. He is a senior at Harrells Christian Academy.

Nichole Hinchman, daughter of William and Donna Hinchman of Hope Mills, will receive a \$500 scholarship to attend the University of South Carolina- Columbia



Nichole Hinchman

where she will major in international business. She is a student at Gray's Creek High.

Ellen Becker, daughter of Joseph and Susan Becker of Fayetteville, will receive a \$500 scholarship to attend the University of Colorado to study architectural engineering. She is a senior at Reid Ross Classical School.



Ellen Becker

David Carter, son of Glen and Janelle Carter, will also receive a \$500 scholarship to assist with expenses while attending UNC-Chapel Hill seeking a degree in physical therapy. He is a senior at Cape Fear High.

Factors considered in the selection process include: character, moral standards, citizenship, past and present academic performance, letters of recommendation, statements of career goals and qualifications; extra-curricular activities; and a personal interview with a three member interview panel.

The PSV is a volunteer committee

comprised of members of South River EMC. The committee is dedicated to serving the Cooperative through community activities and goodwill. Funds for the scholarships are raised primarily through the annual Oyster Roast and Shrimparoo held in cooperation with the United Way of Harnett County.



David Carter





Community Assistance From Members

The Community Assistance Corporation distributed Operation Round Up grants totaling nearly \$35,000 in the March funding cycle. Recipients were:

- SAFE of Harnett County, Inc.- \$5,000
- Partnership for Children of Johnston County- \$2,500
- Sampson Regional Medical Center Foundation - \$5,000
- Child Advocacy Center- \$5,000
- Beacon Rescue Mission- \$4,288.35
- City Rescue Mission- \$5,000
- Gray's Creek Elementary- \$2,855.55
- Four Oaks Elementary- \$2,419
- Individuals or Families- \$2,045

The grant Four Oaks Elementary received was in memory of South River EMC's Manager of Finance and Accounting Patrick Penny. Penny was 39 years old when he suddenly passed away on March 1. He is survived by his wife and three sons, two of which attend the school.

The Operation Round Up grant program is for non-profit organizations that serve the local community,

educational institutions and also individuals and families that have fallen on unusually hard times.

Those looking to submit grants for the June funding cycle may find information and applications at www.sremc.com. The deadline for those applications is May 17. Funding decisions will be made in early June.



Left to right: Karen Mills, evaluation and outreach director at the Partnership For Children of Johnston County, Catherine O'Dell, manager of member and public affairs at South River EMC, Loretta Byrd, board member and Dwight Morris, executive director at the partnership.

Don't Worry, Practice Electric Safety At Home

Lights and appliances turn on with the simple flip of a switch, and most of the time, members don't think about how electricity reaches their home. That means we're doing our job, but besides making sure your home has the power it needs, we also want to help you use it safely.

In recognition of May being "Electric Safety Month," we are offering some tips to help you stay safe around electricity.

Inside the Home

- Do not overload electric outlets. Too many items plugged into one outlet create a fire hazard.
- If there are children in the house, be sure that all electric outlets have safety covers. A child sticking items into a socket can be seriously hurt.
- When unplugging an appliance, pull by the plug, not the cord.
- Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong plug fit a two-prong outlet.
- Ensure extension cords are properly rated for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and meet or exceed the power needs of the appliance or tool being used. Never run extension cords under rugs



or carpet; cords can overheat and cause a fire.

- Check that all electrical items, including extension cords, are certified by a nationally recognized independent testing lab, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), CSA Group, ETL or MET Labs.

Outside the Home

- Stay away from downed power lines. Always assume they are 'live' and therefore dangerous.
- Locate underground utility lines before you begin excavating by contacting the NC One Call center by dialing 811.
- If the power goes out you can use a portable generator to power appliances in your home. However, connecting a generator to the main electrical panel requires the services of a qualified, licensed electrician. If a generator is used improperly it could kill you or people working to restore power.

According to the Electrical Foundation Safety International, electricity kills nearly 400 people and injures thousands more each year. Most of these deaths and injuries could be avoided with an increased awareness of electrical safety. Addressing the hazards around your home can save lives and reduce injuries.

Time For Bright Ideas To Shine

South River EMC will begin accepting Bright Ideas applications online April 19.

This allows more time for teachers to apply because the Cooperative will accept applications until midnight September 20.

If you have an idea for a class project, visit www.ncbrightideas.com and complete an application. It's that easy!

The Bright Ideas Grant program offers an incentive encouraging teachers to apply early! If you apply before midnight on August 16, you are eligible to win a \$500 Visa card.

For more information, visit www.ncbrightideas.com, sremc.com or



contact Catherine O'Dell or Julie Wahl at 910-892-8071.

Hey Kids, Play Ball!

South River EMC has teamed up with the Fayetteville SwampDogs to sponsor three camps for kids ages 5-12.

South River EMC is offering four scholarships per camp! It's time to sign up to win a scholarship for one of three Fayetteville SwampDog Day Camps, being held in June, July and August at JP Riddle Stadium in Fayetteville.



If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please mail or e-mail (connections@sremc.com) the following information to our office: student's name, address, age and daytime phone number. Please put "camp scholarship" on the envelope or subject line. Four names will be drawn randomly for each camp.

Deadlines will be announced for each camp date. Scholarships only cover the cost of the camp. Parents or guardians are responsible for transportation to and from the stadium on the camp day.

Interested in attending camp? Register at www.goswampdogs.com. Your child can attend one day of camp for \$40, two days for \$75 and all three days for just \$100.

Protect Your Home With Surge Protection

Summer brings powerful storms, don't let your electronics suffer.

Surge suppressors are made to protect your electronic equipment by diverting surges away from sensitive electric circuits. Protecting your home appliances and equipment requires a two-stage approach. Using two separate suppressors to step down surges offers superior protection from both externally and internally generated surges.

South River EMC offers a whole-house surge suppressor, which is installed at your meter base. This suppressor will stop surges that come through your electric lines. It does not protect against surges through phones, cable, satellites or antennas. It does not cover direct lightning strikes that may jump



through the eaves of your home or a direct hit to outdoor equipment such as a heat pump. The whole-house protector keeps surges up to 55,000 amps from entering your home through the electric meter.

The Cooperative also offers a series of portable plug-in units, to combat surges coming in from electric lines to your television or computer.

If you already have our surge protectors and, for

example, your TV is not coming on after a storm, unplug everything from the unit and unplug the unit from the outlet. These units protect against surges, but occasionally take a beating themselves. Plug-ins have a five-year hardware warranty.

Call our office at 910-892-8071 for a full list of the devices available and pricing. Or you can visit our Web site at www.sremc.com/strikeguard.aspx.



South River EMC's Touchstone Energy Savers

Save Energy With CFLs

Start enjoying the savings you get from CFLs.

Save incandescent bulbs for fixtures where CFLs aren't suitable, like closets, where the light would only be on for a few minutes at a time. CFLs are best for places where the light will be on longer than 15 minutes at a time.

Purchase a CFL today and send South River EMC the receipt. Members get \$1 back for each bulb they purchase.

Send in your original receipt with your name, South River EMC account number, mailing address and a daytime telephone number. Please include all information directly on the receipt.

Receipts can be mailed to:

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

If your receipt does not indicate how many bulbs were purchased, please include how many on the receipt.



Be More Efficient Than Your Average Livestock House

South River EMC offers farmers a way to save money and energy without sacrificing the comfort of their livestock.



The Cooperative is offering 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.

An Energy-Efficient Measure

A \$12 water heater efficiency kit will pay for itself in no time. Not only does the kit save you energy, and therefore money, it can also be claimed as an energy efficiency measure on your taxes!

The kit includes a water heater blanket, pipe insulation, a kitchen faucet aerator, water-efficient showerhead and two regular faucet aerators.

To claim your kit, you will need to fill out a simple form. The form can be found on our Web site under the energy efficiency rebate section, or by calling our office at 910-892-8071.



If you purchased a kit in 2009 or 2010, it can be claimed on your 2011 taxes, if you have not already claimed it on your taxes this year.

For more information on how much energy and money water heater efficiency kits can save you, visit www.sremc.com.

Rewards For Smart Buying

When buying an Energy Star clothes washer:
Check the yellow EnergyGuide label.

This label helps you determine how much energy it takes to operate the model, compare the energy use of similar models and estimate annual operating costs. Learn how to use the label.

Think carefully about the size.

While a larger model clothes washer holds more clothes, it also uses more energy. On the other hand, a model that's too small will require a lot more clothes washing.

Energy Star qualified models are also available in stackable and under-the-counter designs, which fit in smaller spaces.



Members can receive a \$25 Energy Star appliance rebate when purchasing qualified clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers and programmable thermostats.

For complete information visit our Web site at www.sremc.com or call the South River EMC office at 910-892-8071.



Geothermal Heat Pumps Save Big

South River EMC members installing an Energy Star rated 15 SEER or greater electric air-source heat pump, hybrid dual-fuel heat pump, or a geothermal heat pump, are eligible to take advantage of the South River EMC Energy Star heat pump rebate of \$200 or \$300.

What are the benefits of a geothermal unit?

The greatest benefit is that they use substantially less electricity than conventional heating or cooling systems by taking advantage of the constant temperature of the earth. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, geothermal heat pumps, or GHPs, can reduce energy consumption up to 44 percent. GHPs also improve humidity control by maintaining about 50 percent relative indoor humidity, making them very effective in humid areas.

Geothermal heat pump systems allow for design flexibility and can be installed in both new and retrofit situations. Because the hardware requires less space than that needed by



conventional HVAC systems, the equipment rooms can be greatly scaled down in size. GHP systems also provide excellent "zone" space conditioning, allowing different parts of your home to be heated or cooled to different temperatures.

Installing a geothermal heat pump requires trenches to be dug to place equipment, which means members considering a GHP, will need to have a reasonable amount of land.

Geothermal heat pumps often last 20 years or more. The components in the living space are easily accessible, which increases the convenience factor and helps ensure that upkeep is done on a timely basis. Because they have no outside condensing units like air conditioners, there's no concern about noise outside the home.

However, geothermal heat pumps have a higher up front cost, but that cost is recouped over time in energy savings.

For more information on South River EMC's heat pump rebate visit our Web site at www.sremc.com or call Catherine O'Dell at 910-230-2982.

Solar Sites Face South

Before you buy and install a solar water heating system, you need to first consider your site's solar resource. The efficiency and design of a solar water heating system depends on how much of the sun's energy reaches your building site.

Solar water heating systems use both direct and diffused solar radiation. If your building site has unshaded areas and generally faces south, it's a good candidate for a solar water heating system.

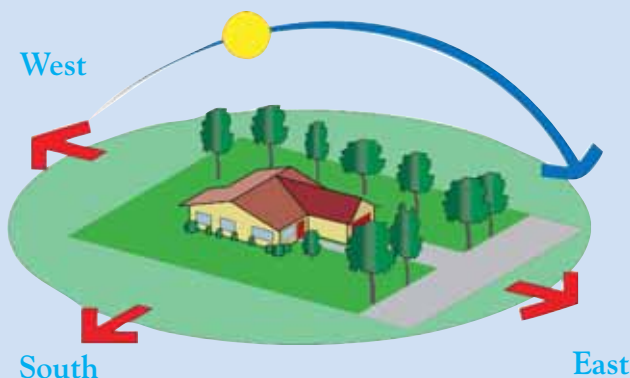
Your local solar system supplier or installer can perform a solar site analysis.

On average, if you install a solar water heater, your water-heating bills should drop 50 to 80 percent.

South River EMC members who install a solar water heater with an electric back-up are eligible for a \$1,000 rebate from the Cooperative. To learn more about installing a solar water heating system

in your home, visit our Web site at www.sremc.com, or call 910-230-2982.

Solar water heating systems may be eligible for additional state and federal rebates. Visit www.dsireusa.org for more information.





Extra Fridges And Freezers Add Up

South River EMC offers a \$50 rebate to members who recycle their old, working refrigerators or freezers.

This could save you \$166-\$194 annually on electricity costs.

Members are responsible for recycling the working unit. Applications can be found on our Web site at www.sremc.com, under energy efficiency rebates, or by calling 910-230-2982.

Part Of An Energy Star Home Is The Windows

Windows provide natural daylight and views, but homeowners often use drapes or blinds to cover them out of comfort. Energy Star qualified windows and skylights allow owners to enjoy light and views, while saving about \$88 annually on electric costs. Independently tested for superior energy performance, Energy Star qualified windows and skylights are also better for the environment.

Benefits of qualified windows/skylights:

- **Energy Savings.** Energy Star qualified windows and skylights feature advanced technologies such as invisible glass coatings, vacuum-sealed spaces filled with inert gas between the panes, improved framing materials, better weather stripping, and warm edge

spacers, all of which reduce undesirable heat gain and loss.

- **Improved Comfort.** Energy Star qualified windows help keep homes warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer. They can block 70 percent or more of the solar heat gain in summer and reflect radiant heat indoors during winter.

- **Protection of Your Home's Interior.** Photos, furniture, flooring, and window treatments can fade or discolor after repeated exposure to direct sunlight. An Energy Star qualified window with special coatings can reduce fading up to 75 percent.

- **Reduced Condensation.** Advanced frames, glass coatings, spacers, and other technologies enable

Energy Star qualified windows to keep the inner surface of the glass and frame warmer, reducing the potential for condensation and ensuring a clearer view on winter mornings.

Windows are just part of an Energy Star certified home's energy-efficient thermal envelope. South River EMC members who build or purchase a new Energy Star certified home, qualify for a rebate of \$350-\$750. For more information visit www.sremc.com or call 910-230-2982. Save money all year round with an Energy Star certified home.

