

Seeking a Solution We Can Live With

This year, Congress will likely vote on legislation that raises energy costs to accomplish several environmental goals.

As not-for-profit electricity providers, North Carolina's electric cooperatives are committed to environmental stewardship.

The cooperatives will work with Congress to craft energy policies that balance the costs of legislation with real environmental benefits. Cooperatives will also educate consumers and urge them to contact Congress with concerns about energy affordability.

If consumers do not make their voices heard, energy legislation could raise electric rates by 40 percent.

Climate Change

Climate change has recently spurred both political and public debate. Most scientists state that man-made carbon dioxide emissions are a significant contributor to climate change. Power plants, cars and industries are the biggest sources of man-made carbon dioxide emissions.

Congress is debating several proposals to limit the emission of carbon dioxide by all sources in the United States. One such proposal is the implementation of a cap-and-trade market. Because there are currently no limitations on carbon dioxide emissions, the new regulations would mandate many costly changes in the economy, especially the electric power industry.

As media attention turns to discussions of cap-and-trade proposals,

below is a diagram that will help you understand the basic concept of this difficult topic.

- Cap-and trade requires carbon dioxide (CO₂) producers to pay for allowances to produce CO₂.
- Fewer allowances are available each year in an effort to cut back on emissions. This also means a higher cost.
- New regulations would mandate many costly changes in the economy, especially the electric power industry.
- The system would be equivalent to a tax on your electric bill.
- Electric cooperatives will support climate change legislation

only if it creates real benefits for the environment and protects consumers from economic hardship.

Let your congressional representative know that cost does matter!

Call 1-877-40BALANCE (1-877-40-225-2623) to talk to your representative or visit ourenergy.coop to write them a letter.

For more information on this subject and others, visit www.findabalancedsolution.com.

Find A Balanced Solution



The Cap-and-Trade Tax

Cap-and-trade systems have been used to successfully control certain power plant emissions in the past; one may soon be applied to carbon dioxide. In its most basic form, the process begins when a limit is set on the amount of CO₂ a source can emit over a given time. Allowances for emissions can be given for free or auctioned off; if auction prices aren't carefully regulated, high costs will be passed to consumers.



Plants A and B emit the same amount of carbon dioxide gas before the cap

After a cap is set, Plant A invests in technology to reduce its emissions; Plant B continues with business as usual...

THE CAP

unused carbon dioxide allowance



THE TRADE

Plant A reduced emissions to below the capped level, and now has extra allowances that can be sold, or "traded"...



...to Plant B, which was unable to reduce emissions. Technology options for doing so are limited and expensive, and perhaps decades away from prime time.

Source: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



Why We Seek A Balanced Solution

by CEO and Executive Vice President Buddy G. Creed



As you know by now, the electric cooperatives in the Southeastern United States have launched a campaign titled, "Find A Balanced Solution." This awareness campaign is designed to provide information regarding the need for legislative leaders to find a solution for climate change and implementation of renewable energy that is balanced and does not yield a high economic impact on consumers of electricity.

The most important part of the campaign is the word balance. One size does not fit all in this great nation of ours. Energy resources in Texas are not the same as North Carolina. Here are a few samples of differences in the Southeast:

Wind

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, not all areas are suitable for wind energy development, and after measuring the potential wind energy resources of areas across the United States; the Southeast was deemed "marginal" to "unsuitable" for utility-scale wind energy development. Wind is not available when it is needed, and wind energy cannot be effectively stored using today's technology.

Solar

Advances in technology have made solar energy an option in some areas of our state. However, it may seem that sunlight is plentiful in the Southeast; it is not intense enough to make up for the lack of solar panel efficiency in most applications.

Hydro

Hydroelectric power is currently being generated in the Southeast. There is an effort now underway to make these facilities more efficient to produce more energy. Additionally, there are "small head" hydro facilities on rivers and streams across the Southeast. There is some potential for development of more of these small scale facilities in the future.

Biomass

Biomass is any organic matter that can be used as an energy source.

Biomass power plants currently represent 11,000 megawatts – the second-largest amount of renewable energy in the nation, according to the Edison Electric Institute (EEI).

Biomass is limited, but does have the greatest generation potential in the Southeastern United States.

Nuclear

Nuclear energy is the only electricity generation source that can generate electricity steadily, efficiently and with no green-

house-gas emissions. The nation's current 104 nuclear power plants have a proven record for operating safely, reliably and affordably. It is because of

investments in nuclear energy that the Southeast enjoys some of the lowest electricity rates in the nation.

Clean Coal

The United States has over 200 years worth of coal in reserve. Coal has been proven to be an inexpensive fuel to generate electricity. Research and development funds must be allocated to refine clean coal technologies. If coal is removed from the fuel mix, the cost of electricity will quickly make electricity unattainable for many American families.

Tell your elected officials to consider the economic impact, along with environmental concerns when crafting energy legislation. Don't wait! Your words will make a huge difference to your financial well-being now and for years to come. For more information and ways to contact your elected officials visit www.findabalancedsolution.coop. Together we can make a difference for the environment and the economy.

790,510,000
tons of coal used by U.S. power companies in 2008, down from 1 billion tons in 2007.

6.5%
of energy consumed in the US in 2007 came from renewable sources.

104
commercial nuclear reactors operating in the U.S. in 2007.

It's Almost Time To Give Us An A!



School's 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 and their names are posted on South River EMC's Web site.

The program is open to students who are members, or children of members of South River EMC. All you have to do is make a copy of the most recent report card with at least one A and send it to the Cooperative by July 6.

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

Basketball At Its Best

Three local students will represent South River EMC this summer at basketball camp at NC State University in Raleigh and at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Lauren Mulier and Meghan Smith will be attending the N.C. State Women's Basketball Camp and John Richmond will be attending the Roy Williams Basketball Camp. Both camps are scheduled for June 21-25.

Lauren, daughter of Kay Faircloth and Roby Mulier of Stedman, attends Mac Williams Middle School.

Meghan Smith, daughter of Edward and Connie Smith of Roseboro, attends Midway Elementary School.

John is the son of James and Crystal Richmond of Autryville and attends Midway Middle School.

These students are recipients of scholarships sponsored by North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives.

Kellie Harper, coach of the NCSU Women's basketball team, and Roy Williams, coach of the 2009 national champion Carolina Tarheel men's basketball team, will each instruct campers with the help of staff and current players.

Not only does the program allow North Carolina middle school students to spend time on a college campus, it also gives them the opportunity to receive individual and group instruction from successful collegiate coaches to enhance their basketball skills.

We wish our winners the best of luck!



Play Ball! SwampDog Kids' Camp Scholarships Available

Hey Kids! South River EMC has teamed up once again with the Fayetteville SwampDogs to sponsor three camps for kids ages 5-12. South River EMC is also offering four scholarships per camp! The time has come to sign up to win a scholarship for one of three Fayetteville SwampDog Day Camps, which will be held June 25, July 15 and August 3 at JP Riddle Stadium in Fayetteville.

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

The deadline for the June 25 camp is June 18. The deadline for the July 15 camp is July 8 and for the August 3 camp will be July 27. Scholarships only cover the cost of the camp. Parents or guardians are responsible for transportation to and from JP Riddle 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.



Members Helping Members

Domestic violence killed 131 people in the state in 2008, according to North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper.

That number doesn't include the family and friends who may have been able to help, but had no idea that there was trouble, or were afraid to interfere.

"I need help" is heard a lot at domestic violence and sexual assault agencies. For the people saying it, this may not be the first time they have been abused, but rather the first time they have spoken out.

These centers offer 24-hour crisis lines, shelter and court advocacy to name a few of their services. Sadly, 17 of North Carolina's counties do not have a shelter. In other counties, shelters are too small to meet the need.

With funding being cut about nine percent, it is a continuous struggle to meet the rise in demand of these services.

Sexual Assault and Family Emergency (SAFE) of Harnett County, and UCare of Sampson County, are two such agencies and each benefitted from the Operation Round Up grant program recently.

"I was relieved to receive this grant, I had no clue what I was going to do," said Pamela Gonzalez, program director of UCare. "I was either going to have to start closing down early or layoff employees."

UCare received a \$5,000 grant to make repairs on their shelter, which suffered damage when the basement was flooded.

"If we didn't get these repairs done we wouldn't be able to house families safely," Gonzalez said.

"We're also getting a dehumidifier because there was



SAFE employees from left: Janice Stephens Pemberton, Tonya Gray de Vazquez, Miriam McCullough and Erica Gallion

so much condensation, it messed up the walls and the carpet."

Shelters are especially important for those families with children. Each year between 3.3 million and 10 million children are witness to domestic abuse in their homes.

"This grant couldn't have come at a better time," said Tonya Gray de Vazquez, executive director of SAFE. "We were afraid we would have more victims to serve and allocations keep getting cut."

SAFE received a \$5,000 grant to use for training materials such as manuals and also for their support group. Collectively, North Carolina volunteers dedicate more than 317,484 hours manning hotlines and shelters.

"We received 760 crisis calls last year," said de Vazquez. "The economy will only exacerbate the situation, and some days we see three of four people for restraining orders."

In 2008, SAFE helped more than 500 individuals; UCare has helped more than 400 clients and children since January.

"It's not that people are getting abused more," said Gonzalez. "It's that they are getting tired of the abuse quicker."

And although Operation Round Up grants have helped these agencies, their needs are still great.

Items like toilet paper, cleaning supplies, baby

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Left: Becky Oates, shelter director at UCare, works in an office just off a bedroom that houses injured or elderly individuals in case they need help.



Storms on the Horizon

Storm season has arrived, don't let electronics be caught unprotected!

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, as well as a series of portable plug-in units. The whole-house protector keeps surges up to 55,000 amps from entering your home through the electric meter. 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



Summer Storm Safety

North Carolina is known for its intense summer lightning storms. According to The Ready Campaign, an emergency preparedness program developed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, lightning kills approximately 300 people each year, which is greater than the number of people killed each year by hurricanes, tornadoes or floods. By following a few simple tips, you can reduce unnecessary risks during a lightning storm.

- If a storm is forecast, monitor conditions regularly by radio or television. Be sure to keep extra batteries for your radio in case of a power outage.

- Stay alert. Typical signs of an oncoming lightning storm are towering clouds with a "cauliflower" shape, dark skies, distant rumbles of thunder and flashes of lightning.

- Seek shelter. The best place to be during a lightning storm is a large, enclosed building. Once inside, stay a few feet away from windows, sinks, electric boxes, outlets and appliances. Voltage from a lightning strike can travel through any of these objects.

- Never shower or take a bath during a lightning storm. Utility lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity.



- Do not use a corded telephone during a lightning storm. If lightning hits the telephone line, it could possibly flow to the phone. Avoid using computers, too.

- If you get caught in a lightning storm while you are in a car, stay in the car with the windows rolled up.

- If caught outside, try to find a spot away from trees, metal fences, pipes and tall or long objects. Crouch down to the ground and try to make yourself shorter than other objects in the area.

- If you are on a golf course during a lightning storm, seek shelter if possible. Stay away from your clubs, and if your shoes have metal spikes, take them off.

- If you are in a boat during a lightning storm, get to land immediately. If you cannot get to land, crouch down in the very center of the boat.

- Never swim during a lightning storm. The energy produced from lightning can be transmitted through the water to the people in it.

Lightning storms are extremely dangerous and can often be very frightening. However, if you practice proper safety measures during a lightning storm, you can avoid becoming a statistic.



Round Up Continued From Page D

food, diapers, linens, underwear and socks are always in demand.

“People wouldn’t even think about it, but we’ll take grocery bags!” said Gonzalez. “They can be used at the Beehive.”

The Beehive is UCare’s thrift store with locations in Newton Grove and Clinton.

SAFE’s thrift store, Fantastic Finds is located in Lillington. Both are always accepting donations of gently-used goods.

SAFE is currently collecting old cell phones to be reused or refurbished. Meanwhile, UCare is involved in The Clothesline Project, which addresses the issue of violence against women. Beehive employees sell shirt pins to benefit UCare clients.

For more information on SAFE of Harnett County visit www.safeofhc.org or for UCare in Sampson County visit www.ucaredv.org.

Home Energy Calculator
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Try Our New Online Home Energy Cost & Savings Calculator

Estimate your home's monthly and annual energy costs

See how much changes to your home will save

View charts showing where your energy dollars are going

FREE on our website: www.sremc.com

POWERED BY APGEE

Energy Saving Tips!

2009 Annual Meeting Winners
Truck Finally Gets A Home

Annette Blackman of Clinton is the new owner of the 2003 GMC pick up truck, awarded as the grand prize of the South River EMC Annual Meeting of Members. However, she actually won the prize by default.

During the meeting, the truck was awarded to Baptist Chapel Baptist Church, Inc. of Autryville. After consideration of the award, the church’s deacons voted not to claim the prize. The Cooperative was notified of this decision in a letter submitted by Pastor Alan E. Roberts.

The South River EMC Board of Directors opted that the name of the eventual winner should be drawn from the cards submitted during the meeting. In the interest of full transparency, Lawrence Buffaloe, chairman, South River EMC credentials committee, visited the Cooperative’s office and randomly drew Ms. Blackman’s registration card. Congratulations!



Lawrence Buffaloe draws the winning card.

Gary Holder of Spring Lake was the winner of a \$100 Lowes gift card. Members entered by filling out an “Our Energy, Our Future” card at the meeting.



Green Power Renews North Carolina's Energy

Millions of dollars leave our economy each year to purchase fossil fuel resources from other states for North Carolina's electricity production.

In 2003, NC GreenPower (NCGP) was established not only to supplement the state's existing power supply, but to improve the environment.

This is done through renewable, or "green" energy. Green energy consists of electricity provided by solar, wind, small hydro (less than 10 kilowatts, or kw), landfill methane, agricultural waste, animal waste and biomass.

"Before 2003, there weren't a lot of renewable projects," said Vicky McCann, assistant program manager at NCGP. "Since then, there has been more activity for renewable projects, especially solar."

To date, NCGP boasts seven wind, three landfill methane, one biomass, four small hydro and 219 solar projects.

"Before, there just wasn't the money to keep some of these smaller operations running," said McCann. "A couple of small hydro plants have been able to come back online."

Cost is still an obstacle with renewable energy, which is where NCGP helps.

A donation of \$4 purchases a block of 100 kilowatt hours, or kwh, of green energy to put toward North Carolina's power supply.

Those interested in installing renewable generators can apply to NCGP, who might purchase their renewable energy certificates.

"We had 13,500 contributors at the end of January," said McCann. "They purchase 28,300 blocks of energy per month."

For more information on NC GreenPower visit www.ncgreenpower.org.

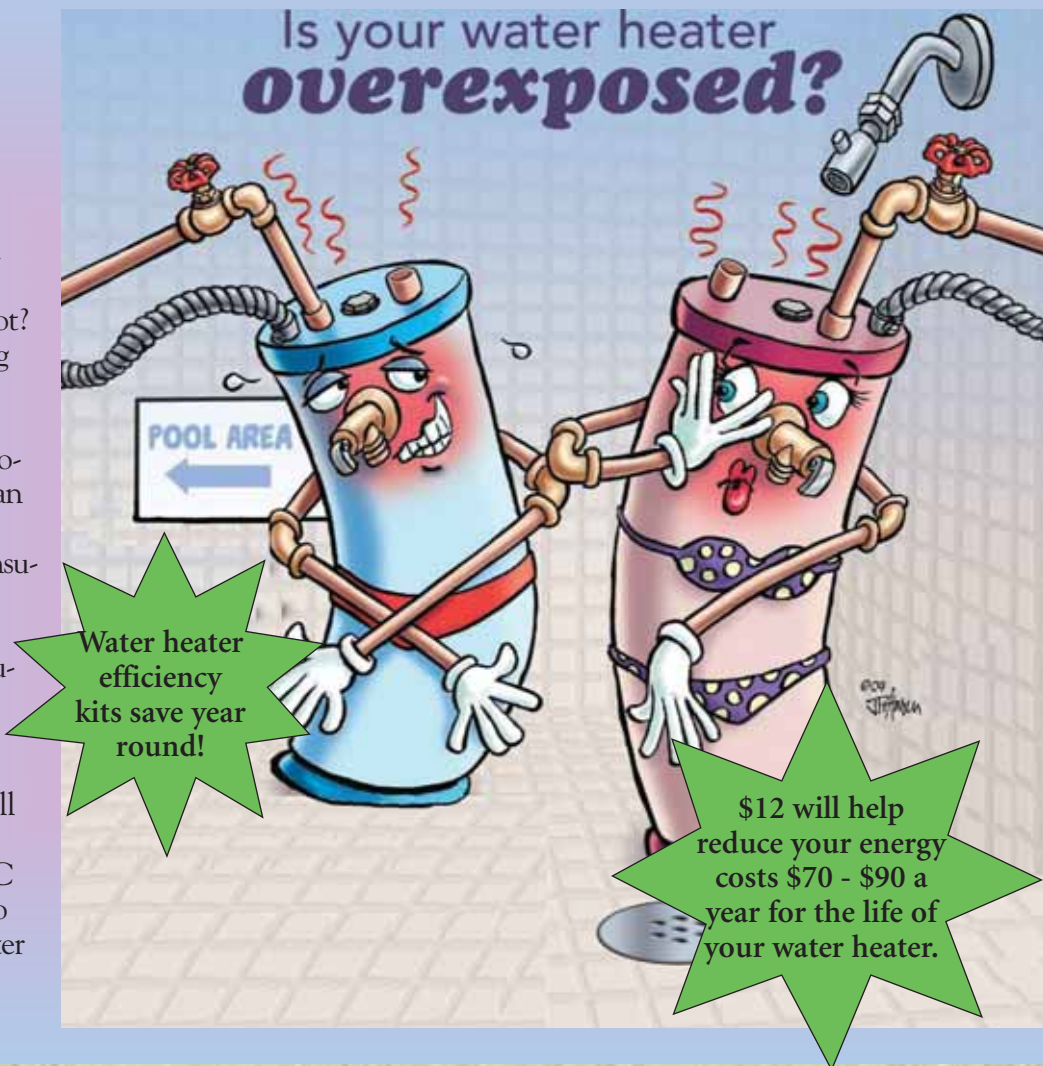


If 15% of your electric bill goes to heating your water, why not keep it hot?

Installing an insulating blanket on your water heater is one of the most effective energy-saving do-it-yourself projects you can perform. For \$12 you'll receive a blanket, pipe insulation, a water efficient showerhead, a kitchen sink aerator and two regular faucet aerators

If you prefer, for an additional \$10 a South River EMC employee will install your kit for you.

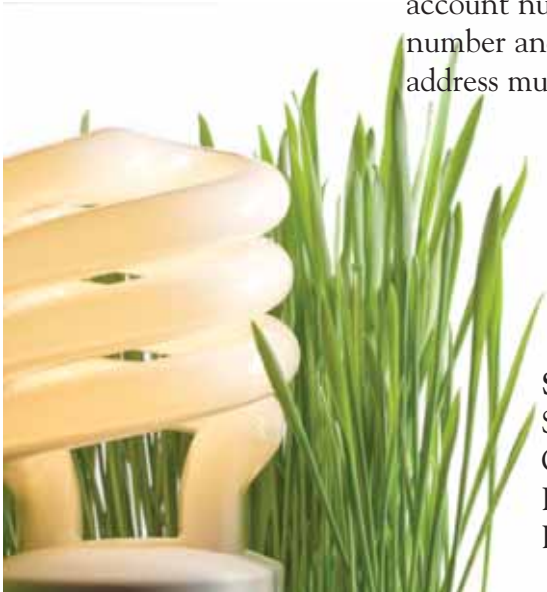
Call South River EMC today at 910-892-8071 to purchase your water heater efficiency kit.



Save Money and Energy

Send us the receipt for your CFL purchases to receive \$1 back per bulb.

The full name of the member, the account number, a daytime phone number and the complete mailing address must be on your receipt.



Send all receipts to:
South River EMC
CFL Rebate
P.O. Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335



Why Heat Your Water With The Sun?

- There are no carbon emissions.
- About 30% of your electric bill is from water heating.
- You receive a 30% federal tax credit.
- You'll also receive a 35% state tax credit.
- South River EMC gives you a \$1,000 rebate.

Visit www.sremc.com for more information on South River EMC's energy saving programs.

Agricultural Efficient Lighting

Replacing the standard incandescent bulbs in your turkey, hog and chicken houses can save you energy and money!

South River EMC offers a 25 percent rebate for the costs incurred by farmers to fully convert the lighting in their turkey, chicken or hog houses from incandescent lighting to cold cathode or compact fluorescent lamps.

Rebate is based solely on the cost of materials.

How to apply:

- Determine the number of bulbs needed to complete the job and which bulbs will work best for your particular application.
- Complete the installation.
- Complete an application for rebate by downloading an application at www.sremc.com, calling our office at 910-892-8071 or by e-mailing a request for application to sremc@sremc.com.

