

the SOUTH RIVER EMC COMMUNICATOR

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Local Farmer Goes Green With A Grant From The USDA



Lee Hosking is very satisfied with the installation of his 10.9 kw solar array.

CEO Column	B
We Need Numbers	C
Summer Safety	C
Bright Ideas Grants	D
Youth Opportunities	D-E
Together We Save	F-H

South River EMC recently interconnected with Lee Hosking's 10.9 kw ground-mounted photovoltaic system. The system is located on a hog farm in Cumberland County.

Hosking installed the 48-panel system to contribute to the use of renewable energy to generate electricity with help from the United State's Department of Agriculture, or USDA.

"With what is going on with the energy debate, I wanted to be able to do my part," he said. "We should all be willing to help out and do what we can, where we can."

Overall Hosking is very satisfied with the work that

has been done.

His unit was installed by Alternative Energy Concepts of Fayetteville, who helped him apply for the grant.

The USDA is offering \$22.8 million in grants for farmers and small businesses to use for energy efficiency improvements or to install renewable resources. These grants can pay up to 25 percent of project costs.

The nationwide program is part of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.

Those able to participate in the grant program are farmers, ranchers, irrigators and rural businesses, located in a community of

less than 50,000 people.

The competition is tough according to hog farmer Tom Butler, of Lillington.

"Some requests have been in a long time," said Butler. "Farmers will need help when filling out this application."

Butler Farms has two covered lagoons and Tom and Robert Butler are applying for a grant to be able to use their captured methane to generate electricity.

"When we burn off the methane, we're just wasting it," he said. "We want to be able to turn that methane into energy and put it on the grid."



Help keep the voice of rural electric cooperatives heard in the political process by participating in the Co-op Owners for Political Action program.

ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action gives you, the member, the opportunity to raise your voice on behalf of your cooperative. State and federal government officials make policy decisions that affect your local cooperative and your way of life. This program is an easy way for you to help determine who gets elected to make those decisions.

For more information on ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action please contact South River EMC at (910) 230-2982 or via e-mail at COPA@sremc.com.



Buddy Creed CEO and Executive Vice President

"Our goal is to never stop fighting for electric cooperatives."

Capital Credits Are One Of Many Advantages Of Being A Cooperative Member

This month as we celebrate our Nation's birthday, it is important to take a minute out of our hectic schedules and reflect on the advantages of being a citizen of a nation that is truly independent with a constitution that ensures liberty and justice for all.

As we celebrate our independence, I think this is a great time to look at the advantages of being a member of an electric cooperative.

Electric cooperatives, such as South River EMC, are independent, locally-owned and operated not-for-profit entities.

All cooperatives operate under seven basic principles; voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

These principles serve as the framework by which our cooperative was established in 1940 and how we operate today. One of the primary benefits of being a member is that you have a say in the operation of the Cooperative. We operate on a one member, one vote premise. Each year, members are invited to join us for a meeting to discuss the business of the Cooperative and to vote for directors to govern the Cooperative.

As a cooperative, South River EMC does not technically earn profits. Instead, any revenue and other income, over and above the cost of doing business during a given year, are considered margins. A percentage of the margins is allocated to each member of the Cooperative who bought electricity during the year they were earned. Each member earns the same percentage on their purchases.

Margins are treated as capital contributed by the membership to the Cooperative to help reduce the cost of borrowing and to hold down rates. Margins are used for a variety of operating and capital costs and are typically paid to the members as a rebate 19 years after the year they are allocated. South River EMC traditionally retires capital credits the last quarter of the year.

As a member-owned cooperative, we also serve as advocates for our members. Legislative advocacy is more than just lobbying. It means taking an active role in ensuring that our cooperatives and the members we serve are protected in legislation and regulation. Through our collective efforts, we have championed the electric cooperative business model and helped keep the power flowing for more than 42 million members nationally. Our goal is to never stop fighting for electric cooperatives. While investor-owned utilities push for relaxed federal regulations to promote competition, cooperatives emphasize the importance of consumer protection and preventing market abuses.

- Budget billing
- Online bill payment
- Bill drafting
- Energy efficiency rebates
- Renewable energy interconnection
- Online energy auditing tools
- Online and in-office efficiency advice
- Energy audits

Finally, your cooperative has a series of programs geared toward helping you to manage your energy costs and to simplify your schedule:

As you can see, being part of an electric cooperative is about you and we will continue to work for you and to serve as champions for electric cooperative members.



Keeping Safe Means Keeping Cool

Summertime brings high temperatures, fun outdoor activities and some heat-related risks. People are already heading to beaches, campgrounds, parks and cookouts. These are all great summer destinations, and by taking a few simple precautions, you can stay safe and healthy in the heat:

- Drink more fluids, regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. Avoid liquids containing alcohol or large amounts of sugar—these actually cause you to lose more body fluid.
- Stay indoors in an air-conditioned place if it's hot outside—even a few hours spent

in air conditioning can help your body stay cooler if you do go into the heat.

- Electric fans provide a breeze, but when the temperature is in the high 90s, fans will not prevent heat-related illness because they do not cool the air. A better way to cool off is to take a cool shower or bath.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- Never leave a person or animal in a closed, parked vehicle. Even on a warm day, when the outside temperature is 72 degrees, the temperature in a car can be more than 100 degrees.

Continued on page E



South River EMC's Statement Of Non-Discrimination

South River Electric Membership Corporation is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the rules of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which provides that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination

compliance efforts is Executive Vice President and CEO Buddy G. Creed. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discriminatory action, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of RUS extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

We Need Your Numbers!

South River EMC is asking all members to verify their phone numbers. This includes both cell phones and home phones.

Providing this information allows for better communication between the Cooperative and you, especially in the event of an outage.

Please write your phone numbers on your next bill or, if you pay by check, circle the number on your check.

Phone numbers will only be used by Cooperative employees for official Cooperative business.



Only Two SwampDogs Camps Left!

South River EMC and the Fayetteville SwampDogs are sponsoring two more great 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 two Fayetteville SwampDog Day Camps, being held July 6 and July 26 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.

The deadline for the July 6 camp is June 30 and for the July 26 camp will be July 19. 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 goswampdogs.com. Your child can attend one day of camp for \$40, two days for \$75 and all three days for \$100.



Learning fractions can be so much fun if you have the right equipment.



Students learned about solar energy with a Bright Ideas grant.

Bright Ideas Shine This Summer

Teachers, while enjoying the wonderful summer weather you may just get an idea for a great classroom project. South River EMC is accepting Bright Ideas grant applications online until September 20. Visit ncbrightideas.com to complete an application.

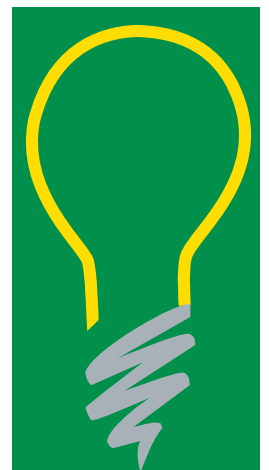
Bright Ideas is a grant program designed to reward innovative, creative teaching ideas. Teachers can apply for grants up to \$2,000 from South River EMC.

If you're an early bird (applying before midnight on August 16) you are eligible to win a \$500 Visa card.

So when inspiration strikes, listen! You can start on a grant application and return to it any time before the due date to finish and submit it.

Since 1994, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have funded more than \$6.5 million in grants, which have touched the lives of over 1 million North Carolina students.

For more information, contact Catherine O'Dell or Julie Wahl at 910-892-8071, or visit the Bright Ideas Web site at www.ncbrightideas.com.



BRIGHT IDEAS



Beat the heat with fans, liquids and time inside when you need it.

SUMMER continued from page C

- Although anyone at any time can suffer from a heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk. Check regularly on:
 - Infants and young children
 - People over 65-years-old
 - People who have a mental illness
 - Those who are physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure

For all who are outdoors during the summer, be mindful of the possibility of heat exhaustion. Symptoms include: Heavy sweating, faintness, rapid pulse, low blood pressure, nausea, a low-grade fever, headache and flushed skin.

It is especially important to watch for signs of heat exhaustion because, if left untreated, it can lead to heat stroke (when the body reaches 104 degrees), which can be fatal.

Try to limit your outdoor activities to the morning and evening when temperatures are cooler. If you're outside in the middle of the day, stay in the shade and put on sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher. The most effective sunscreens say "broad spectrum" or "UVA/UVB protection" on the labels.

Summer means fun in the sun, as long as you and your family know how to stay cool.



WE'RE DIFFERENT, WE'RE LIKE FAMILY

Do you know why ElecTel Cooperative Federal Credit Union is different?
 Have your fees increased? Do you have high cost, low quality service? Have your loan limits decreased?
 Have your lending rates increased? Have your lending policies changed? Do you pay an ATM fee?
 Has the interest rate on your credit card increased? Are you having difficulty obtaining a loan? If you answered "yes" to these questions, switch to ElecTel Cooperative FCU and feel the difference, feel like family.

**ELECTEL COOPERATIVE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION,
 WHERE MEMBERS ARE FAMILY**



WWW.ELECTELCCU.ORG/800-849-5600



Give Us An **A**

The next Give Us An A drawing will be held Wednesday, July 7.

Submit your child's most recent report card containing at least one A and have them entered to win a \$50 US Savings Bond.

Report cards should be mailed to:

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

You can also drop them off at a South River EMC office, just have them marked- "Give Us An A."

Report cards must contain:

- member's account number,
- a daytime phone number,
- a complete mailing address,
- the student's social security number.

SOUTH RIVER EMC

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Make The Change

South River EMC offers members a rebate on the purchase of CFLs. Before purchasing, do your homework and make sure you're getting what you want from your CFLs.

CFLs are available in a wide variety of shades of light, ranging from yellowish to white to bluish white light, which allows you to customize the mood of your space. CFLs come in "warm" colors to match the yellowish light of incandescent bulbs, but you can also choose "cooler" colors with white or blue light.

Choose the right color:

Light color is measured on a temperature scale referred to as Kelvin (K).

Lower Kelvin numbers mean the light appears more yellow; higher numbers mean the light is more white or blue.

Send original receipts to:

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

Receipts must include the member's name, account number, mailing address and a daytime phone number.



Save With Energy Star

Members could receive a rebate for purchasing an Energy Star certified appliance. Not only will you be saving money, energy and water, you'll also receive \$25 for your purchase.

Appliances eligible for rebate are Energy Star refrigerators, clothes washers, dishwashers, freezers and programmable thermostats.

Rebates are not available for appliances that are rented or being leased to own.

To apply for a rebate you will need to fill out an application,

which can be found at www.sremc.com, or by calling South River EMC at 910-892-8071. Send in your application with your receipt of purchase and the yellow EnergyGuide that comes with your appliance.

The Greater The SEER... ... the greater the savings!

South River EMC offers a rebate to members installing a 15 SEER or higher heat pump. This includes hybrid

dual fuel, as well as air source heat pumps, which receive a \$200 rebate per unit. Geothermal units are worth \$300 per unit.

Members must fill out an easy-to-complete application, as well as submit a copy of their certificate of product rating to the Cooperative.

If you are considering a new heat pump, do your homework and get the most for your money!

For more information on the heat pump rebate contact South River EMC at 910-230-2982, or view more information online at www.sremc.com.

A Benefit Of Energy Star Certified Homes

Every appliance comes with two price tags: what it costs to purchase and what it costs to operate and maintain it each month. Energy Star certified appliances incorporate advanced technologies and use 10 to 50 percent less energy than standard appliances. From refrigerators to clothes washers, Energy Star certified appliances save energy and money.

Benefits of Energy Star Qualified Appliances:

Lower Utility Bills

Appliances account for nearly 20 percent of the average household's energy use. A comprehensive package of Energy Star certified appliances can save up to \$80 a year in energy costs compared to standard appliances.

Improved Quality and Durability.

Energy-efficient appliances often include quality components surpassing those found in standard appliances. These can result in fewer mechanical problems, longer equipment life, and in many cases, extended warranties.

Enhanced Performance.

Energy Star certified appliances often outperform standard appliances due to improved design and advanced technologies. For instance, some Energy Star qualified appliances include features that decrease operating noise, while others include technologies that reduce water use.

Are you purchasing an Energy Star certified home served by South River EMC?



You could receive a rebate from South River EMC for buying or building an Energy Star certified home. For

questions or more information, call 910-230-2982 or visit www.sremc.com



Keeping Animals Comfortable

Save money by replacing the lighting in hog, turkey and chicken houses, it means having the same amount of lighting for less.

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.

This is a great way to save money and energy without sacrificing the comfort or health of animals.

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

SOUTH RIVER EMC

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Solar Water Heating Choices

When you consider solar water heating, you may be surprised at the options you have; such as what type of collector you would like on your home.

These are two common types of collectors used for residential applications:

Flat-plate collector

Glazed flat-plate collectors are weatherproofed, insulated boxes that contain a dark absorber plate under one or more glass or plastic (polymer) covers. Unglazed flat-plate collectors have a dark absorber plate, without a cover or enclosure.

Integral collector-storage systems

Also known as ICS, or batch systems, they feature one or

more black tanks or tubes in an insulated, glazed box. Cold water passes through the solar collector, which preheats the water. The water continues on to the backup water heater, providing a reliable source of hot water. They should be installed only in mild-freeze climates because the outdoor pipes could freeze in severe, cold weather.

Before making any decisions be sure to consult a solar professional.

They will discuss options with you, as well as verify that your home is a good site for solar water heating.

South River EMC gives members a \$1,000 rebate for installing solar water heating with an electric back-up.

For more information on solar water heating, call South River EMC at 910-230-2982.



Recycle To Save

Do you have more than one refrigerator or freezer in your home? If so, you are using a lot of energy and over \$100 a year, to run your second unit.

If you don't need it, recycle it! South River EMC will give you \$50 for taking your old operational unit to the recycling center.

In order to receive a rebate, a visual inspection is required to verify the unit is still in working order. At this time, a South River EMC employee will cut the cord to your unit. You are responsible for recycling the unit. South River EMC can provide local recycling facilities to you. You will only receive a rebate if the appliance you are recycling is a secondary unit and manufactured before 1993.

For more information on how to receive your rebate call 910-230-2982.

Wrap Up Savings

Insulating your hot water pipes reduces heat loss and can raise water temperature 2°F–4°F than uninsulated pipes can deliver, allowing for a lower water temperature setting. You also won't have to wait as long for hot water when you turn on a faucet or showerhead, which helps conserve water.

Insulate all accessible hot water pipes, especially within three feet of the water heater. It's also a good idea to insulate the cold water pipes for the first three feet.

When you purchase a water heater efficiency kit for \$12 from South River EMC you receive a water heater blanket, with the added extras of pipe insulation, a water-efficient showerhead, two regular faucet aerators and a kitchen faucet aerator.

For \$10, a South River EMC employee will install this comprehensive kit for you.

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



Solar collectors on the roof of a home look just like skylights.