

Stimulus Money May Pay Off For Your Home



In this economy, weatherizing your home has never been more important. The effect pending legislation has on your wallet partly depends on how much energy you use.

An estimated 43 percent of your energy costs come from your heating and cooling unit alone. Unfortunately, you may not be receiving the full amount of air because of leaks and improper weatherization.

However, as efficient as it is to weatherize, it might be more than your family can afford.

The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, better known as the Stimulus Bill, has put money toward two programs that help make weatherization a possibility.

Your first option is to apply for a 30 percent tax credit (up to \$1,500) for insulating, weather-stripping and sealing your home.

Information on what qualifies for the tax credit, as well as other instructions and guidelines, can be found at www.energystar.gov, keyword: tax credit.

The second way to weatherize your home is through the Weatherization Assistance Program, which is handled by Community Action programs across North Carolina.

This program assists low-

income residents of the community in making the necessary weatherization repairs.

“Not all homes are eligible,” said Wayman Gainey, energy housing director for weatherization at Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action, Inc. “An initial assesment is done to see if the criteria for weatherization is met.”

What the Community Assistance programs focus on is 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.

When able, the program will perform tune-ups and repairs to heating and cooling systems.

However, Community Action and its funding is not responsible for the replacement of heating/air conditioning units.

Below is a chart to determine whether you meet the household income limitations.

If you do, please call the Community Action nearest you to learn more about what they can do to help make your home more energy friendly!

For information on weatherization opportunities contact Cumberland Community Action Program Inc. at 910-485-6131 (Cumberland and Sampson counties) or Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action at 919-934-2145 (Johnston) or 910-814-8360 (Harnett).

Persons in Family	x 200 percent
1	\$ 21,660
2	\$ 29,140
3	\$ 36,620
4	\$ 44,100
5	\$ 51,580
6	\$ 59,060
7	\$ 66,540
8	\$ 74,020
For families with over eight members add \$7,480 per person.	

New Legislative Action Impacts Electric Bills

by CEO and Executive Vice President Buddy G. Creed



As summer draws to a close, the news is full of debate regarding the national climate change bill, also referred to as cap and trade. In Washington, D.C., the House of Representatives spent June trying to wrap up their version of the climate change legislation. The bill, HR 2454, is still a long way from perfect, but there have been some compromises since the bill first appeared in the House Energy and Commerce Committee. National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Glenn English has appeared several times on panels to discuss the issues surrounding this bill and the negative impact it can have on rural America.

This bill is written to penalize utilities and other industries for using fossil fuels by dramatically increasing costs. The view of the electric cooperatives and many other grassroots organizations is that this move will have a disproportionate impact on American households, many in rural areas. This entire issue is further exacerbated by the ongoing economic crisis.

An underlying goal of this legislation is the concept that dramatically raising energy costs is a good idea because it will force conservation by consumers. Although this may be a basic principal of economics, the reality is that electricity is not a luxury but a necessity and many poor and working-class citizens can not afford the bills they currently have.

This bill has been touted as the largest tax in American history. Passage of the bill will impact all sectors of the economy. As a result, the American people will experience higher prices in electric bills, at the gas pump, as well as on manufactured goods from food to clothes to cars. It is expected that these increases will result in a cut back in consumer spending, a reduction in production and has the potential to drive manufacturing overseas.

As a result of English's appearances and the lobbying efforts of electric cooperatives and their members, we may be making some headway on the bill. Although the value of the current improvements in HR2454 is in the range of \$1 billion, there is a lot of work yet to be done.

The House passed HR 2454 on Friday, June 26, the Senate still has to introduce their own version of a climate change bill and then the two have to meet and formulate a version that is agreeable to all members of Congress. It is expected that the Senate will not introduce their version until autumn.

The progress made so far has been a direct result of your action through e-mails and letters sent to members of Congress through OurEnergy.coop or Findabalancedsolution.com. I encourage you to continue your efforts so we can keep pressure on Congress to find a solution that is good for the environment and consumers!

Refund Allocations Made

It pays to be a South River EMC member. Because your cooperative is a non-profit utility, all profits are allocated back to its member-owners annually in the form of capital credits. As a cooperative, South River EMC allocates year-end margins to members based upon their individual kilowatt hour purchases for the year.

South River EMC has recently made allocations based on 2008 margins. Your allocation is equity used for financing equipment and maintenance needs. The amount of the yearly allocation is determined by multiplying the percentage of operating margins by the total amount the members paid that year for electric service. For example, if your total electric service bill for 2008 was \$1,000 and the percentage of margins is 0.0560810661 your allocation of capital credits would be \$56.08. Based on the current 19-year retirement cycle, these allocations will be returned to the member in 2027.

Community Grants Awarded



The Community Assistance Corporation recently awarded \$39,166 in grants. The Averbosoro Battlefield Commission, Inc. (left to right) Phil Harrison, C.C. Livingston, Jerry Lee, Billy Ray Godwin, Benny Pearce, Walt Smith Jr., Carl Underwood, Radford Rich and Mac Williams, received \$4,198.

Disabled American Veterans, Sampson County Meth Task Force, Inc., Rape Crisis Volunteers of Cumberland County, Fayetteville Shrine Club, Cumberland County Schools Intellectual Disabled - Mild Program and Gray's Creek Christian Center received \$5,000. Alderman Road Elementary received \$2,968 and families received \$2,000.

Applications Available

Operation Round Up grant applications for September are available and will be accepted until August 21.

Be sure to read the guidelines thoroughly and, when completing an application, have all required information complete and all the appropriate attachments, copies and signatures.

Grants are reviewed by the Community Assistance Corporation. For more information visit www.sremc.com or call our office at 910-230-2982.



Told By A Child Just Once

"A child used to have to repeat his or her story nine to 15 times," said Tammy Laurence, executive director of the Child Advocacy Center. "To adults, the police, social workers, doctors, they constantly had to retell their story."

At the Child Advocacy Center, or CAC, in Fayetteville, a child who suffers from severe physical or sexual abuse, only has to tell their story once.

CAC was a recipient of a \$5,000 Operation Round Up grant to train members of its multidisciplinary team, or MDT, that makes the process of a child recounting the story of abuse easier.

"This grant enables us to carry out our mission," said Laurence.

The CAC mission is to mobilize effective collaborative responses to child abuse. This mission is why the multidisciplinary team is the heart of the CAC.

The MDT is made up of victim family advocates (VFAs), social workers, detectives, mental health professionals, medical professionals, the assistant district attorney, schools and Ft. Bragg social works service.

These groups work together to formulate a plan of action and assign treatment as necessary. Not only does this save the community money, it saves

families times and frustration.

Members of the team went to training to learn how to build a rapport and speak with the children without causing further trauma. The VFAs are the first to have interaction with the child, and it is their job to make sure the child feels comfortable and at ease in the office.

Children used to tell their story at all different hours to complete strangers in a police office or other places they had never been before, which were not child friendly.

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Walls are covered by art from the Junior League of Fayetteville.



Bright Ideas For Budget Cuts

This year is one marked with budget cuts, especially in education. However, teachers have a resource where they can turn to help fund their classroom needs. All you have to do is visit www.ncbrightideas.com and complete an application. It's that easy!

If you have an idea or need, but don't have the time to complete your application in one sitting, you have the ability to save it and come back later.

The Bright Ideas grant program is once again offering an early bird incentive to encourage teachers to apply early! If you apply before midnight on August 17, you become eligible to win a \$500 prize.

The final date to submit an application is September 18. To receive a grant the project must directly involve students, achieve clearly defined goals and learning objectives, use innovative and creative teaching methods, provide ongoing benefits to students, and feature measurable results that can be evaluated upon completion.

Remember, spelling and grammar are important components to grant writing, so be sure to double check your application before submission. Grant writing tips are available on the Bright Ideas Web site.

This year, South River EMC will be funding \$50,000 in educational grants through Bright Ideas. Since 1994, North Carolina's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives have funded over \$6.5 million in grants, which have touched the lives of more than one million North Carolina students.

For more information, visit ncbrightideas.com, sremc.com or contact Catherine O'Dell or Julie Wahl at 910-892-8071.



**BRIGHT
IDEAS**

Give Us An **A** Winners

The following students will receive a \$50 Savings bond. Look for our next Give Us An A contest in February!

Derik Powell
Cape Fear High School

Alyssa Cochran-Trull
Boone Trail Elementary

Soniquia Melvin
Cape Fear High School

Georgianna Honeycutt
Midway High

Nyala Gilmore
South View Middle

Nicklaus Smith
Midway Middle

Dawson McLamb
Midway Elementary

Adreanna Powell
Mac Williams Middle

Sydney Sinclair
Hobpton High School

Taylor Blausler
Armstrong Elementary

Ashton Bullard
Mac Williams Middle



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“Because of CAC, that will not happen,” Laurence said. “Children were often viewed with disbelief and that is a big deal.”

When a child comes into the center they are made to feel safe. They begin playing with the toys in the room before the social worker takes them to be interviewed.

Younger children go down a hall painted with brightly colored jungle animals. There is an elephant on the wall. **(Seen at right.)**

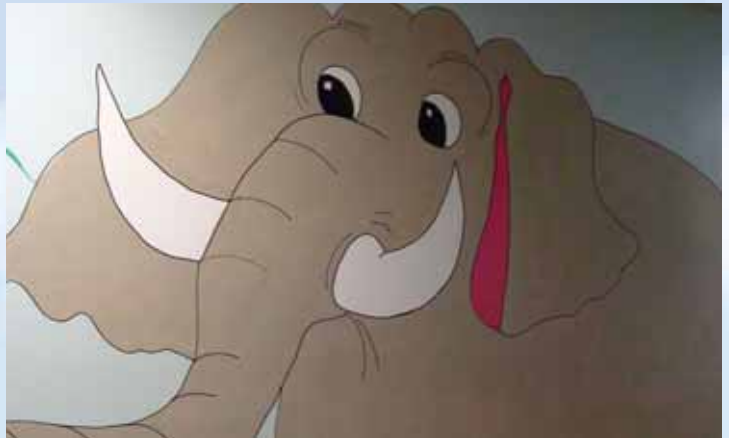
The animal’s design is not just decoration, interviewers can use the image when interviewing the child.

Another animal, a lion right outside the interview room, receives a hug from most children leaving the facility.

While the child is interviewed, he or she is being recorded, allowing a detective to watch in another room, receiving information.

“The MDT, they truly are my heroes,” said Laurence. “They are the people on the front line, they see the horrors, but they still want to be here.”

The center has nine employees and about 60 volunteers. Volunteers are always welcome, because there is a lot of activity at the center and there is a position for everyone.



Recognizing Signs of Child Abuse

The child:

- shows changes in behavior or school performance.
- has not received help for physical or medical problems brought to the parents attention.
- has learning problems (or difficulty concentrating) that cannot be attributed to specific physical or psychological causes.
- is always watchful, as though waiting for something bad to happen.
- lacks adult supervision.
- is overly compliant, passive or withdrawn.
- comes to school or other activities early, stays late, and does not want to go home.

For more information about the Child Advocacy Center visit www.childadvocacycenter.com



Youth Tourists 2009

This year South River EMC selected Lauren McKoy of Western Harnett High School, Mariah Barefoot of South Johnston High School and Lameshia Jacobs of Cape Fear High School, to attend the Rural Electric Youth Tour.

The Youth Tour has sent high school students to Washington, D.C. every June since the late 1950s.

The program is open to current high school juniors or seniors. Visit www.sremc.com for more information.



South River EMC members,
do you have EQUITY in your home?
Call us for a FREE home valuation report

- 2nd mortgage loans starting at **4.25% APR***
- Limits up to \$100,000 line of credit
- No closing costs
- Fixed and variable rate
- No credit check required for FREE valuation report

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate. Some restrictions apply. Call or come in for more information.



www.electelccu.org

800-849-5600



Heat Your Water With Summer Sun

South River EMC members interested in installing a solar water heater with an electric back-up could receive \$1,000 rebate from the Cooperative.


Members may also be eligible for other rebates and tax incentives. For a list of other available rebates and incentives visit www.dsireusa.org.

Eligibility:

- You must receive electric service from South River EMC in your home.
- The unit must have been newly installed after January 1, 2009 to qualify.
- System must be checked for compliance by an authorized South River EMC employee before a rebate is issued.
- Unit must be installed by a SRCC-certified installer with all applicable licenses.



- Member must sign an agreement, which allows the Cooperative the rights to any renewable energy certificates produced from the solar water heating unit in exchange for the rebate.



**It's not always black and white.
CFLs are great for lowering energy costs, but they can be expensive.**

Let South River EMC help.

You can receive \$1 back for each CFL bulb purchased for your home. Not only that, but an ENERGY STAR qualified CFL will save about \$30 over its lifetime and pay for itself in about six months.

If you purchase CFLs for your home, send South River EMC the receipt!

The following information must be on the receipt: the member's name, account number, a daytime phone number, the mailing address and, if not indicated, how many bulbs you purchased. Receipts must be dated within six months of submission.

Receipts should be mailed to:
South River EMC
CFL Rebate
PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335

For more information on all of South River EMC's energy saving programs visit us on the Web at www.sremc.com/energysavingprograms.aspx

New Homes That Use Less Energy, Save Money

South River EMC members who build or purchase a new ENERGY STAR certified home, qualify for a rebate of \$350-\$750. Additionally, they may qualify for state and federal tax credits.

Here are just a few benefits of an ENERGY STAR home:

- An efficient home envelope, with effective levels of wall, floor and attic insulation properly installed, comprehensive air barrier details, and high-performance windows;
- Efficient air distribution, where ducts are installed with minimum air leakage and are effectively insulated;
- Efficient equipment for heating, cooling and water heating;
- Efficient lighting, including fixtures that earn the ENERGY STAR; and
- Efficient appliances, including ENERGY STAR qualified dishwashers, refrigerators, and clothes washers.

These energy efficiency improvements save homeowners about \$200 to \$400 per year on utility bills. More importantly, monthly energy savings can easily exceed any additional mortgage cost for the energy efficiency improvements, resulting in a positive cash flow from the first day of home owner-

ship. As a result, the cost-effectiveness of ENERGY STAR improvements can help offset additional costs associated with other green home features. For a complete listing of requirements of an ENERGY STAR qualified home, visit the www.energystar.gov.

Rebate Information Contractors:

If you build a new ENERGY STAR certified spec home that receives electricity from South River EMC, you will receive a \$400 rebate once the home has been certified as ENERGY STAR qualified by a licensed independent HERS rater.

Members:

If you move into a new home that has been ENERGY STAR certified, you will receive a \$350 rebate. For members who have an ENERGY

STAR certified home custom built, you will receive a \$750 rebate, once the home has been certified as ENERGY STAR qualified by a licensed independent HERS rater.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.sremc.com/EnergyStarHomeNew.aspx or contact Catherine O'Dell at 910-230-2982.



Cut Back On Farming Costs With CFLs

Turkeys, chickens and hogs can get the same amount of light for less money and less energy.

South River EMC offers a 25% 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). The farm must receive electric service from South River EMC.

Rebate is based solely on the cost of materials.

