



# South River EMC Communicator

## Innovation On The Farm

*Newly connected project tests uses for future microgrids; provides environmental benefits*

**P**artners in an innovative effort to develop a microgrid at a Harnett County hog farm held a dedication ceremony on May 4 to celebrate completion of the project, which will help ensure the reliability of the electric grid, promote environmental sustainability and support the surrounding community.

Butler Quality Pork and Renewable Energy Farm, South River EMC



Tom Butler talks about the microgrid project on his farm.

and North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives joined forces to create a microgrid that integrates renewable biogas, solar generation, energy storage and other components to produce electricity that can be used to power the farm and nearby homes. The microgrid is capable of operating on its own, or it can remain connected to the main grid and supplement conventional sources of electricity.

*continued on page B*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



South River EMC offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in celebration of our nation's independence. Be safe!

Scholarship Recipient	<b>B</b>
Baseball Camp	<b>D</b>
Greater Information	<b>E</b>
Energy Smarts	<b>F</b>

## CONGRATULATIONS

Melissa Smith, daughter of Ella Knott and Anthony Smith of Fayetteville, is the recipient of a \$500 Power Source Volunteers Scholarship. Smith plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill to obtain a degree in biology, to become a medical examiner.



*MICRO continued from page A*

The project will bring additional reliability to an already very reliable system in the local area. It also provides an opportunity to test the integration of new grid resources and technologies and serves as a case study for how agriculture and electric utilities—two of North Carolina’s most important industries—can work together to enhance the state’s rural communities.

“South River EMC has a long-standing partnership with Butler Farms, and we have taken great interest in their pursuit of cleaner farming techniques with less negative environmental impacts as well as the implementation of several renewable energy resources,” said Catherine O’Dell, Vice President of Member Services & Public Relations at South River EMC.

This project represents the first time that a member’s existing energy resources have been integrated into a microgrid developed by the state’s electric cooperatives.

Another cooperative microgrid is in operation on Ocracoke Island. Developed through a partnership between Tideland EMC and North Carolina’s Electric Cooperatives, the project is a similar effort to bring reliable

power, sustainability and other opportunities to one of the state’s most remote communities.

More information about the cooperatives’ microgrid efforts can be found at [sremc.com/content/butler-microgrid](http://sremc.com/content/butler-microgrid) and [ncelectriccooperatives.com/energy-innovation/microgrids/](http://ncelectriccooperatives.com/energy-innovation/microgrids/).



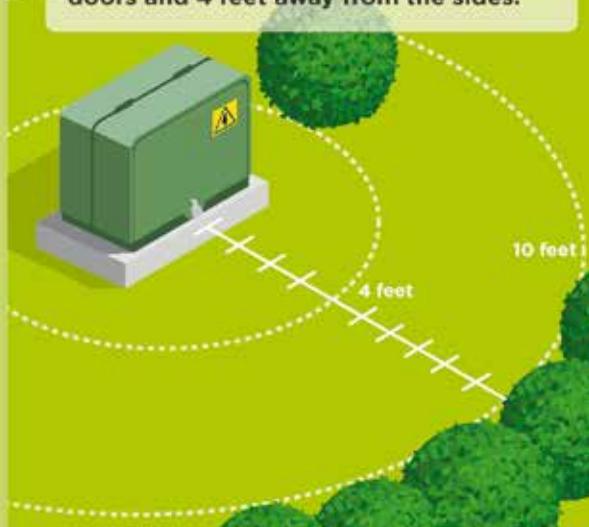
# Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.

Never touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers. Never put fingers, sticks or other objects through cracks in the transformer.



Keep areas surrounding the pad-mounted transformer clear so that workers can safely maintain transformers as needed. Keep shrubs and structures at least 10 feet away from the transformer doors and 4 feet away from the sides.



Never dig near a pad-mounted transformer. They are surrounded by underground cables. Hitting the cable could result in electrical shock or disruption of service. Always dial 8-1-1 before you dig.



Report problems. If you notice anything amiss, like an unlocked transformer or one that has been damaged, please contact us immediately.



## BASEBALL CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

**B**atter up! Opportunities are available for students ages 5-12 who enjoy baseball.

South River EMC has partnered with the Fayetteville SwampDogs to sponsor baseball camps this summer.

The Cooperative is offering a chance to win a scholarship for a day at one of the remaining Fayetteville SwampDogs Day Camps July 18 and

August 1, at J.P. Riddle Stadium in Fayetteville.

South River EMC is offering four scholarships for each camp. To apply, please send the following information to our office: *student's name, address, age and daytime phone number.*

**Mail to:**  
South River EMC  
Camp Scholarship  
PO Box 931  
Dunn, NC 28335

**E-mail:** [connections@sremc.com](mailto:connections@sremc.com)

Put "camp scholarship" as the subject line.

Be sure to include a note for which camp date(s) the child should be entered. Limit one submission per student to each camp.

Submission deadlines are July 11 and 25.

Scholarships only cover the cost of camp. Parents or guardians are

responsible for transportation to and from the stadium on the camp day, which runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Lunch and a snack will be provided. Campers may bring their own equipment.

Interested in attending camp? Register at [goswampdogs.com](http://goswampdogs.com). If not selected, your child can attend the camp one day for \$50, or two days for \$90.

## IT'S ALL ABOUT EDUCATION

**I**n the heat of the summer, a bright idea can be fleeting, but hold tight.

When an idea strikes, make a list. Then, flesh it out and when you have some time, visit [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com) and type it up.

The Bright Ideas grant program awards grants

to teachers in certified public K-12 schools, who have innovative, classroom-based ideas.

Each year, South River EMC awards at least \$50,000 in grants to teachers in parts of Harnett, Johnston, Sampson and Cumberland counties.

Grants can be written

for any amount up to \$2,500 for any subject. Grant applications **are not** considered for professional development.

Since 1994, educators statewide have received \$11.5 million to fund 11,000 projects, affecting 2.2 million students.

Applications are now

being accepted; educators with applications in by the early bird deadline of August 15, are eligible to win a \$100 Visa gift card. The final application deadline is September 19.

South River EMC accepts applications online only at [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com). Interested in learning more? Visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or e-mail [sremc@sremc.com](mailto:sremc@sremc.com).



## DRAFT IT, FORGET IT AND WIN!

Set up your electric bill on electronic draft and you never have to worry that it's paid. You can set up your account to be deducted automatically from your checking account or charged to a credit

card monthly. Once you do this, you never have to worry about due dates or missing a payment.

If you want to set up your account you can login to your account on [sremc.com](http://sremc.com), select

"draft payment options" from the menu on the left side of the page and follow the directions. If you don't have access to your account online, just call one of our member service representatives at 910-892-8071.

Still not sure? Well, if you set up your account on draft by July 31 you will be entered to win one of two \$25 bill credits. Easy and convenient – a winning combination.

## GIVE US THOSE A'S!

Don't forget to submit those report cards.

South River EMC will hold our next Give Us An A drawing July 3. The drawing is held for students achieving at least one A on their recent report card.

Each of the 15 students whose name is drawn

will receive a \$25 gift card.

This program is open to students who are members, or children of members, of South River EMC. Make a copy of the most recent report card with at least one A and send it to the Cooperative.

Include the member's



name, South River EMC account number and a daytime telephone number; report cards will not be accepted without this information.

Report cards should be sent to:

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

Or e-mailed to: [connections@sremc.com](mailto:connections@sremc.com).

## GREATER INFORMATION AVAILABLE

South River EMC has recently moved into a newly renovated dispatch center designed to provide greater information to employees working in the field and service to members. The dispatch center is equipped with a live wall that is comprised of multiple wall-mounted screens each which can display different vital information that can assist with dispatch operations. A new conference area will enable teams to meet and discuss planning of work to be conducted or strategize restoration plans following storms while having a view of the live wall.



## Make A Smart Thermostat Work For You

Smart thermostats can help you save energy and money.

When you purchase and install a smart thermostat, once you set it to your schedule, the savings begin.

For example, if you schedule the thermostat temperature to

be slightly higher while everyone is at work and school, your heat pump will run less and the thermostat will bring your home to a comfortable temperature for your return home.

With Wi-Fi compatibility, it's easy to make changes when

you aren't home, as well as being easy to use when you are home.

Smart thermostats are eligible for a rebate from South River EMC. For details visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

## A High Efficiency Heat Pump Helps You Save

A high efficiency heat pump, 17 SEER or greater, is a great way to save energy and money. The SEER rating stands for seasonal energy efficiency ratio rating, which measures the cooling efficiency of a system.

Why a heat pump? As a homeowner who heats and cools your home with electricity, it is the most efficient system, with several system options to choose from.

A high efficiency air source heat pump is a cost effective option. In the winter it pulls heat from the outside and pushes it into

your home, and in the summer, vice versa. However, consider other options before you replace your current air source heat pump with another air source heat pump.

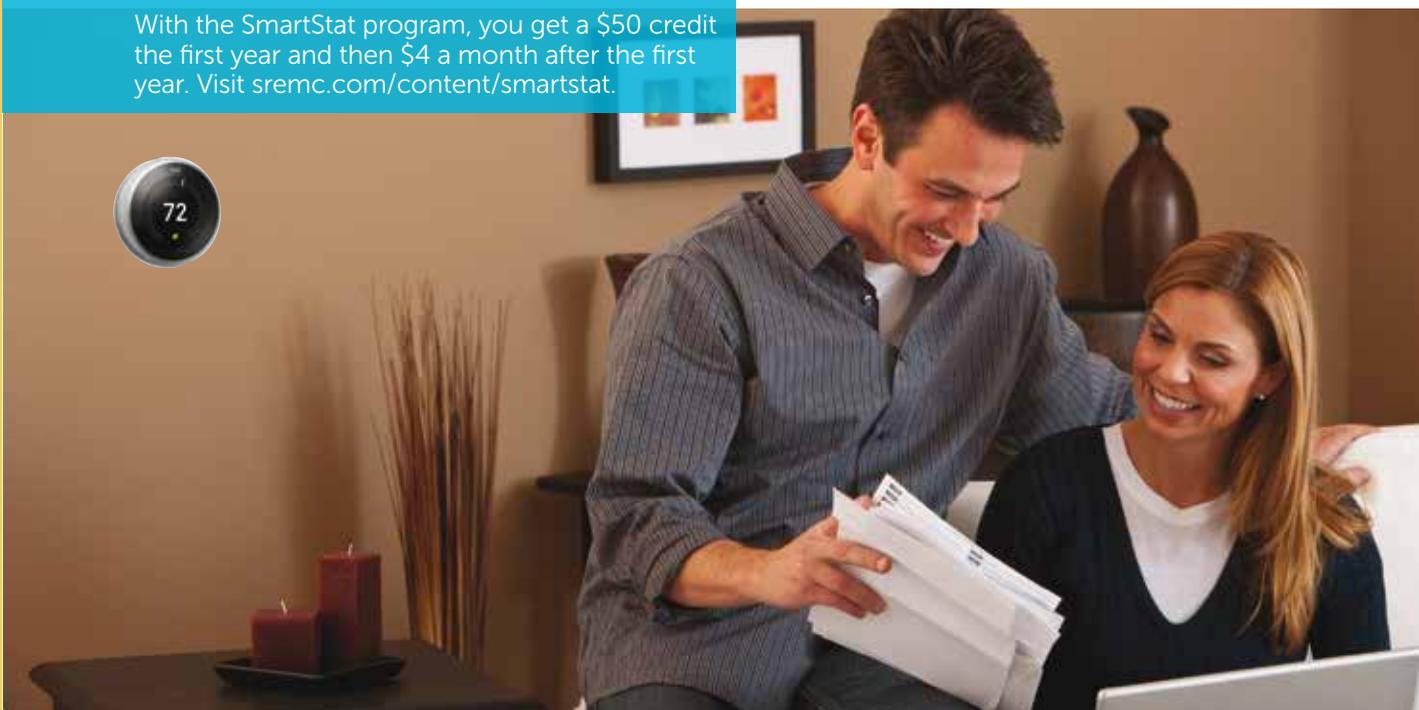
Ductless mini-splits are great for additions, garages or workshops, which aren't connected to the primary heating and cooling system. Though more expensive than an air source unit, this system makes up for it in energy savings.

A geothermal heat pump is the most efficient and expensive option. The system uses the

relatively constant ground temperature to heat and cool a home, making it more efficient to heat and cool your home. Items to be considered if looking at geothermal units: geology, hydrology, and land availability.

Before making any decisions, list your needs and check your options. South River EMC offers rebates on heat pumps 17 SEER and greater. For more information visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

With the SmartStat program, you get a \$50 credit the first year and then \$4 a month after the first year. Visit [sremc.com/content/smartstat](http://sremc.com/content/smartstat).





## Do You Wonder About Insulation And Weatherization?

South River EMC offers multiple rebates for new insulation and weatherization, which includes weather stripping and caulking.

By replacing or filling in weather

stripping and insulation, you could be saving energy, which saves money, and the upgrades make you more comfortable. Then, on top of it, you could receive a rebate.

To see a list of rebates for insulation and weatherization, and complete details, visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910-892-8071 x 2222.

## How Much Does Hot Water Mean To You?

Water heating is an important part of your day. When your water heater needs replaced, what will you purchase?

A heat pump water heater uses electricity to move heat rather

than produce it, making it two to three times more efficient.

Meanwhile, a solar water heater uses a free energy source, the sun to heat water, but requires a back-up.

South River EMC offers rebates on solar water heating, as well as heat pump water heating under 50 gallons. For details visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

## Pick The Perfect Pump For Your Swimming Pool

A pool pump is the heart of a swimming pool, pulling water through the skimmer and drain, pushing it through the filter, and returning it to the pool.

Running your pool pump keeps this happening continuously. But depending on your pump, you might find that replacing it will save energy and money.

Single speed pumps run on a

single, high speed to handle the toughest jobs, and wastes water and energy on smaller jobs. It's not an effective use of energy or money.

Install a variable or two-speed pump. With the ability to set speeds, you can have the appropriate speed and water for tasks, which saves energy, water and money over the pump's lifespan.

South River EMC offers a rebate for investing in energy-efficient pool pumps, so you're not just saving money, you'll make some as well! Cutting down on pump run time can also help you save.

For rebate information visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910-892-8071 x 2152.

# A Brighter More Energy Efficient Way To Light Poultry Houses

Poultry production is one of North Carolina's leading industries. Farmers are always looking for ways to streamline their operation while trimming costs. One area of opportunity is lighting.

Traditionally, chicken broiler houses use 60 to 75 watt incandescent bulbs in their lighting programs to achieve feed conversion goals. With over 50 bulbs per house in most cases, the lighting load amounts to a very significant cost for the grower. Over the last few years, companies have brought to market LED lighting specifically designed for the rigors of the industrial poultry production environment.

LED lighting has many advantages over traditional incandescent and fluorescent lighting. The energy consumption is much lower, the lifespan is much longer, there is virtually

no heat output, there are no ballasts to replace, and a host of other benefits. These advantages have been realized in outdoor lighting, residential, commercial, and industrial applications and, in the last few years, the agricultural industry.

LED bulbs tend to range between 11 to 12 watts each but produce the same amount and quality of light as a 75-watt incandescent bulb. This represents a greater than 80 percent reduction in electricity use when comparing both bulbs at full power. Furthermore, the average LED bulb has a lifespan of 50,000 hours compared to just over 1,000 hours for an incandescent.

LED lighting has gained wide acceptance in the United States and a strong foothold in the lighting market. The Department of Energy (DOE) estimates that by 2020, LED lighting will account for 48 percent of all lumen-hour lighting sales in the United States. By 2030 the DOE expects that figure to increase to 84 percent.

Many South River EMC members who are poultry farmers who own broilers have already



Advise Guy Aaron Jackson

made the switch to LED lighting and reaped the benefits. These members have seen significant cost savings per flock and reduced maintenance expenses. We have yet to see any LED conversions take place in breeder or pullet houses, but I encourage any poultry farm owner interested in lowering their lighting costs to contact their integrator and explore the options. Considering converting to LED lighting? Let me help you get an idea of what your energy savings and payback period might be. You can reach me at 910-892-8071 x 2153 or [abjackson@sremc.com](mailto:abjackson@sremc.com).



## South River EMC Communicator



Follow Us! [southernriveremc](https://www.facebook.com/southernriveremc)

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



PO Box 931  
Dunn, NC 28335  
(910) 892-8071  
800-338-5530

[www.sremc.com](http://www.sremc.com)