



South River EMC Communicator

THE 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

South River EMC's Annual Meeting of Members will take place Thursday, April 21, at 6 p.m. Those who attended the hybrid meeting last October are probably familiar with the process as it is outlined on the cover wrap. For those who are unfamiliar with the process, take some time to get familiar with it before the date of the actual meeting. The login credentials are valid, but will not be active until about one-half hour prior to the meeting.

Doing a run through to participate, also makes sure you have the necessary information to participate in the annual meeting.

Here are a few items to consider before participation this year.

- Calling in advance of the meeting does not register you for credit.
- If hosting a viewing party, each member must individually log into the meeting to be counted in order to receive the credit, or be entered in the prize drawing.
- If you get disconnected in some way, call back or login again.
- Churches and businesses: If you are representing an organization, you must be listed as an authorized representative of the church/business on the account.

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South River EMC offices will be closed Friday, April 15, in observance of Easter.

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YOU MADE THE A's

We recognize you.

The following 15 students received at least one A on his or her most recent report card and submitted it for the "Give Us An A" drawing. Each student selected received a \$25 gift card.

Sicily Brown
Reid Ross Classical High

Rylan Williams
Mac Williams Middle

Zachary Ziady
Triton High

Samuel Medlin
Cape Fear Christian Academy

Claire Joyce
St. Ann Catholic School

Phillip Young
Alderman Road Elementary

Mallory Edwards
Mintz Christian Academy

Palmer Bullard
Harrells Christian Academy

Lindsey Kremer
Gray's Creek High

Sadie Parrish
Mintz Christian Academy

Sarah Bullard
Mac Williams Middle

Makyleigh Smith
JW Seabrook Elementary

Katelynn Phillips
Hobbton Elementary



Jack Bullard
Fayetteville Academy

Landon Benalt
Ascend Leadership Academy

Congratulations to our lucky students!

Keep up the hard work, we will have another drawing for all those students who receive A's in July.

Digging into an Outdoor Project?

Before you dig, dial 811 or visit www.call811.com to protect underground utilities. Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Contact 811 first and help keep our community safe.

#THANKALINEMAN

You've likely noticed South River EMC's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions.

Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

Celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, April 11, by posting #thankalineman.

IT'S TIME FOR BRIGHT IDEAS

The kick off of the 2022-2023 Bright Ideas grant application program is here!

Everyday there are new ideas that can help a child to learn better. These ideas are not often in the school's budget and are where a Bright Ideas grant can prove helpful.

Project ideas can come from anywhere, in any subject and amount up to \$2,500.

The Bright Ideas program awards grants to teachers in certified, public K-12 schools, who have innovative, classroom-based ideas.

Since the program's inception, educators statewide have

received \$14.3 million to fund over 13,536 projects affecting 2.8 million students.

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

Applications for professional development will not be considered.

The application period opens April 1, so there is plenty of time to apply.

Educators with applications in by August 15, are eligible to win a \$100 Visa gift card. The final application deadline is September 19.



South River EMC accepts applications online at ncbrightideas.com.

If you're interested in learning more about this program, visit sremc.com or e-mail connections@sremc.com.

Begin applying April 1 at ncbrightideas.com.

PROGRAMS TO SAVE YOU MONEY

Watt Watchers is a new program offered to members of South River EMC.

Meant to keep rates low for members, participation involves shifting energy use from times of high use. Called a peak, these are the few critical hours when the most people are using the most electricity, all at the same time.

This is typically when electricity is priced at its highest, and while it does not impact you at that time you use the electricity, it affects the rates offered by the Cooperative.

By participating in Watt Watchers, you agree to shift energy use to off-peak times, which you will be notified of in advance. In doing this, you help to reduce demand costs.

You will only be expected to change habits for an event.

Now, if you are interested in saving money and you might consider switching and saving.

The Switch and Save program is a rate, which outlines specific times at which you should not use energy, and if you do, the cost per kilowatt hour is higher.

Every household is different and

every member has to decide what works for their unique situation.

Generally, time-of-use rates work best for people who are gone during the day and are flexible with when they use the most energy.

This rate is generally not suited for retirees or families who have someone home all day. The super off-peak time is perfect for electric-vehicle charging.

One of these options might work for you if you're looking to save money. You can read up on both options at sremc.com.

If you have questions about either option, you can email sremc@sremc.com or call 910.892.8071.



Phone it in!

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**USE OUR AUTOMATED
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South River Electric
Membership Corporation
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

HOW UPDATING INFORMATION HELPS

At South River EMC, we constantly strive to improve our operational efficiency in order to provide the most reliable service possible for you.

To do this, we rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve.

Accurate information enables us to improve member service and enhances communication for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events and activities, like our annual meeting.

Up-to-date contact information can potentially speed up the power restoration process during an outage. For example, the phone number you provide is linked to your service address to our outage management system.



This means when you call to report an outage, our system recognizes your phone number and matches it with your account location. Accurate information helps our outage management system predict the location and possible cause of an outage, making it easier for crews to correct the problem.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages for necessary maintenance. In these instances, if possible, we provide advance notification to affected members through automated phone messages, text messages

or email, if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Keeping the co-op updated with your information also helps us when there's a question about energy use or billing. In addition, discrepancies on your account can be taken care of promptly if South River EMC has accurate contact information.

Many of you have been Cooperative members for years, and it's likely that your account information hasn't changed for some time. However, others have had changes, so please let us know!

We want to emphasize that we will never sell this information to any third parties. It is only used by South River EMC to send important information to you.

Take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by using the update information form under "additional service options" at sremc.com, or by calling our office at 910.892.8071 and speaking with a member service representative.



Doing research helps you to make the best decision.



When Replacing Heating And Cooling Units

During these mild weather months, it might be a good time to get your heating and cooling unit serviced. If your unit is more than 10 years old, it might also be time to begin considering replacements.

That's not to say that heating and cooling units don't last upward of the standard 10 years, but as units age,

they become less efficient.

If you're in the market for a new unit, make efficiency part of the decision. You more than likely will be looking at heat pumps, so consider those with a higher seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating.

The SEER rating is important, because it measures the

cooling efficiency of the unit, therefore, the higher the SEER, the more efficient a system is in cooling your home during a North Carolina summer.

The Cooperative offers rebates on the purchase of 17 SEER or greater air source, geothermal, or mini-split heat pumps. For details visit sremc.com/energy-star-heating-cooling.

Energy Star Certified In Three Steps

The following Energy Star appliances are eligible for a rebate from South River EMC: refrigerators, clothes washers, clothes dryers, and dehumidifiers.

Energy Star certified appliances typically have a higher purchase cost, however, with appropriate use, the energy-saving appliance is meant to recoup that cost.

Appliances that carry the Energy Star logo undergo testing, which proves that the appliance achieves high levels of energy-efficiency

set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) via a three-step process.

First, test. Manufacturers must demonstrate that their product meets Energy Star specifications by testing it through an EPA-recognized laboratory.

Second, review. Product test results are reviewed by an EPA-recognized certification body. These are impartial third-party organizations that assess whether a product conforms with program

requirements and is eligible to earn the label.

Third, test again. Certified models in each category may be selected for additional "off-the-shelf" testing to ensure the products you purchase meet Energy Star requirements as expected.

Purchasing one of the aforementioned appliances with the Energy Star logo could mean savings for you all around. For rebate details, visit sremc.com/energy-star-appliances.

A Do-It-Yourself Audit Yields Some Results

Weatherizing your home helps you save money by saving energy, while also improving the comfort of your home.

While a professional home energy assessment is the best way to determine where you can save, you can conduct your own simple walk-through and spot many problems in a house if they exist. It will not be as thorough as a professional one, but it can help you pinpoint some of the easier areas to address.

First, make a list of obvious air leaks, or drafts. The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home ranges from 10-20 percent per year, and the house is generally much more comfortable afterward.

Check indoor for gaps along the baseboard or edge of the flooring and at junctures of the walls and ceiling. Also check for leaks on the outside of your home, especially in areas where two different building materials meet. Other places to check for leaks include windows, doors, lighting and plumbing fixtures, switches, and electrical outlets. Don't forget to check for open fireplace dampers. Caulk holes or penetrations for faucets, pipes, electric outlets, and wiring. Look for cracks and holes in the mortar, foundation, and siding, and look for leaks around windows and doors. Seal them with the appropriate material.

Then, there's insulation- heat loss through the floor, ceiling, and walls in your home could

be very large if insulation levels are less than the recommended minimum. When your house was built, the builder likely installed the amount of insulation recommended at that time. That level of insulation might be inadequate now, especially if you have an older home.

Check to see if your attic hatch is at least as heavily insulated as the attic, is weather stripped, and closes tightly. In the attic, determine whether openings for items such as pipes, ductwork, and chimneys are sealed. Seal any gaps with an expanding foam caulk or some other permanent sealant. When sealing gaps around chimneys or other heat producing devices, use a non-combustible sealant.

Make sure exterior attic vents are not blocked by insulation. You also should seal any openings or penetrations (such as electrical boxes) in the ceiling with flexible caulk and cover the entire attic floor with at least the current recommended amount of insulation.

If your basement or crawlspace is unconditioned and open to the exterior, determine whether there is insulation under the living area flooring. In most areas of the country, an R-value of 25 is the recommended minimum level of insulation for basements and crawlspaces. Your water heater, hot water pipes, and furnace ducts (especially if located in unconditioned space, such as an open crawl space) should all be insulated.



Learn about rebates offered at sremc.com/insulation-weatherization

Spring Cleaning And Efficiency

Finally, the long cold winter is in the past and spring is in the air! As the seasons change and new growth begins, so do several opportunities and various measures that, when implemented, will help you save money while improving energy efficiency in your home.

Let's first look at a few measures to take for the prime user of electricity, which is the HVAC system. Now is the time to have your HVAC unit serviced in preparation for summer weather. Contact a licensed HVAC company for an annual service visit. They should check freon levels and clean the system properly. Make sure the freon line insulating foam is in good shape or replace it if needed.

We also recommend the replacement of return filters. Keep in mind that the less expensive fiberglass type provides maximum air flow and energy efficiency.

It is also important to check any outside units. Make sure there is at least two feet of clearance between the unit and any trees, bushes, or shrubs. This may require them being cut back or pruned.

Last but not least, don't forget to check ductwork for leaks.

Duct system joints and trunk lines should be sealed with Mastic sealant to help reduce air infiltration. Studies show that an estimated 30 percent of energy lost in the US is through leaky ductwork!

Once you have completed maintenance on the HVAC system, evaluate air infiltration and sealing inside your home. Keeping your home sealed is key to retaining the conditioned air inside. Door weatherstripping is an easy do-it-yourself project. Keep in mind that if the door is shut and sunlight penetrates around it, it's time for maintenance. Also, remember that any penetrations into unconditioned spaces such as attic access doors or around plumbing will need attention and repair. Keeping your home air tight is a great way to save energy and money!

As you start your spring cleaning, be sure to add to your list the cleaning of refrigerator coils. This can be done with a fox tail or a vacuum cleaner, depending on the refrigerator model. Check deep freezers for a proper and tight seal and replace any broken seals to reduce energy consumption. Refrigerators should only run about one-third of the time,



Advise Guy Robby Talton

therefore, a normal run time is about 20 minutes per hour. If you find your refrigerator running all the time, it is most likely time to replace it with an Energy Star qualified model.

South River EMC has rebates on various Energy Star appliances! Look for the Energy Star logo on the energy guide before you purchase it. If you do purchase it, be sure to send in the rebate application for process. Therefore, as you complete your thorough "spring cleaning" this year, take a few extra steps to save energy and money. If you are interested in seeing all of the rebate and programs we offer, please visit sremc.com and check out our energy star rebates. You can find many other ways to save at sremc.com/advise-guys.

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