



# South River EMC Communicator



## REFUND ALLOCATED

**A**s a not-for-profit utility, we give money back! We don't have stockholders. We aren't a sole proprietorship. What we are is a Cooperative, which means that we are owned by each person who has an electric account with our company.

That's you, you're part of something special—you're a member.

So, at the end of each year, after all bills are paid, any remaining amount, called margins, is allocated to be refunded to members as capital credits.

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Once we completed our audit for 2021, the allocation of the margins was made. Our end-of-year margins totaled \$13,365,613.55 or 0.1346382095 percent of revenues.

What does this mean to you? If your electric bills in 2021 totaled \$1,000, then you would be earmarked to receive a refund of \$134.63. The refund will be returned as \$26.93 in November and the remaining \$107.70 in 19 years. The amount that is retained for 19 years is used as operating capital by the Cooperative.

Capital credits are typically retired in November. Members whose refund is less than \$100 will receive a bill credit. Members whose refund is \$100 or greater will receive a check.

If you think you, or a family member, might have an unclaimed capital credit refund, visit [sremc.com/capital-credits](http://sremc.com/capital-credits) and see if your name appears on the list. If so,



download the claim form and submit it to our office.

You can trust that we are always looking out for you, whether it's in our daily work or refunding your money. We are all in this together.



**SUMMER  
PEAK TIMES  
3 - 6 PM**

## Overpower energy peaks.

Just like traffic, demand on the electric grid has peak times. That's why we're enlisting Watt Watchers: members who help to offset energy demand peaks by making small changes to their energy use. We'll alert you to an anticipated peak with a text or email alert.

By adjusting your thermostat a couple of degrees, or delaying showering or doing laundry for a couple of hours, you can contribute to big savings on wholesale power. As a member of an electric cooperative, these savings are passed on to you.



Enroll today at [www.SREMC.com/Watt-Watchers](http://www.SREMC.com/Watt-Watchers)

# DISTRACTED DRIVING

Some temptations are hard to resist. Like turning down that last piece of chocolate cake.

While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn’t, but we reason that we’re going to make an exception—just this once.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and in many states, illegal? According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers.

After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking.

But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, it’s a good time to review the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist’s attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. This statistic is heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we’d simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system.

Texting, by far, is one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, help keep

the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At South River EMC, safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you’ll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait and waiting just might save a life.



## SUBMIT SUPER IDEAS

This isn't your last chance, but educators, your time is running short, especially as both you and your students prepare to return to school.

Planning for the new school year and engaging students and their different learning styles takes preparation, planning, and funding.

Oftentimes, it requires teachers to spend their own money on classroom materials.

That's why South River EMC's Bright Ideas grant program is perfect for teachers in public,

K-12 schools, who have bright, innovative, classroom-based ideas.

In the past, the Cooperative has awarded over \$50,000 per year to local educators.

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded \$14.3 million in grants to 2.8 million students.

Grants can be written for any amount up to \$2,500 and for any subject. If you are a local educator with an innovative idea, apply at [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com) by **September 15**.



If you submit your application by **August 15**, you may be eligible to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

For questions, visit [sremc.com/bright-ideas](http://sremc.com/bright-ideas), apply online at [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com).



## Electrical Safety Tips for Hunters

We encourage you to be aware of electrical equipment while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors during the hunting season.

- Keep clear of electrical equipment.
- Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- Know where power lines and equipment are located where you hunt.
- Be vigilant in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
- Never place deer stands on utility poles.
- Never place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment.

# Fields of Honor

This Veterans Day, each South River EMC office will be adorned with a field of hundreds of flags to salute the contributions of those who have served in defense of this great nation. Flags will be on display from November 5-13.

If you want to recognize a special veteran, sponsorship opportunities are available until October 28. Money raised will be donated to local veteran organizations. Please continue to watch our newsletter, website and social media channels for more information. We hope that you will find time to come by our offices during this week and experience our fields of honor!



Select "Fields of Honor" from Quick Links at [sremc.com](http://sremc.com)

Caulking is just one step to saving you can take.



## The HERO Home

The high-efficiency residential option, or HERO, home is a great option for anyone looking to build a home. This is because HERO focuses on the building envelope, requiring slightly bet-

ter insulation, fenestration, air sealing, equipment, and lighting to deliver savings.

South River EMC offers rebates on HERO certified homes and

you could also find information on the rebates at [sremc.com/hero-program](https://www.sremc.com/hero-program) or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2153.

## Pool Pumps And You

A pool pump is the heart of the swimming pool's circulation system, with lots of jobs that add to energy costs.

single-speed pump, such as a variable- or two-speed pump, which allow you to tailor water and energy use to task.

rebate, visit [sremc.com/pool-pumps](https://www.sremc.com/pool-pumps) or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

There are better options than a

For details on the pool pump

## Improve Comfort And Costs

Reducing the amount of air leaks in and out of your home is a cost-effective way to cut heating and cooling costs and increase comfort.

and openings between stationary components, and weather stripping is used to seal components that move, such as doors and windows.

cooling costs, while improving comfort.

Caulking and weather stripping are simple and effective techniques. Caulk is used for cracks

Insulation in your home provides resistance to heat flow and can help lower heating and

South River EMC offers rebates on insulation and weatherization improvements, for details, visit [sremc.com/insulation-weatherization](https://www.sremc.com/insulation-weatherization) or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

## Water Heating Options

No one wants to take a cold shower. The right water heater can provide your home with cost-effective and reliable hot water.

Your typical electric water heater uses one or two replaceable heating elements to heat water.

A more efficient water heater uses energy from the air or sun to heat water, can be larger than a standard electric water heater, and is more of an initial investment. However, that can be made up for in savings, if conditions and use are right.

South River EMC offers rebates on solar and heat pump water heaters. You can view details on the rebates at [sremc.com/energy-efficient-water-heating](https://www.sremc.com/energy-efficient-water-heating) or learn more by calling 910.892.8071 x 2153.

## Rigorous Testing Means Savings

The Energy Star shows that a product has undergone rigorous testing to prove its energy savings. Appliances like clothes washers, dryers, refrigerators

and dehumidifiers with the Energy Star are eligible for rebate from South River EMC.

For information on the rebate

offered by South River EMC, visit [sremc.com/energy-star-appliances](https://www.sremc.com/energy-star-appliances) or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

## Receive The Air You Expect

HVAC stands for heating, ventilation and air conditioning. Responsible for heating and cooling your home, it includes items like air conditioners, heat pumps, and ductwork, as well as thermostats.

That's why when you install a

new HVAC system, you want to make sure your unit is sized correctly, is efficient, and that ductwork is solid. These items work together to deliver the air you pay for each month.

In the market for a new HVAC system? South River EMC offers

a rebate on high efficiency heat pumps, with a seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating of 17 or greater.

For details on the rebate visit [sremc.com/energy-star-heating-cooling](https://www.sremc.com/energy-star-heating-cooling) or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.



Energy Star appliances with energy-efficient practices can help save.

## Stay Off-Peak and On Budget

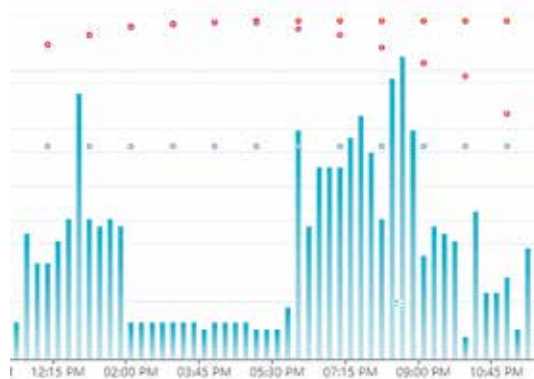
We are all feeling the pressure of rising costs. Whether at the gas pump, grocery store, or our favorite restaurant, price increases are having a real impact on our daily lives. In times like these, it makes sense to make wise decisions on how we spend our money, putting forth the effort to cut costs where we can. If you want to really see an immediate positive financial impact on your electric bill, you may want to consider our time-of-use, TOU, rate.

The TOU rate encourages the member to use the bulk of their energy outside of a 3- or 4-hour window, Monday through Friday. Energy used outside of the "on-peak" window is billed at a rate that is less than half the price of the current residential rate. However, energy used during the on-peak window is billed at over three times the going rate per kilowatt-hour (kwh).

Our family of five transitioned to the TOU rate in October 2018. Prior to switching, our average annual energy cost was around \$2,200 per year; we consumed about 18,000 kwh on average annually. Since the switch to the TOU rate, our average annual cost has dropped to around \$1,500

per year but our electricity consumption has increased to approximately 18,300 kwh annually. So, while on the TOU rate we dramatically lowered our cost while using more electricity.

To be successful on the TOU rate you must automate your HVAC system by installing a programmable or smart thermostat. This allows you to program your HVAC system in such a way that it doesn't run during the on-peak time, which is 2 to 6 p.m. Mon.– Fri. during the summer & 6 to 9 a.m. Mon.– Fri. during the winter. As the graph below illustrates, our kwh consumption this time of year is extremely low during the on-peak hours of the day. During those four hours there is no HVAC system runtime, hot water use, drying of clothes, or cooking. We are out of the house for the majority of the day but putting up with a little inconvenience five days per



Advise Guy Aaron Jackson

week has produced real savings for us the last four years. An added bonus is that all electricity used on Saturday and Sunday is billed at the off-peak rate.

This rate is great for working households where the home is empty during the majority of the on-peak time but, if you're willing to take the necessary steps and put up with a little inconvenience, it can work for anyone. Right now, you can receive a \$20 bill credit for switching to the TOU rate. Be mindful that there is a 12-month commitment once you switch. If you elect to transition back to the standard residential rate, the meter change carries a \$100 fee. For more information on the time-of-use rate, go to our website at [sremc.com/TOU](http://sremc.com/TOU) or give us a call.

# South River EMC Communicator



Follow Us! [southriveremc](http://southriveremc) A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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