

South River EMC Communicator

August 2025

Prioritize Energy Needs

On April 30, Jim Matheson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), testified before the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Energy to emphasize the need for smart energy policies that prioritize grid reliability.

Representing nearly 900 electric cooperatives serving 42 million Americans, Matheson underscored the critical need for policies that will enable co-ops to keep the lights on in their communities for generations to come.

Key priorities include:

- The urgent need to maintain existing sources of reliable power, by stopping the early retirement of power plants and protecting hydro-power from the Lower Snake River dams.
- The importance of reforming permitting processes to streamline the development of energy infrastructure.
- Supporting federal programs that enhance grid resilience, cybersecurity and innovation.

In his testimony, Matheson advocated for legislative reforms to safeguard the reliability of the nation's electric grid and highlighted the role of electric cooperatives in meeting the energy needs of rural com-

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Reminder:

School starts back this month, be careful on the roads.



South River EMC earns this award based on data modeled by the ACSI® in 2024. Award criteria are determined by the ACSI based on customers rating their satisfaction with South River EMC in a survey independent of the syndicated ACSI Energy Utility Study. For more about the ACSI, visit theacsi.org/badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

munities. Voices for Cooperative Power will continue to educate lawmakers on smart energy policies that will keep the lights on and keep members informed on the latest ways to protect reliability. We encourage you to stay abreast of important energy issues by visiting [voicesforcooperativepower.com](https://www.voicesforcooperativepower.com) or by following them on Facebook.

As a nation, we're heading toward a future that depends on electricity to power more of the economy. This increased demand must be accounted for as we plan to meet tomorrow's energy needs.

According to the North American Electric Reliability Corp., the "disorderly" retirement of existing generating assets is directly impacting reliability. The 2023 NERC summer reliability assessment recently highlighted that more of the country is at risk of blackouts than last year. As

always-available assets are taken offline, they're being replaced with less capacity, no capacity or capacity that's intermediate and not always available. Reliability has been threatened as a result.

The current permitting process that is required to build, site and maintain electric generation and transmission infrastructure is outdated. It is a significant impediment to meeting tomorrow's energy needs. The electrification push in this country and the retirement of existing assets shines a bright light on the impact of the permitting delays that we face as a sector. We need a more predictable process.

Supply chain delays are contributing to an unprecedented shortage of the basic machinery and grid components essential to ensuring continued reliability of the electric system. Prior to 2021, it took an average of 70 days for an electric co-op to receive a distribution transformer after placing an

order. The same order today takes an average of 340 days to fulfill—nearly five times as long. Additionally, the cost of these components has risen exponentially. These components play a key role in keeping the power on.

The United States is increasingly reliant on natural gas for base-load power and as a backstop for intermittent generation sources. The availability of natural gas has been challenged by several recent extreme weather events. The extreme cold on the East Coast in December 2022 revealed severe shortages when natural gas was not available for power plants.

South River EMC advocates on your behalf with federal and state elected officials for common-sense energy policy that keeps electricity safe, reliable and affordable.

Information provided by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Voices for Cooperative Power.

Ways To Save

August is undoubtedly a hot time of year, and if you're looking to save, let us reiterate what we can offer.

- ▶ **Monitor your energy use.** If you wonder how your bill adds up, login to your account and see your daily energy use. Consider what you did that day that contributed to the use.
- ▶ Sign up for a **Smart Energy Profile** and find out what could be impacting your energy use and how, as well as receiving energy tips.
- ▶ Make upgrades, but don't do so unnecessarily. Maybe

your pool pump needs to be replaced, or your heating and cooling unit needs to be upgraded. These changes can equate to a rebate from South River EMC, and savings for you.

- ▶ Sign up your smart thermostat for **Connect My Thermostat**. This program allows a slight change to thermostat settings to help during times of extreme energy use, which lessens the burden on the electric system.
- ▶ **Adjust your habits and settings.** If your thermostat is set low in the summer, consider

setting it a little higher to see if you can achieve some small savings as well as allowing the unit to rest.

- ▶ **Calculators.** Use the calculators at [sremc.com/rebates-efficiency-tips](https://www.sremc.com/rebates-efficiency-tips) to see what energy you could be using, or saving.

Just looking for a few tips here and there?

Scan here!



Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That's real value.**



Morning To-Go Latte



Fast-Food Combo Lunch



All-Day Power

Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET

Early Bird Deadline Looms

The deadline for Bright Ideas is quickly approaching.

The grant program offers funding for public K-12 schools who submit grant proposals for innovative classroom-based ideas.

And the early bird deadline is this month! By having a grant application submitted by Aug. 15,

you may be eligible to win a \$100 Visa gift card.

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, educators statewide have received \$16.5 million to fund over 15,400 projects affecting nearly 4 million students.

South River EMC has funded \$1.7 million locally.

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 by Sept. 15.

For questions, visit sremc.com/bright-ideas, and apply online at ncbrightideas.com.



You Gave Us The A's! Congratulations!

South River EMC's "Give Us An A" program awards 15 students for achieving at least one A in the recent grading period.

Students submitted a copy of that report card with either their parent's or their South River EMC account number, mailing address and daytime telephone number.

Congratulations to the following students:

Zackary Barnes
District 7 Elementary

Miranda Napier
Gray's Creek Middle

Ella Smith
Riverside Christian Academy

Bailey Wilson
Clement Elementary

Alexis Norris
Overhills Middle

Makyleigh Smith
Riverside Christian Academy

Jack Bullard
Fayetteville Academy

Addison Pinapfel
Mintz Christian Academy

Kaylen Sykes
Pine Forest High

Jonah Butts
Erwin Elementary

Izabella Urena
Riverside Christian Academy

Sarah Bullard
Cape Fear High

Adyson Honeycutt
Midway High

Blakely Tant
Meadow School

Larisa Washington
Cape Fear High

Drawings are held for Give Us An A in February and July, so check back for the next drawing.

Say goodbye to late fees.

Draft payments make paying bills easy and paperless, with less stress and no late fees. Enroll now through your online account, by calling **(910) 892-8071**, or by getting a Draft Authorization Request form at **billing@sremc.com**.

**SIGN UP FOR
DRAFT PAYMENTS TODAY.**



South River Electric
Membership Corporation
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Congratulations

Brady West, son of Allen and Amelia West of Autryville, will be receiving \$2,000 in scholarships this year. West, one of our 2024 youth tourists, will be attending Furman University this fall where he plans to study marketing and communications.



The Tales Of Summer

As we wrap up the summer activities, but maybe not the temperatures, let's take a look at how various students represented South River EMC.

Lance Williams, son of Lisa and Larry Williams, of Newton Grove, attended the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, a week-long trip to Washington, D.C., courtesy of South River EMC.



Students went to basketball camp in June.

Seen above, Rayleigh Arnold attended the Wolfpack Woman's Camp with coach Wes Moore.

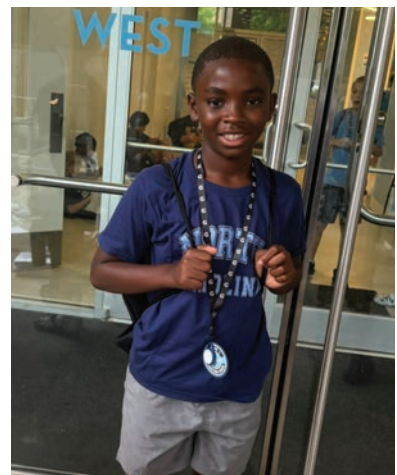
At right, Kyrin Ford attended Carolina Basketball Academy.

We awarded nine college scholarships and through the "Give Us An A" program, awarded 15 gift cards to students who received at

least one A on their most recent report cards.

Students will be benefiting from Bright Ideas grants in the upcoming year and more.

For opportunities available to students in the South River EMC area, visit [sremc.com](https://www.sremc.com) and hover over the My Community tab and then the youth program section for a full list of programs.





A High-Efficiency Option

A high efficiency residential option, or HERO, home is a home built 30% more efficient than homes built to code.

There are two different ways to achieve HERO certification, each which come with their own set of directions. The details can be

found on energy.gov.

South River EMC offers rebates on HERO certified homes built in the service territory.

Pool Pump Saving Possibilities

If you have a pool with a pump and you are looking for ways to save, replacing a single-speed pump with a variable or two-speed pump could be the first step.

These types of pumps allow you to match energy and water use to that which is needed for the task.

You can save a little more by changing your habits in regard to pump use. Try running it a little less, or for short stints. If you purchase a variable speed pump, set it.

South River EMC offers a rebate on variable and two-speed pumps.



Scan for rebate information.

Water Heating Options That Could Save

You use hot water for quite a few things, so what happens when your water heater needs to be replaced?

You might just have cold water, or maybe your water just isn't getting as warm, whatever the case, if you find that replacing your

water heater is what you need, consider your options.

South River EMC offers rebates on the following types of water heaters: heat pump and solar.

Heat pump water heaters pull heat from around the unit and use it to heat water in the tank.

Solar water heaters use roof-mounted panels to heat water.

Both of these units have a higher upfront cost, but the energy-savings potential will pay dividends over the life of the unit.

When Windows Need To Be Replaced

You might not think about your windows, after all, as long as you can see out of them, there isn't anything that needs to be considered.

That's not always the case though, windows keep out heat and cold, as well as air. However single-pane windows, and deteriorating frames could mean you

need to think about them more.

If you find that you do need to replace windows, South River EMC does offer a rebate. Scan QR code on page F for information.

Weatherization Pays

Heating and cooling adds up each month and a lot of items play into those costs.

Weatherization, particularly caulking and weather stripping, prevent air infiltration or the loss of conditioned air outside and

vice-versa.

The settings on your thermostat are another item, the age of your heating and cooling system, another. Insufficient insulation could also play a part.

However, if you are eligible to

have Community Action complete a weatherization package, you could receive a rebate.

For details on what the package includes, as well as the rebates offered by South River EMC, scan QR code on page F.

Cut Your Heating And Cooling Costs

Heating and cooling systems are really working now.

You might be able to tell this by the change in your energy costs, although that could be for several reasons.

Heating and cooling systems account for roughly 50 percent of electric costs each month, and there are a few ways to cut back

on use.

However, the first step should be starting with an efficient unit, looking at the seasonal energy efficiency ratio 2, or SEER 2, rating. SEER 2 measures the cooling efficiency of a unit and the higher the SEER 2 rating, the more efficient the system can be at cooling your home.

If your home needs a new unit, consider a high-efficiency system.

The Cooperative offers a rebate on the purchase of a high-efficiency system. Scan QR code on page F for information.

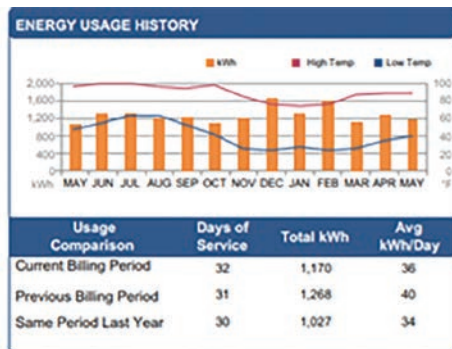


Message from Advise Guy Aaron Jackson

Summer is here and, as expected, most households are using more electricity than they were a couple of months ago. How can you tell if the increase in electricity usage you're seeing this summer is normal or due to a problem? South River EMC has a few resources available to help you answer that question.

Your Monthly Statement

The information included on your monthly billing statement is one way to determine if your electricity use is normal. On the back of your statement, take a look at the graph marked "Energy Usage History".



Around 50% of the monthly energy use in a home can be attributed to the heating and/or air conditioning system, which makes energy use fairly predictable based on the season. For this reason, it's best to compare the current months energy use to the same month in the previous year since weather patterns are normally similar.

This section of the bill lays out the past 13 months billing history in a bar graph and underneath it offers a comparison between the current month, previous month, and same billing period last year. Using this data and the comparisons it offers, you can make a fairly accurate determination on whether your bill is normal for the season or not.

Usage Tracker

Since temperatures from day to day can very wildly, detailed daily energy use data is valuable when determining if your energy use is normal or elevated due to a problem.

Through our member portal at sremc.com, or by logging into your account on the South River EMC app, members can view their daily energy use and temperature information using a tool called Usage Tracker.

The blue and gray bars represent daily energy use totals and the red and blue lines represent the high and low temperatures for the day. Using the Usage Tracker bar graph, look for days when the temperature was relatively low, followed by days when the temperature increased significantly. You should see a drastic difference in electricity use, showing much lower usage on cool days verses higher usage on warmer days. If the differences in usage between the cool days and hot days isn't drastic, that could indicate an issue with equipment or behavior that could be increasing your bill amount.

The Advise Guys

As always, if you still have concerns with your electricity use after reviewing the information available on your statement and on our website, the Advise Guys are here to help. Just reach out to us by phone at 910.892.8071 or email at adviseguys@sremc.com and we'll be glad to review your account.



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