

South River EMC Communicator

September 2025

Watching Your Watts

Benefits All

You may have seen the phrase "beat the peak", but what does it mean? This single phrase can mean savings for not just you, but South River EMC as well.

By shifting energy use from the few critical hours when the most people are using the most electricity, all at the same time, we beat the peak, meaning you save and we save.

South River EMC has a group of members, called Watt Watchers, who volunteer to shift energy use during peak times, which occur based on the weather temperatures and electricity use patterns.

Members are notified typically the day of an event by email, text, or both.

By being a Watt Watcher, you can help keep all members' bills lower.

For example, in winter when temperatures are expected to be especially low, more power will need to be generated to keep up with member demand.

This impacts South River EMC's electric costs and member's rates.

If members work together to level the Cooperative's energy use, it can reduce wholesale power cost, which is a savings passed on to you.

Interested in learning more about Watt Watchers or beating the peak? Visit sremc.com/watt-watchers.



Mark Your Calendar

South River EMC will be closed Monday, Sept 1, in observance of Labor Day.



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.



Teachers-Don't Miss Out On Bright Ideas Grants!

Hey teachers! The clock is ticking on your chance to apply for a Bright Ideas grant for the 2025–2026 school year. If you've got a creative classroom idea, now's the time to bring it to life—with funding of up to \$2,500!

The early bird deadline may have passed on Aug. 15 (shoutout to those who already applied and scored a shot at a gift card!), but don't worry—you still have time to submit your application.

What is Bright Ideas?

Bright Ideas is a grant program supporting innovative, hands-on classroom projects in public K–12 schools. It's funded by North

Carolina's electric cooperatives, who've invested more than \$16.5 million into education since 1994—benefiting nearly 4 million students statewide.

Every year, South River EMC alone awards over \$50,000 in grants to local teachers across four counties!

What Kind of Projects Get Funded?

The sky's the limit! Past projects have included:

- Creative reading programs
 - Interactive escape room kits
 - Coding robots
 - High-tech science equipment
- If it helps students learn in a

fun and engaging way, it's worth submitting!

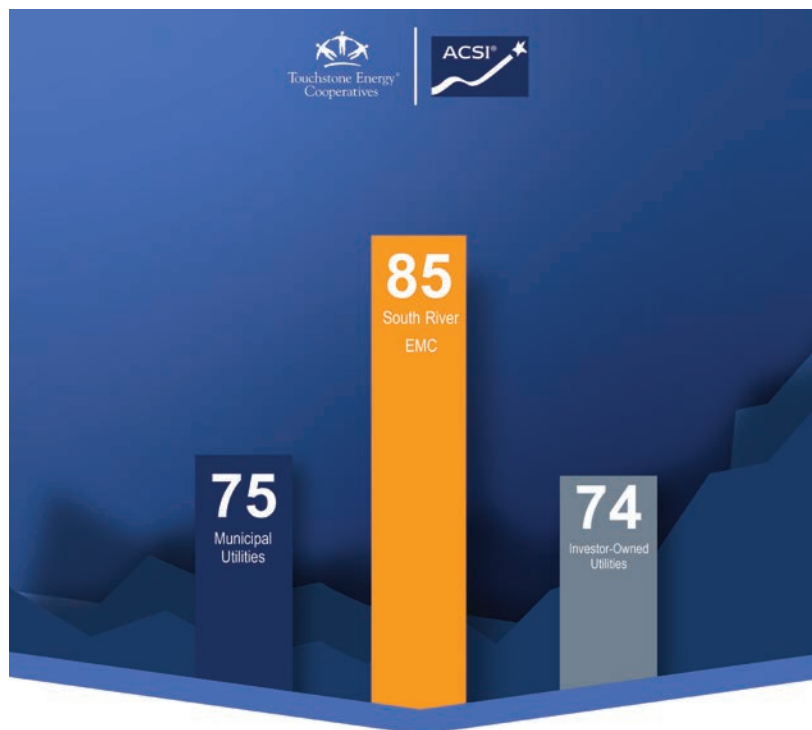
What You Need to Know:

- Deadline to apply: September 15
- Grant amount: Up to \$2,500
- How to apply: Online only at nrbrightideas.com
- No limit on how many times you can apply

Want more info? Visit sremc.com/brightideas for all the details.

So, get those ideas ready and apply before Sept. 15. Your next classroom breakthrough could be just one Bright Ideas grant away!

South River EMC Scores: 85



Compared to publicly measured energy utilities in the ACSI® survey of customers rating their own energy utility. Results based on data provided by South River EMC, collected between Apr. 1 – June 30, 2025. ACSI did not regulate the survey administration or sample size. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC. For more about the ACSI, visit theacsi.org.

In Q2 (2025), South River EMC received an ACSI score of 85 on a 100-point scale. South River EMC's score is higher when compared to publicly measured cooperative utility scores reported in the syndicated 2025 ACSI Energy Utility Study and places South River EMC 15 points higher than the average investor-owned utility score of 74, 14 points higher than the average municipal utility score of 75.

MANDATORY DISCLAIMER:

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Fields Of Honor Return Nov. 7-14



South River EMC offices 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 this Veteran's Day. Flags will be on display from Nov. 7-14.

If you want to recognize a special veteran, sponsorship opportunities are available until Oct. 29. Money raised will be donated to a local veteran organizations. Please visit sremcfields.com to sponsor a flag or donate.

Learning About Electric Safety

Electric safety is important and it's something everyone should know about, no matter their age.

If you're looking for a way to show the importance of electric safety, we might just have the item for you, our live-line demo trailer.

South River EMC offers presentations which can be tailored to groups of all ages, covering topics like how electricity and fuses work, as well as voltage and the basics of power lines, the program can also simulate dangerous scenarios around live electric lines.

Our trained personnel will perform these tasks and offer advice and warnings to onlookers.

If you're interested in learning

more about our live-line demo trailer or scheduling a presentation, visit sremc.com/live-line-demo.

South River EMC also offers a tabletop electric safety presentation, and two energy efficiency presentations.



Enroll in **Connect My Thermostat**, an exclusive offer from Connect to Save and South River EMC, to earn rewards and help your community.

Receive \$50 up front, then an additional \$50 for each year you participate.

Strengthen the power grid through efficient energy use.

Contribute to wholesale power savings for members in your neighborhood and across the state.



WHAT LOOKS GOOD FOR NEXT YEAR?

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour 2026!

FOR HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

Applications open in October

WHAT IS THE YOUTH TOUR?

- ▶ A week-long trip to Washington, D.C., in June
- ▶ Meet students from all over North Carolina
- ▶ Tour monuments & explore the Smithsonian museums
- ▶ Take a Potomac River boat cruise
- ▶ Attend a Kennedy Center show or a National game.
- ▶ Join the All States Dance

FREE

All expenses
paid by
South River EMC.



READY TO APPLY?

Visit sremc.com/electric-cooperative-youth-tour



Information on rebates can be found by scanning the QR code or by calling 910.892.8071.



Weatherizing Your Home Helps

With heating and cooling accounting for roughly 50% of your home energy costs, finding ways to save matter.

For example, repairing and replacing weatherstripping and caulking, prevents air infiltration,

or the loss of heated or cooled air outside and vice versa.

But sometimes, more work is needed, and it's not always in your budget.

However, if Community Action delivers the weatherization

package, you could make your home more comfortable, save a little energy and could be eligible for a rebate.

For more information scan the QR code.

A Reason To Upgrade Your Heating And Cooling Unit

Heating and cooling your home is the largest part of your electric costs each month.

When choosing a heating and cooling unit, you should consider the efficiency, especially since it's a continued cost.

Efficiency is measured by the seasonal energy efficiency ratio 2, or SEER 2, rating. The higher the SEER 2, the more efficient a unit is at heating and cooling and the less it could cost you to run.

By replacing your current sys-

tem with a 16 SEER 2 or greater system, and maybe making a few energy efficient choices, you could be eligible for a rebate, and the recipient of savings.

Scan the QR code for details.

Selecting An Efficient Water Heater

There are several types of water heaters, with one of the most efficient for electric water heating, being a heat pump water heater. Another efficient option is a solar water heater.

Both units have their requirements and both can be cost effective if your family uses a good amount of hot water.

Both systems therefore, can be more efficient for water heating

than a standard electric water heater.

South River EMC also offers a rebate on solar and heat pump water heaters. Scan the QR code for details.

Schedule A Reminder To Check The Pump

Pool season might be coming to an end, but that doesn't mean you can't make some changes to help you save in the future.

Yes, we are talking about that pool pump.

Most pumps that come with

pools, or that are bought, tend to be single-speed pumps, because they are cheaper. However, they aren't the most efficient.

By upgrading to a variable, or two-speed, pump you can select different water and energy levels

for tasks, tailoring the use, which ultimately helps you save.

If you purchase a variable or two-speed pool pump, you could be eligible for a rebate.

For details, scan the QR code.

Replace Windows To Help Improve Comfort

Replacing your windows when they need it is neither a small, nor a cheap, undertaking.

However, windows are important and protect us from weather, noise, UVs, and more.

Having windows that do as they

are supposed to, help us maintain comfort and costs.

If you find windows are leaky, broken, or perhaps there is condensation between the panes, replacing them could be the appropriate thing to do and it

could also make you eligible for a rebate.

For details on the rebate and the requirements, scan the QR code.



Would Building A HERO Home Help?

The high efficiency residential option, or HERO, home is 30% more efficient than a home built to standard building code.

This is due largely to improvements in the thermal enclosure, as the HERO home requires slightly better insulation, fenestra-

tion, air sealing, equipment, and lighting packages to deliver these greater savings.

Details on these energy efficient homes can be found at energycodes.gov. However, there are two ways to achieve certification, a straightforward but

inflexible approach, or the more flexible approach. Both of which descriptions, along with the rebate information, can be found by scanning the QR code found on page F.

ENERGY SAVER NC REBATES

HVAC Heat Pump*
up to \$8,000

Note: On average, 52% of a household's annual energy consumption is for heating and cooling. With proper insulation, an efficient HVAC heat pump offers big opportunities to save.
Source: EIA

**Insulation, Air Sealing
and Ventilation***
up to \$1,600

Heat Pump Water Heater*
up to \$1,750

Electric Wiring
up to \$2,500
Electric Load Service Center
up to \$4,000

Heat Pump Clothes Dryer*
up to \$640

**Electric Stove, Cooktop,
Range or Oven***
up to \$840

Energy Assessment
to determine up to
\$16,000 in upgrades

Are you a contractor?

Become an Energy Saver North Carolina Registered Contractor to grow your business with access to marketing resources, training, support and HOMES and HEAR rebates. Visit EnergySaverNC.org/for-contractors to learn more.



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Communicator

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