



# South River EMC Communicator

## SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

**E**lectricity plays many roles in our lives. So much so that when we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in property damage.

May is National Electrical Safety Month and this is a great time to check for potential hazards in your home.



Every electric device has a purpose and a lifespan. Failure of electrical devices can cause hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

### Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters

Outdoor outlets  those in potentially damp locations, like a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room, often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

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The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 5-10 years. Check the outlet by pressing the red test button and make sure you hit the reset button when done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

**Loose or Damaged Outlets or Switches**

If you have any loose outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration, they should be replaced.

**Surge Protectors**

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems and more from power spikes. Ensure that your surge protection has multiple levels of protection and if it takes a surge, it should be replaced.



**Extension Cords**

Extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use. If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, the cord

will not provide the protection designed into its performance. Always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

Electricity is a necessity for today's lifestyle, and it's important to keep these electrical safety tips in mind to prevent hazards and damage.

# Caring For Community

## We Are Here For You

South River EMC has suspended the disconnection of electric service for non-payment through May. We encourage you to pay what you can toward your bill during this time.

We are here for you **NOW** and we'll work with you **LATER** to get your bill paid in a timeframe that works best for you (up to 6 months). *Please call our office between May 18 and June 1 if you need extra time to pay your bill.*



**We are all in this together and we'll take it day by day!**

Questions? Call 910.892.8071 or [sremc@sremc.com](mailto:sremc@sremc.com)

# APPLICATIONS AT NCBRIGHTIDEAS.COM

South River EMC is currently taking applications for Bright Ideas online at [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com).

Since 1994, North Carolina electric cooperatives have awarded \$12.9 million to fund over 12,359 projects affecting almost 2.5 million students.

Ideas can come from anywhere, however, the projects often require money the school budget and teachers just can't cover.

That's where the Bright Ideas grant program can help. The program awards grants to teachers in certified public K-12

schools, who have innovative, classroom-based ideas.

Grants can be written for any amount up to \$2,500, for any subject. Applications for professional development will not be considered.

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

The application period opened April 1, and any educators with applications in by August 15, are eligible to win a \$100 Visa gift card. The final application

deadline is September 15.

South River EMC only accepts applications online at [ncbrightideas.com](http://ncbrightideas.com). If you're interested in learning more about this program, visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or e-mail [sremc@sremc.com](mailto:sremc@sremc.com).



# GIVE US AN A, IF YOU WILL

South River EMC is accepting report cards for the "Give Us An A" drawing

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So grab your child's most recent report card containing at least one 'A' on it and submit it to:

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

Or: [connections@sremc.com](mailto:connections@sremc.com).

You must include the member's name, address, South River EMC account number and daytime telephone number. report cards will not be accepted without this information.

The drawing is held for students achieving at least one A on their report card. Each of the 15 students whose names are drawn

will receive a \$25 gift card.

The program is open to students who are members, or children of members, of South River EMC. Let's celebrate good grades, send that report card to us.



# DIRECTOR RECEIVES BOARD CERTIFICATE

**S**outh River EMC District 7 Director C. Wayne Collier received his Board Leadership Certificate.

This recognizes directors who have earned their Credential Cooperative Director Certificate. It shows Collier's commitment to advancing his knowledge throughout his tenure on the board.

The purpose of director-level education is to help cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives.



## SOLAR WORKSHOP JUNE 11



**When:** 6 p.m.

**Where:** 6491 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville

**What:** A discussion on the benefits of solar, items for consideration, as well as realistic ex-

pectations. The Advise Guys will be on hand to answer questions.

If you'd like more information, call 910.892.8071 x 2152 or e-mail [adviseguys@sremc.com](mailto:adviseguys@sremc.com).

# STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM SOUTH RIVER EMC

Five students were selected to receive a South River EMC scholarship in 2020.

After meeting with applicants, a committee awarded \$3,000 in scholarships to the following students who live in the South River EMC service area:



Paige Cameron

Receiving a \$1,000 scholarship is **Paige Cameron**, daughter of Anthony and Amy Cameron of Fayetteville. Cameron plans to attend UNC-Chapel Hill to study biology, she wants to be a genetic counselor.



Madelyn Slade

**Madelyn Slade**, daughter of Gregory and Sheri Slade of Hope Mills, will receive a \$500 scholarship to attend University of Mount Olive to study agricultural communications.



Logan Blackburn

**Logan Blackburn**, son of Robert and Gina Blackburn of Clinton, receives a \$500 scholarship to attend NC State University to study mechanical engineering.



Kammeron Lee

**Kammeron Lee**, daughter of Jason and Angela Lee of Dunn, will receive a \$500 scholarship to attend Limestone College to study biology.



Bethany Strickland

Our final recipient, **Bethany Strickland**, daughter of Jeffrey and Christen Strickland of Dunn, will receive \$500 to attend Methodist University to study elementary education.

Factors considered in the selection process include: character, moral standards, citizenship, past and present academic performance, letters of recommendation, statements of career goals and qualifications; extracurricular activities; and a personal interview with an interview panel.

You typically have the opportunity to meet our recipients at the annual meeting in April. Due to rescheduling, we hope you will wish them the best for their first year of college this fall.



Appropriate insulation plays a large part in comfort and savings.

## If Building A Home, Build A HERO

Heating and cooling your home is important, you want to stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Did you know there are several ways to make sure this happens?

There's your heating and cooling system, your thermostat

use, your insulation and weatherization, but where it all starts is the tightness of your home. A high efficiency residential option, or HERO, home, is built to help you save money. With better insulation, fenestration, air sealing, equipment, and lighting packages, you are likely to save

30 percent in energy costs over a standard built home.

And if you build that HERO home in an area served by South River EMC, you might just be eligible for a rebate. For details visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

## Working For Pool Pump Savings

With warmer weather, perhaps you're considering opening your pool.

When it's time to do so, take a look at your pump, did you know it is a fair sized contributor to electric costs when in service, ~~that is,~~ if it's a single speed. As you've probably read, single speed pumps operate on a single speed and water level, typically the highest, to meet all job demands.

However, sometimes that just

isn't necessary, and it ends up costing you. Energy and money are not things you want to waste! So, in saying that, if you have a single speed pump, seriously consider a variable or two speed pump this season.

~~The energy saved is considerable; reducing~~ pump speed by one-half allows the pump to use just one-eighth as much energy. A considerable savings, and if you cut back some on your pump's runtime, you could save even more. Learn more

about savings at your pool as well as with some other appliances at [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) and visiting the rebates and efficiency page. And don't forget, South River EMC offers a rebate on more efficient pool pumps, visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

## Heating And Cooling Tricks Before Replacement

Heating and cooling is the biggest cost of your electric bill. And some might say, it's not easy to cut back on, but that's dependent on how you do it.

If your heating and cooling system is nearing the end of its lifespan, it's a great time to consider a high efficiency replacement. Efficiency, rated by the seasonal energy efficiency

ratio, or SEER, rating means that the cooling efficiency is more efficient.

A 17 SEER or greater heat pump can help save you money and energy, as well as being eligible for a rebate. Another important part of savings, is appliance use.

That means setting the thermostat and avoiding making large

changes. The higher you set your thermostat in the summer, the less it will run. And when it comes time to replace your heating and cooling system, do so with a high SEER unit.

For details on high efficiency heat pumps and how that rebate could work for you, visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

## What To Do With Electric Water Heating

When you select a water heater, find one that works for you and your family.

For example, an on-demand water heater might seem great, but it might not be for electric water heating consumers. Although it saves energy by not constantly reheating water, it uses a large amount of electricity when you need hot water.

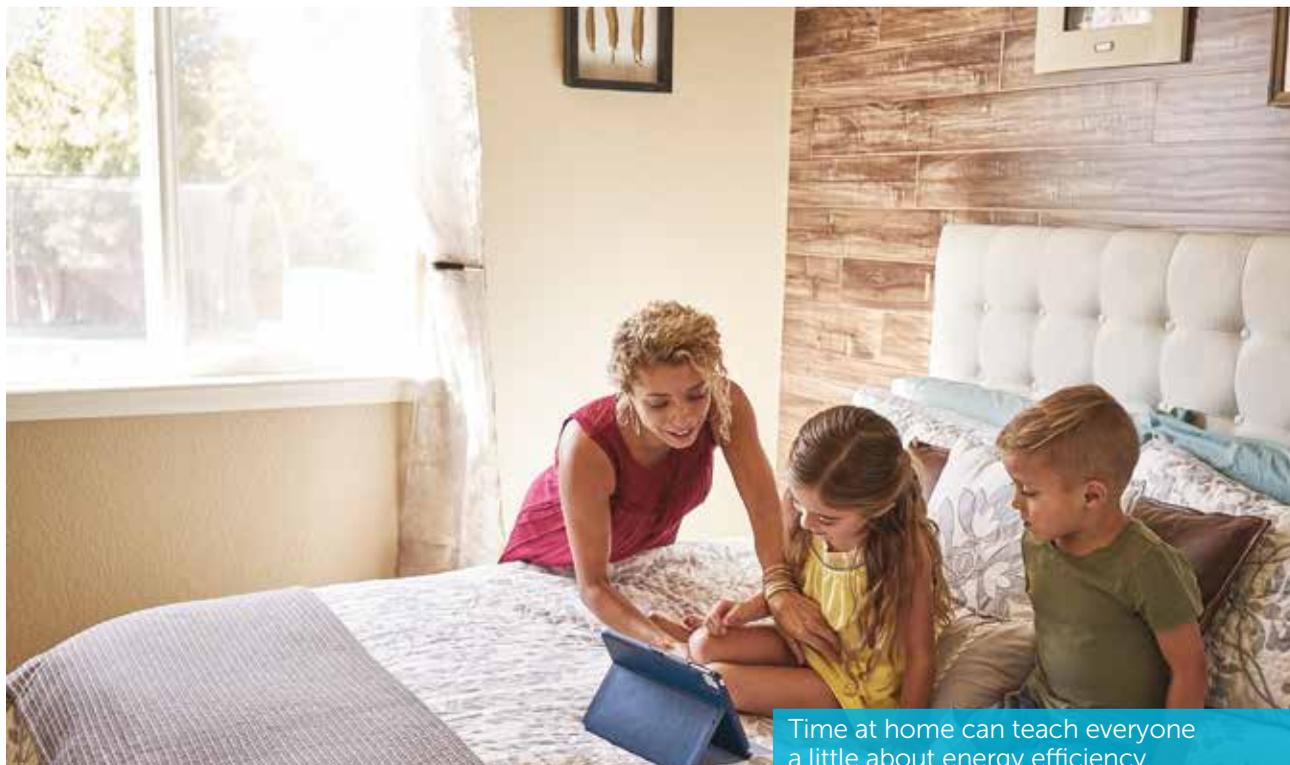
Consider a heat pump water

heater, which costs more than a conventional water heater, but is two to three times more efficient. They have some requirements, but look them up to learn more.

Maybe solar? Solar has some cost associated with it, but it can be an energy saver under the right conditions. Solar systems are especially beneficial to families who use a lot of hot

water. Homes also have to have good sun exposure, as equipment is typically located on the roof. Solar water heaters also require a back-up for less sunny days.

South River EMC offers a \$200 rebate on heat pump water heating and \$150 on solar water heating. For details, visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071.



Time at home can teach everyone a little about energy efficiency.

## Energy Star Can Save You Energy And Money

The Energy Star label on a product shows that the appliance meets energy-efficiency requirements set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These products are third-party certified and subject to ongoing verification testing.

Products that earn the Energy Star help you save energy and money without sacrificing performance, by incorporating advanced technologies and premium features. Energy Star certified appliances help offset initial costs through energy savings over the unit's lifetime.

Certified appliances feature the Energy Star logo on the yellow EnergyGuide. The EnergyGuide indicates how much energy is used to operate each appliance. It also lists approximate annual operating costs.

Improvements in insulation and compressors ensure that today's refrigerators and freezers use much less energy than older models. A new Energy Star certified refrigerator is about 15 percent more efficient than a standard refrigerator. An Energy Star certified dehumidifier removes the same amount

of moisture as a similarly sized standard unit, using 15 percent less energy because it has more efficient refrigeration coils, compressors, and fans. The average American family washes about 300 loads of laundry each year, and an Energy Star certified clothes washer can cut energy costs by about a third and water costs by more than half.

For information on the rebates offered on Energy Star appliances, visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071 x 2152.

## Insulate And Weatherize To Improve Comfort-Double Benefit

As you know, temperatures can fluctuate, sometimes noticeable at home during the spring and fall seasons. Then we move into the extremes, summer and winter.

That's when the costs start to add where we're lacking insulation and weatherization. Don't feel bad though, this is something that happens over time, even in the newest homes. With a few improvements you can not only improve costs, but comfort as well.

Insulation prevents heat transfer, which means it prevents heat from entering your home during the summer. Meanwhile, weatherization, composed of

weather stripping and caulking, prevents air infiltration, or the loss of inside air outside and vice versa. Why would you want to pay to just lose the cooled air you want? Talk about throwing money away, so don't.

Check weather stripping around doors and windows, weather stripping is for movable components, and caulking around baseboards and window frames, or non-movable components. By sealing your home better you prevent air conditioning loss.

For insulation, you've got to check the attic, or under the floors. Areas where insulation is sparse, it needs more. Or

sometimes you just need to replace the insulation all together. But remember, if you do, it prevents heat transfer and will allow areas to remain cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

Not just that, but all these actions could be eligible for rebate depending on when and where you do them. For information on available rebates, as well as places to check for improvement, visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

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