

# South River EMC Communicator

November 2024

## Cooperative Principles In Action

*Cooperatives around the world operate according to a core set of principles that originated in 1844 from the first modern cooperative, the Rochdale Society of Equitable Pioneers in Rochdale, England.*

These principles, along with the co-op purpose of improving quality of life for their members, make electric co-ops different from other electric utilities. But what does that mean for you?

### Voluntary And Open Membership

Membership in a cooperative is open to all people who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.

### Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Representatives (directors) are elected among members and are accountable to them. This is why we hold our Annual Meeting, typically in April, if you're interested in attending!

*continued on page B*



### Reminder:

South River EMC offices will be closed Nov. 11 in observance of Veteran's Day, and Nov. 28 – Nov. 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



South River EMC earns this award based on data modeled by the ACSI® in 2023. 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/](https://theacsi.org/) badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

*Principles continued from page A*

### **Members Economic Participation**

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership. This principle is what gives you capital credits, which is the return of any revenue over the cost of doing business, back to you.

### **Autonomy and Independence**

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. This allows the organization to be controlled by a locally elected board of directors.

### **Education Training And Information**

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives.

### **Cooperation Among Cooperatives**

By working together through local, national, regional and international structures, cooperatives improve

services, bolster local economies and deal more effectively with social and community needs. This includes the assistance cooperatives provide to each other during storm restorations (as shown on page A).

### **Concern For Community**

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership. This includes programs like Bright Ideas, which provides grants to public, K-12 schools, and Operation Round Up, where grants are awarded to non-profit organizations and schools.



## **Come See Our Flags!**

Fields of Honor will be on display at both South River EMC offices Nov. 8-15.

As we recognize and honor veterans and currently serving military members, we hope you will share your pictures by tagging us with @SouthRiverEMC.

Sponsorship opportunities are available until Oct. 30, if interested in sponsoring or donating, please do so at [sremcfields.com](https://sremcfields.com) as soon as possible.

## Tools For Savings

*South River EMC knows that you're looking to save energy and part of that is seeing how it's used.*

We offer several tools, which can help you manage better.

Let's start with a **SmartEnergy Profile**, this tool asks questions about energy-consuming appliances in your home as well as your home's thermal envelope. By answering the questions, you can identify the major drivers of energy use in your home.

You can also show how your use compares to the previous month and year, as well as receiving recommendations for energy savings.

**SmartView** is another option to manage energy use, by logging into your account, you can view how energy use is impacted by temperatures. Sure, you might know that your thermostat setting will have your unit running longer, but look to see how much energy that uses and what it costs.



The time-of-use rate, also known as **Switch and Save**, is another option. Recently, an article was written about savings members on the rate were seeing. Now it's not a fits all solution, but if your kids are in school and you're at work all day, it might be the rate for you. You can read more about it at [sremc.com/tou](https://sremc.com/tou).

**Calculators** could also help, and if you have kids, something they can take part in as well. Something great to look at on the cooler days when no one feels like venturing out. They can be found at [sremc.com/rebates-efficiency-tips](https://sremc.com/rebates-efficiency-tips)

## Plans For Summer 2025?

*South River EMC is offering current high school sophomores and juniors a week-long, fun-filled and educational trip to Washington, D.C.*

This trip — the Electric

Cooperative Youth Tour — will take place June 15-21, 2025.

The Youth Tour is not like other trips to Washington, D.C., though, while it offers monument and museum visits, there is also a boat ride down the Potomac, a

youth day program, as well as meeting with members of Congress and more.

Depending on what is showing and who is playing in town, students may also have the opportunity to take in a game or theater show.

The cost of the trip is covered by South River EMC.

The Cooperative will choose up to three students to attend this memory-making trip.

Students who attend the Youth Tour as part of the South River EMC contingent, will also be eligible to receive a \$1,000 college scholarship.

For details, visit [sremc.com/electriccooperative-youth-tour](https://sremc.com/electriccooperative-youth-tour) or call 910.892.8071 x 2151.

*Brady West*



*Mallory Edwards*



# Nominating Committee Appointed

South River EMC is already considering options for the 2025 Annual Meeting of Members. At a meeting of the Cooperative board of directors, the nominating committee was appointed in accordance with the Cooperative bylaws.

This committee, made up of a representative from each of the directorate districts, will make recommendations for directors from districts 4, 6 and 8.

Anyone interested in running for a seat in any of the districts up for election in 2025 can contact any member of the committee by Dec. 27 or send an email to [nominations@sremc.com](mailto:nominations@sremc.com). A member must have their primary residence in the district which they plan to represent. You can find your

district by visiting the "my cooperative" section of [sremc.com](http://sremc.com).

Members can also be placed on the ballot by submitting an authorized petition form 40 business days prior to the April 24, 2025, annual meeting.

The petition must include the full name of the member and the district they wish to represent. The petition must also contain the printed names, addresses, telephone numbers and signatures of at least 100 official South River EMC members.

Anyone interested in obtaining an authorized petition form should contact Pam Carter at 910-230-2998 or online at [sremc.com/annual-meeting](http://sremc.com/annual-meeting).



**District 1 - Glenda Taylor**, 10081 Mcdougald Rd., Broadway; represents South River EMC service area west of Highway 401 in Harnett County.

**District 2 - Raylon Wood**, 71Unity Church Rd., Four Oaks; represents South River EMC service area east of Highway 421 and north of Highway 13 in Sampson and Johnston counties.

**District 3 - Joseph R. Anders**, 2055 Carr Church Rd., Clinton; represents South River EMC service area east of Highway 242 and south of Highway 13 in Sampson County.

**District 4 - Johnnie Baggett**, 1108 Fayetteville Hwy., Dunn; represents South River EMC service area in Sampson County southwest of Highway 421 and west of Highway 242, east of

Dunn Road and Carroll Store Road to Maxwell Rd., east of South River School Rd. and Bluman Rd. to the Harnett-Sampson- Cumberland county lines and north to Highway 421.

**District 5 - Anthony "Tony" Warren**, 2392 Andrews Chapel Church Rd., Roseboro; represents South River EMC service area south of Maxwell Rd., west of Carroll Store Rd. and Dunn Rd., west of Highway 242 and Highway 411 to Highway 701, northeast of Old Fayetteville Rd. and Turnbull Rd. to the Sampson-Cumberland county line and north to Maxwell Rd.

**District 6 - Carol Hudson**, 3661 Murphy Rd., Fayetteville; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland County north of Highway 24, east of the Cape Fear River, south of

the Cumberland-Harnett county line and west of the Cumberland-Sampson county line.

**District 7 - Warren Paul Jones**, 5280 Loop Rd., Linden; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland County north of Highway 24, west of the Cape Fear River, south of the Cumberland- Harnett county line, and all of Harnett County east of Highway 401.

**District 8 - Glenn Riddle**, 3175 Odom Rd., Hope Mills; represents South River EMC service area in Cumberland and Bladen counties, south of Highway 53.

**At Large - Robert Earl Butler Jr.**, 3036 Odom Rd., Clinton; may nominate from any South River EMC district.

# All things being Equal.



You might have noticed a line item on your bill. **The Equalizer** allows South River EMC to collect extra revenue whenever the cost of electricity increases.

Likewise, **The Equalizer** enables us to issue a credit to you when less revenue is needed.

This leveling of costs is designed to reduce the impact on you rather than a rate adjustment.



[sremc.com](http://sremc.com) | 910-892-8071

## Maintain The Grades To Enter Report Card

*South River EMC is asking those students with A's on their report cards, to send them to us!*

That's right, it's time to submit those report cards for "Give Us An A".

"Give Us An A" recognizes students receiving at least one A on their most recent report card.

Make a copy of the report card and send it to:

South River EMC  
Give Us An A  
PO Box 931  
Dunn, NC 28335  
or email it to: [connections@sremc.com](mailto:connections@sremc.com)

Report cards 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 selects 15 students from those entered to receive a \$25 gift card.

This program is open to students who are members, or children of members, of South River EMC.

Report card drawing is set for February.





## Never Is There A More Perfect Time For Improvements

Homes have air infiltration, this is totally normal, however too much infiltration can cause problems.

Tasks like installing new or improved weatherstripping, refreshing or installing insulation where there isn't any, and applying caulk where necessary are all tasks that can be accomplished.

Sometimes, you need more

and you don't have the budget for it, and that's where Community Action can help.

In having work completed by a Community Action program, you could be eligible for a rebate from South River EMC.

In order to qualify for the rebate the entire weatherization package must be completed.

The package for single family

or manufactured low-income homes includes: air/duct sealing, improved insulation, an HVAC tune-up or replacement, and a programmable thermostat in a home with a heat pump or an electric furnace/ central AC.

For details on the rebate, visit [sremc.com/weatherization](https://sremc.com/weatherization).

## A Heating And Cooling Change Could Help Save

Heating your home, just like cooling it, adds up.

There are several contributing factors, but one to focus on, is age. The older a system is, even an efficient one, the less efficient it becomes. And with changes being made to the seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating, it might be time to replace your system if it's getting older.

Heating and cooling system efficiency is measured by the

seasonal energy efficiency ratio 2, or the SEER 2 rating. This rating measures the total heat removed from conditioned space during the annual cooling season. SEER 2 is a new testing procedure which increases the efficiency of a system.

The Cooperative offers members a rebate if their unit has to be replaced and they do so with a high efficiency system. This includes air-source heat pumps,

geothermal heat pumps and central A/C systems.

High efficiency in this case is considered 16, 17 or 17.1 SEER2, the breakdown amounts are outlined, along with the rebate details at [sremc.com/energy-star-heating-cooling](https://sremc.com/energy-star-heating-cooling).

## Replace Your Water Heater With An Efficient System

Water heating accounts for roughly 18 percent of your energy costs each month. As the second highest energy use, particularly during the cooler months, you should be prepared if a unit needs replaced.

There are a number of water heater manufacturers, but there are also a number of types of water heaters.

Most families are used to the standard electric storage water heater. However, more and more people are looking for energy efficient options like on-demand, solar, and heat pump water heaters. Each system has its pros and cons. By researching options, you can find the best fit for your home.

We recommend this because while a standard storage water

heater is what is typically installed in homes, it is not the most efficient. The unit will periodically heat water throughout the day, even when hot water is not being used. An on-demand water heater is also very efficient in a home with gas water heating, however the energy used to heat water on demand for an electric water heater, is equal to the energy use of a standard storage water heater.

Solar water heaters are more efficient for homes with high water use and a good solar resource. There are several different types of solar water heating systems, and you must check with installers. Compare apples to apples, so if one installer tells you that you need a certain size system, but two other installers

say something different, it's just best to be informed.

Heat pump water heaters are 2-3 times more efficient than standard electric water heaters using heat from surrounding areas to warm water. They have a slightly different installation from a standard water heater, but could save you money as well.

Do your research, find the best unit to provide hot water to you and your family at the best cost.

For details on the rebates offered by South River EMC, visit [sremc.com/energy-efficient-water-heating](https://www.sremc.com/energy-efficient-water-heating).



## Are New Windows What You Need?

South River EMC offers a rebate for members who replace windows in their home.

However, window replacement is a costly endeavor to undertake unless absolutely necessary.

Make sure your home is weatherized, your heating and cooling system is up to snuff, and then maybe consider windows.

Windows in particular need to be replaced if there is condensation between the panes of glass, if there is damage around the window or to the window, or if you can feel air from around the windows.

If you decide window replace-



ment would ultimately help you, South River EMC's rebate might benefit you.

For details, visit [sremc.com/energy-star-windows](https://sremc.com/energy-star-windows).

## The HERO Home, Savings In A More Efficient Home

The High Efficiency Residential Option, or HERO, home is a home built 30 percent more efficient than those built to standard building code.

The main focus is to the thermal enclosure, and savings are achieved through slightly better insulation, fenestration, air sealing, equipment, and lighting packages.

Now, there are alternate ways to meet the HERO home code specifications.

The prescriptive path is straightforward but inflexible, involving full compliance with a

list of specific requirements for things like insulation, high-efficiency lighting, window U-factors, whole house tightness and duct leakage testing, among other things.

Meanwhile, the performance path is more flexible, requiring an energy cost analysis as proof that the home you are building will have energy costs that are less than or equal to that same home built to the HERO Code's prescriptive requirements.

South River EMC offers rebates for HERO homes, but who can apply?

Contractors who build a new HERO certified home that receives electricity from South River EMC.

Members who move into a new HERO certified home.

Members who have a HERO home custom built.

For details on HERO homes and the rebates offered by South River EMC, visit [sremc.com/hero-program](https://sremc.com/hero-program).



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**Communicator**

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