

# South River EMC Communicator

April 2025

## Tools To Exceed

*Have you ever wondered if there was a better way to explain or understand a concept, particularly to children?*

One teacher used a Bright Ideas grant to make that a reality for her students.

"I applied for the Bright Ideas grant because I wanted to provide my students with engaging, interactive and differentiated time where learners will use hands-on 'tools' to meet and support their needs," said Dixon Road Elementary teacher Cristy Speight.

Using her \$2,500 grant, Speight purchased over 50 items to build her students math tool kits.

She became a teacher to help students understand certain concepts and ideas they might be struggling and this year her focus was on math, as resources had not been updated in several years.

So once she received her grant, Speight ordered and organized.

"My students were over the moon ecstatic with their math manipulatives," she said. "They screamed with excitement, and are so eager to add items to their boxes and interchange the tools they need."

Each student received a case and can go and select tools to help them better understand areas where they might be struggling.

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## Mark Your Calender!

South River EMC offices will be closed Thursday, April 18, in observance of Good Friday



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/](http://theacsi.org/) badges. ACSI and its logo are registered trademarks of the American Customer Satisfaction Index LLC.

## Registration Details For Your 2025 Annual Meeting

- ▶ Registration will take place prior to the meeting and you can do so in one of two ways: by calling South River EMC **or** by completing the form at [sremc.com/form/annual-meeting-sign-up](https://sremc.com/form/annual-meeting-sign-up).
- ▶ Registration begins Monday, April 21, at 8 a.m. and ends Thursday, April 24, at 5 p.m.
- ▶ Be sure the information you provide matches account information. Members must register prior to the meeting to receive a bill credit. If you are unsure of any of the required information, check your bill, review your account online or call our member service department at 910.892.8071.

## 2025 Annual Meeting Details

- ▶ South River EMC's Annual Meeting of Members will take place Thursday, April 24, at 6 p.m.
- ▶ Those who register will receive a call from South River EMC via Broadnet at 6 p.m. **and** will receive call-in/login details via email prior to the meeting as long as a valid email address is provided. This email will come from South River EMC via Mailchimp.
- ▶ Your participation in the annual meeting means that you will receive a \$10 credit on your next electric bill. You must pre-register to receive the bill credit.
- ▶ By attending the meeting, you will be entered in the prize drawing for the following week.
- ▶ Prizes will consist of \$11,500 in bill credits, featuring a grand prize of a \$3,000 credit.

# WIRED FOR SERVICE.

We thank electrical lineworkers for their commitment to powering our local communities.

#ThankALineworker

APRIL 14, 2025  
LINEWORKER  
APPRECIATION DAY



"Students have access to all of the tools throughout our units and the manipulatives are stored on a shelf in my classroom where they can shop for tools they need," said Speight. "Once they pick the tools, they then keep their toolbox in their desk. They can change out and add to their toolboxes anytime. Students absolutely love the interactive pieces of their toolboxes."

Being able to add these different tools has a goal of improving understanding and scores.

Speight has said she'd like to see student math proficiency increase to 62% on the end of grade test, as well as having at least 85% of students meeting or

exceeding growth, and students with learning disabilities and English as a second language to increase their growth by at least 10%.

"My last goal, and one of the most important, is to instill a love of learning and allow students to retrieve math with little effort allowing them to devote more time to advanced problem-solving and learning new skills," said Speight.

"And I cannot speak highly enough of how the grant has made a positive impact on my students. They have grown in confidence, eagerness to learn, math talks and proficiency. Based on our most recent test, students

have exceeded growth and are performing above district level!"

With expectations met and exceed, allowing students to build their own toolboxes with tools seems to be a win. All thanks to Bright Ideas!

Students enjoy gathering together and are excited to model any misconceptions their peers might have.

"I have been teaching 13 years," she said. "When I was in third grade, I realized how much I love school and my teachers. My teachers instilled a love for learning and I knew from that age of 8 that I wanted to be a teacher and make a difference just like my teachers did for me."

## Bright Ideas Grant Program Opens April 1

*Educators, ready your ideas.*

The 2025-26 Bright Ideas grant application period opens April 1.

With every year bringing new theories and concepts to help a child learn better, school budgets can fall short. That's where a Bright Ideas grant can help.

The Bright Ideas program awards grants to teachers in certified, public K-12 schools, who have innovative, classroom-based ideas.

Project ideas can come from anywhere, in any subject and amount up to \$2,500.

Since 1994, educators statewide have received \$16.5 million to fund over 15,400 projects affecting nearly 4 million students.

Each year, South River EMC awards at least \$50,000 in grants to teachers in parts of Harnett, Johnston, Sampson and

Cumberland counties, and has funded \$1.7 million in projects locally.

Applications for professional development will not be considered.

The application period will open soon, so start considering ideas, and making administrators aware of those ideas.

Educators with applications submitted by Aug. 15, will be

entered in a drawing to win a \$100 Visa gift card. The final application deadline is Sept. 15.

South River EMC will accept applications online at [nrbrightideas.com](https://nrbrightideas.com).

If you're interested in learning more about Bright Ideas, visit [sremc.com/bright-ideas](https://sremc.com/bright-ideas) or e-mail [connections@sremc.com](mailto:connections@sremc.com).



## Rates Effective With May Billing

<b>Residential S</b>	<i>Current</i>	<i>New</i>
Grid Access single-phase	\$31	\$37.50
Energy Summer	10.85¢ per kwh	11.61¢ per kwh
Winter	9.84¢ per kwh	10.52¢ per kwh
<b>Residential TOU S</b>	<i>Current</i>	<i>New</i>
Grid Access single-phase	\$34.10	\$41.25
Energy on-peak	18.62¢ per kwh	19.60¢ per kwh
off-peak	7.45¢ per kwh	7.84¢ per kwh
super off peak	3.73¢ per kwh	3.93¢ per kwh
<b>Small GS</b>	<i>Current</i>	<i>New</i>
Grid Access single-phase	\$37.20	\$45
three-phase	\$66.96	\$81
Energy first 750 kwh	11.67¢ per kwh	12.50¢ per kwh
next 1,250 kwh	10.21¢ per kwh	10.94¢ per kwh
next 2,000 kwh	9.67¢ per kwh	10.36¢ per kwh
all other kwh	8.94¢ per kwh	9.58¢ per kwh
<b>Medium GS</b>	<i>Current</i>	<i>New</i>
Grid Access single-phase	\$99.75	\$120.67
three-phase	\$173.25	\$209.58
Demand	\$6.75 per kw	\$6.80 per kw
Energy	no change	no change
<b>Large GS</b>	<i>Current</i>	<i>New</i>
Grid Access	no change	no change
Demand	\$9.25 per kw	\$10 per kw
Energy	4.46¢ per kwh	4.53¢ per kwh
<b>Visit <a href="http://sremc.com/rates">sremc.com/rates</a> for more information.</b>		



Every day, millions of Americans are targeted by scammers through phone calls, emails, text messages, online or in person.

Scammers' tactics change regularly, which is why it's important for members to stay on top of the latest scam reports from local and national news outlets, as well as your local utilities.

Don't fall for a power restoration rip off. Some scammers will contact you and offer to restore power quickly or in a preferential order if you make an immediate payment. These scams typically occur after major storms or disasters that cause widespread outages.

We will never contact you to require immediate payment to restore power after a natural disaster or storm. If post-storm repairs to customer-owned equipment are necessary, we will advise you to work with a licensed contractor. If any charges are applicable, you will be billed through your account.

## A Solid Investment In Your Electric Co-op

*As a member of South River EMC, you make an investment in the co-op every month when you pay your bill.*

This investment in the co-op benefits you and the community. So what exactly is this investment, and how do you benefit from it?

The grid access charge is a monthly investment that helps your co-op cover the expenses of maintaining the overall electric system. South River EMC has seen increases in all aspects of business, especially materials. This is on top of the growing need for more facilities, which come at a higher cost to provide reliable service to members.

Regardless of how much electricity a particular family uses, the cost of delivering power to that house is the same. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe the operational costs should be spread fairly and equitably across all of our members, regardless of the level of electricity use. That is why every member pays the grid access charge each month to cover basic operational costs. All members are charged the same amount for the cost of operation since all members benefit from the same service. In essence, this gives each co-op member an equal share in South River EMC's operation.

To learn more about the grid access, please visit [sremc.com/what-makes-your-bill](http://sremc.com/what-makes-your-bill).

### What Does My Grid Access Charge Cover?

The Grid Access Charge helps recover the costs associated with maintaining and operating cooperative infrastructure, such as power lines, transformers, substations and meters. By investing in infrastructure and training our cooperative can maintain safe, reliable and dependable service for our members.





## The HERO Home

A high-efficiency residential option, or HERO, home is built 30% more efficiently than a standard home. This is due to improvements in the thermal enclosure, including slightly better

insulation, fenestration, air sealing, equipment, and lighting.

There are two ways to achieve these savings, both of which have requirements to meet HERO home specifications.

For details on the HERO home code, visit [energycodes.gov](https://energycodes.gov), and for details on the rebate offered by South River EMC visit [sremc.com/hero-program](https://sremc.com/hero-program).

## Save With A New Pool Pump

Pools with pumps might see better savings from an upgrade.

Upgrading from a single-speed pump, one speed and level for water and energy use, to a variable or two-speed pump, allows you to tailor use.

In tailoring use to task, you are

using appropriate levels for both water and energy, as oppose to a single high speed to perform tasks, which can help you save.

Also, be aware of how long and often you run your pump. Running it when you add any treatments, and then for several short cycles a

day, is more efficient than letting it run for eight hours a day.

Purchasing a more efficient variable or two-speed pool pump, could make you eligible for a rebate from South River EMC.

For information visit [sremc.com/pool-pumps](https://sremc.com/pool-pumps).

## When Water Heaters Need Replacing

You need warm water for a lot of things, so when you don't have any, it's inconvenient.

Commonly, people will replace their current unit with one just like it, a storage tank water heater. These units hold water and heat it periodically throughout the day, not the most efficient,

particularly if you're not home to use it.

You could consider a solar or heat pump water heater, but find the unit that would be best for you.

Both are more costly than a standard storage water heater, and have pros and cons.

If you select one, do so based on the efficiency for your home.

For details on rebates for energy-efficient water heaters, visit [sremc.com/energy-efficient-water-heating](https://sremc.com/energy-efficient-water-heating).



## Are New Windows Necessary?

Windows give us a view, and protect us from the elements, two great reasons to keep them in shape.

However, like all things, as windows age they can become less efficient. There will be signs, and as you prepare to replace

windows, remember that South River EMC offers a rebate.

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

## If Your HVAC System Doesn't Check Out

Has your heating and cooling system been serviced?

If there is any thought to replacement, do so with a unit that has a higher seasonal energy efficiency ratio 2, or SEER2,

rating. SEER2 measures the cooling efficiency of heat pumps and air conditioners, the higher the SEER2 rating, the more efficient the system.

As summer draws near, it's best

to be prepared, so if you need to replace a system, consider a high efficiency one.

You could be eligible for a rebate, for details, visit [sremc.com/energy-star-heating-cooling](https://sremc.com/energy-star-heating-cooling).

## Weatherization Improves Comfort, Costs

Weatherizing your home helps you save money by saving energy, and can also improve home comfort.

Having the right amount of insulation and sealing air leaks is important. After all, approximately 50% of your electric bill is attributed to heating and cooling your home.

However, weatherizing might not be an available option for everyone. If that is the case, those applicable could receive help from Community Action.

In having work completed by Community Action, you could be eligible for a rebate from South River EMC. In order to qualify for the rebate the entire package

must be completed.

The weatherization package 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 rebate information visit [sremc.com/weatherization](https://sremc.com/weatherization).



Message from Advise Guy Robby Talton



## A Natural Approach to Comfort and Savings

Energy-efficient home design is not a new concept. Today, with modern resources, we can take these time-tested strategies and enhance them with technology to maximize energy efficiency. Among these strategies, two of the most effective yet often overlooked are energy-efficient landscaping and passive solar design.

### The Role of Landscaping in Energy Efficiency

Landscaping is one of the simplest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy consumption. The South River EMC service area, located in a temperate climate, experiences both hot summers and cold winters. To optimize energy efficiency, landscaping should be designed to:

- Maximize warming effects of the sun in winter
- Provide shade to reduce cooling costs in summer
- Deflect winter winds away from buildings
- Encourage cooling summer breezes

Properly positioned trees and shrubs can have a significant impact. Shade trees should be planted west and east of windows to reduce direct sun exposure in

summer while allowing winter sun to help heat the home.

Contrary to common belief, planting trees directly to the south can be counterproductive, as they block beneficial winter sunlight.

A well-planned landscape can reduce a home's energy load by up to 25%, with an average payback period of just eight years. Additionally, shading an air conditioning unit can increase efficiency by 10%.

### Passive solar home design

Passive solar design is another natural and highly effective way to regulate a home's temperature. Unlike active solar systems that rely on mechanical and electrical devices, passive solar homes use the home's orientation, materials, and landscaping to naturally harness and distribute solar energy. Key elements of passive solar design include:

- South-facing windows to collect sunlight in winter while blocking it in summer
- Thermal mass (such as tile or concrete floors) to store and slowly release heat
- Proper shading to prevent overheating in warmer months
- Smart room layout that places living spaces in areas with optimal

sunlight exposure.

A well-designed passive solar home first reduces heating and cooling demands through energy-efficient materials and insulation, then meets those minimized energy needs with solar heat. Proper shading is crucial to prevent overheating, especially in the spring and fall when the sun is still strong but outdoor temperatures are moderate.

By combining passive solar design principles with strategic landscaping, homeowners can significantly cut heating and cooling costs while improving comfort. For example, deciduous trees can provide shade in summer while allowing sunlight through in winter when they shed their leaves.

With thoughtful planning, landscaping and passive solar design work together to increase efficiency and reduce energy consumption.

Whether you're designing a new home or upgrading an existing one, integrating these strategies is a smart, cost-effective way to enhance efficiency.



South River EMC  
**Communicator**

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