



South River EMC Communicator

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!



Sophia Hasapis



Madelynn Hobbs

Spring is here and it is time for high school seniors to start looking toward the start of their college careers.

And three students were selected to receive a South River EMC scholarship. After reviewing the applications, a committee awarded \$3,000 in scholarships to the following students who live in the South River EMC service area:

■ **Sophia Hasapis**, daughter of Angelo and Kelley Hasapis, of Bunnlevel. She plans to attend NC State University, to obtain a degree in biomedical engineering.

■ **Madelyn Hobbs**, daughter of Christopher and Amanda Hobbs, of Clinton. She plans to attend NC State University for a degree in history.

continued on page C

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



South River EMC offices will be closed Monday, May 31, in celebration of Memorial Day.

Calculate Savings Potential	B
Mid-Cycle Alerts	C
Hurricane Safety Prep	E
Energy Smarts	F–H

CALCULATE FUTURE SAVINGS POTENTIAL

South River EMC has many tools to help our members save money. Here we outline several resources that are at your disposal to help make energy-efficient decisions.

Our energy-use calculators give you the option to compare costs, or see the costs of certain appliances in use around your home.

If you're interested in testing out a calculator, visit our rebates and efficiency tips page, [sremc.com/rebates-efficiency-tips](https://www.sremc.com/rebates-efficiency-tips). Read below for more information:

With the [appliance calculator](#) you can enter information about appliances in your home and see how much each one costs to operate. This calculator can help you decide how you use your appliances, or maybe upgrade to Energy Star-certified appliances to save energy and money.

If you're considering an electric vehicle, you should check out our [electric vehicle calculator](#). Enter the information on your current gas-powered vehicle and then select the electric vehicle you're interested in, or the one you like best. You will see the estimated cost of your current vehicle, your electric vehicle and the savings.

The [lighting calculator](#) is especially beneficial if you want to know the savings between different types of lighting choices. Now, you've gotten rid of incandescents, but how much would they cost you versus a halogen bulb, or an LED? If you went all



CFL awhile back, how much will you save by switching to LEDs? You can find out using our [lighting calculator](#).

Our [heat pump calculator](#) requires some information, your type of house, the square footage, the thermostat settings for heating and cooling, and your electric rate. Once you enter that data, it calculates your annual heating and cooling costs for different heat pump efficiencies, from 15 to 19 SEER.

Do you use space heaters? If so, you might want to look at our [space-heater calculator](#). You fill out the number of space heaters, the amount of time you run them in a day, and your energy rate. Then, you see your total cost to run space heaters monthly.

If you have someone that leaves electronics plugged in when not in use, such as a cell phone charger, you could use our [phantom load calculator](#). While it doesn't add up to a lot by itself in a year, it can add up when coupled with your coffee maker, your

game system, and computer. All of these items use a little energy when plugged in, but not in use.

Is your water heater costing too much? Find out with our [water-heater calculator](#). Select the number of people living in your home and the fuel rate for the fuel that heats your water. With your standard electric water heater this would be a close cost comparison of the use you have and the impact on your bill.

While we are a good way off from Christmas, it's also a good reminder to look at how much your lighting choices are costing you. The [holiday calculator](#) shows that perhaps your love of those bright bulbs to light the night is more costly than multiple strands of mini LED lights, which also burn a little brighter and last longer.

The best way to start saving energy is to be informed about how energy is used in your home. Our energy calculators help you make informed decisions.



Makenzi Hudson

■ **Makenzi Hudson**, daughter of James and Jackie Hudson, of Dunn. She plans to attend NC State University for a degree in animal science.

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; and extracurricular activities.

This scholarship opportunity showcases many wonderful attributes in our students, especially during a rather interesting year.

Congratulations to our recipients!

LET A MID-CYCLE ALERT WORK FOR YOU

Have you ever been surprised at the amount your electric bill in a month? To help reduce the element of surprise, South River EMC is providing a tool to help you stay atop your energy use, the mid-cycle alert.

Based on weather forecasts/modeling and energy-use patterns, you will receive this alert at the midpoint of your billing cycle. It shows your projected electric cost at current, and where you can expect your bill to be at the end of the billing cycle. It also provides a few tips that might help you curb those costs a little.

You will only receive this alert if South River EMC has your email address on file.

Another benefit of the mid-cycle alert is if you have a SmartEnergy Profile set up.

With the SmartEnergy Profile set to your home specifications, you can get an even more detailed cost projection, and the efficiency tips will truly apply to your home.

The SmartEnergy Profile asks for information on your home and your energy use, such as how many hours a day you watch that 50-inch television. The more information about your home, the more helpful the program can be to you. Information can be entered by visiting sremc.com/smartenergy-profile.

You can also keep up with your energy use with SmartView. This program is available to any member with internet access, you just need to login to your online account, or sign-up for an online account to get started. You can see your energy use daily, but not how it is used, that part is up to you.

For information on programs mentioned here, you can visit sremc.com or call us at 910.892.8071.

OPERATION ROUND UP

Application Period Closes May 21

South River EMC's Operation Round Up program is accepting applications for funding.

The Operation Round Up program is funded by you, our members, and helps local schools and non-profit organizations.

In March, the Community Assistance Corporation awarded \$35,586 in grants to local organizations.

Those include the following:

■ **Angier Elementary:** \$800;

■ **Five and Two Food Pantry:** \$3,752;

■ **Wade Community Fire Department Inc.:** \$6,034;

■ **Boone Trail Emergency Services:** \$5,000;

■ **Plain View Community Center:** \$5,000;

■ **Simply Girls Inc.:** \$5,000;

■ **Hargrove Elementary:** \$10,000.

The Operation Round Up program was introduced in 2007, with the first round of grants being awarded in 2008.

Since 2008, the Operation



Round Up program has awarded \$2.42 million in grants, all thanks to members rounding up each month.

For more information about current and past recipients, visit sremc.com/operation-round, or watch *The Communicator*.

To speak with someone about Operation Round Up, call 910.892.8071 or email sremc@sremc.com

IT'S TIME TO GET BRIGHT

Teachers: Have a bright idea to help your students next year?

South River EMC is currently taking applications for Bright Ideas online at ncbrightideas.com.

Since 1994, North Carolina's electric cooperatives have awarded \$13.6 million to fund over 13,000 projects affecting almost 2.7 million students.

Ideas can and do come from anywhere. However, with budgets always up for consideration, funding is not always available for these ideas.

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.

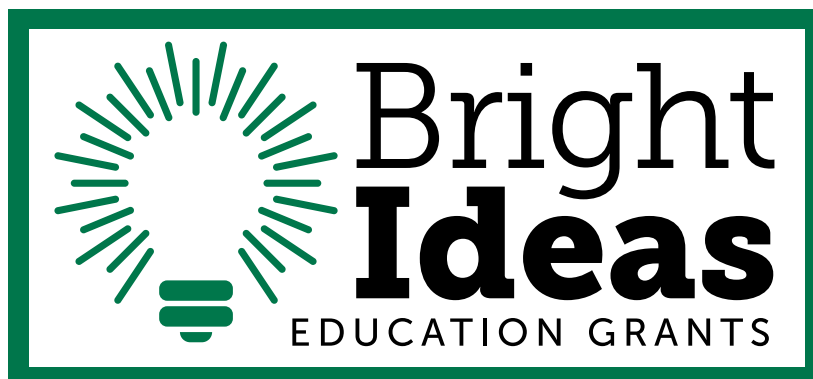
Grants can be written for any amount up to \$2,500, for any subject.

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.

While 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. If you're interested in learning more about this program, visit sremc.com or e-mail sremc@sremc.com.





PREPARE NOW FOR HURRICANE SEASON

May 9–15 is Hurricane Preparedness Week in North Carolina.

South River EMC is joining the National Weather Service and state officials in encouraging all North Carolinians to prepare now for storms, in advance of the start of Atlantic Hurricane Season on June 1. Here are simple steps to get ready and stay safe this storm season:

- Outline a communication and evacuation plan for your family. If you have pets or any livestock, include them in your plan.
- Create an emergency kit that includes:
 - Important documents sealed in a watertight plastic bag
 - Cash
- Enough non-perishable food, water and medication for at least three days
- First-aid kit
- Battery-powered radio
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries
- Personal hygiene items
- Extra clothes and blankets
- Food and other supplies for pets
- Connect with us on Facebook at [southriveremc](#) and Twitter at [@southriveremc](#) to stay informed about outages and other storm information.
- Sign up now for outage texting, see more at [sremc.com/outage-texting](#). Once enrolled, simply text #out to 888-338-5530 to report your outage.
- Bookmark our live outage map at [sremc.com](#) to see a real-time look at power outages across our service territory.
- Sign up for local weather alerts. You can also visit [ReadyNC.org](#) for tips on preparing for natural disasters, as well as real-time weather and traffic information.
- This year, it is also important to stay tuned to the latest health and safety guidelines from the CDC and local officials, and to adjust your preparedness plans accordingly to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Visit [sremc.com](#) for your co-op's storm safety page for additional storm preparedness information and tips.



Build Your Home Better

HERO Home: The High Efficiency Residential Option

HERO homes are 30 percent more efficient than homes built to code.

Contact us at 910.892.8071 or visit sremc.com for more information. South River EMC offers rebates for HERO homes and insulation and weatherization work done on your home.

Keep Your Home Comfortable

Insulate And Weatherize Your Home

Heating and cooling accounts for up to half of your electric bill. Consider air and duct sealing and improving your insulation to save.



Keeping Cool As Temperatures Rise

If you'll be spending some cool time indoors this summer, make sure you're doing so at a cost that fits your budget. There are a few items to make that possible.

You should make sure your doors and windows are closed and that they seal correctly. If not, cool air can slip out of your home, allowing warm air inside.

Are there areas that are particularly warm in your home?

This could be a lack of insulation, or insufficient insulation. Insulation prevents heat transfer, which means in the summer, it would prevent heat from entering your home.

Fixing this requires investment in weather stripping, caulking and insulation, but it improves comfort and can improve cost.

Maybe you're in the market for a new heating and cooling system.

An air source heat pump is what most homes that heat and cool with electricity have, and they work at cooling in summer and heating in the winter, but they can run costly the older they get.

Heat pumps are rated by their seasonal energy efficiency ratio, or SEER, rating. It's important for you, because it measures the cooling efficiency of the system and that is what plays into your electric costs each summer.

The lower the SEER rating, the more inefficient a system is at cooling. It will work, but it will cost you.

In purchasing a higher rated SEER heat pump, you are already saving.

Yes, a higher rated system does have a higher price tag, but using it more efficiently can also help make up for that.

Interested in seeing how much? You can try out the heat pump calculator on our web site before making your selection to see which SEER rating works best for you.

Now, the Cooperative offers rebates on air source, geothermal and ductless heat pumps. Each system is different and one might work for you while another does not.

Read up and do the research before making a large purchase, and for more information start at sremc.com or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2222.



Energy Star By The Numbers

No matter where you see it, the Energy Star label means the same thing — an energy-efficient performer that saves money without sacrificing performance.

Since 1992, Energy Star and its partners helped American families and businesses save more than 4 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity.

Are you reaping some of the benefit of these products?

Yes, the label means energy savings, but it is only because of the rigorous testing appliances have to go through to receive it.

Products earn the Energy Star label by meeting the energy efficiency requirements set forth in Energy Star product specifications. The Environmental Protection Association establishes these specifications based on the following set of guiding principles:

- Product categories must contribute significant energy savings nationwide.
- Certified products must deliver the features and performance

demanding by consumers, in addition to increased energy efficiency.

- If the certified product costs more than a conventional, less-efficient counterpart, purchasers will recover their investment in increased energy efficiency through utility bill savings, within a reasonable period of time.
- Energy efficiency can be achieved through broadly available, non-proprietary technologies offered by more than one manufacturer.
- Product energy consumption and performance can be measured and verified with testing.
- Labeling would effectively differentiate products and be visible for purchasers.

So, while Energy Star certified products do tend to carry a higher price tag, they have the ability to make up for it in savings. But, how much you can save is up to you and how you use the appliance.

South River EMC rebates on the following Energy Star certified

appliances: clothes washers and dryers, refrigerators, and dehumidifiers.

With refrigerators, make sure the doors seal properly and that someone doesn't stand there with the door wide open for minutes on end.

When it comes to washing clothes, as often as possible, wash with cold water. Drying with a sensor is optimal, because it senses when clothing has dried sufficiently and stops running.

An Energy Star certified dehumidifier has more efficient refrigeration coils, compressors and fans, so it just uses less energy, but the only true way to save, is to unplug the appliance when you aren't using it.

Start off on the right foot, by purchasing an efficient appliance, adopting efficient practices can only add up

Learn more about rebates offered by South River EMC at sremc.com or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2153.

Water Heating Efficiency Tips And More

It is sometimes surprising to see that some of the most popular pages on the Department of Energy's web site are ones about solar and tankless water heaters. But considering that water heating accounts for around 12 percent of your utility bill, the second highest cost after heating and cooling, it really isn't hard to understand you want to know easy ways to heat water for less.

Not everyone is in a position to go out and buy a new water heater, but we can all do something to use less water and save.

So, try these tips to save a little. However, maybe a new unit is in the cards, if so, we have some information on that too.

- Showers instead of baths.
- Less time in the shower.
- Set water heater temperature to 120 degrees.
- Don't leave water running.
- Use cold water for laundry when possible.
- Run your dishwasher with full loads and shorter wash cycles.
- Fix leaks.
- Install low-flow fixtures.
- Insulate your water heater.
- Insulate water heater pipes.

- Install a water heater timer.
- Upgrade to an Energy Star clothes washer or dishwasher.

If it comes to a new water heater, consider purchasing something a little more efficient! Look into a solar water heater, or a heat pump water heater. Both can offer you a savings, if the circumstances are right.

They are also eligible for rebates from South River EMC. For more details, visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

Getting Your Pool Ready For Summer

The summer season is on its way, and it is time to get your pool ready to enjoy it.

Making sure it's clean and clear are the first steps, and that usually involves adding chemicals. Typically you add whatever is needed in, turn on your pool pump, and let it run. How long though? Each pool situation is different.

Pool pumps add to your electric cost each month in use. The type of pump you have could be costing you more than necessary for the job it does.

A standard, single-speed pump is just such a device. The amount of water and electricity needed

to do a job like mix chemicals is stronger than necessary. In fact, it is the same for any task you have with your pool, the max.

Meanwhile, a two-speed pool pump offers just that, a high speed and a low speed for water and electric use, which offers you a little more versatility, and if you use it, a little savings.

However, a variable speed pump offers you even more options for electricity and water use and with this pump, you can match the setting to the task, which can equate to even greater savings.

Another way to help save involves pump run time. No

matter the pump type, try running it less. An example being that you run it eight hours a day, and cut it back every few days, seven hours, six hours, etc. When your pool gets a little cloudy, don't cut it down anymore. How much less is it running now?

Now, you won't see a huge drop in your electric bill each month from this act alone, it is summer in the south after all, but it does take a little off the top.

South River EMC offers a rebate on the purchase of a variable, or two-speed, pool pump. For details visit sremc.com or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.

South River EMC Communicator



Follow Us! southriveremc A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



PO Box 931
Dunn, NC 28335
910.892.8071
800.338.5530
www.sremc.com