



# South River EMC Communicator

## HONORING OUR HEROES

**S**outh River EMC is hosting a field of honor at both offices the week of Veterans Day, November 6-14. This patriotic display will honor and memorialize those military members who are serving, or who have served our country.

Many flags have been sponsored by community members and have the names and service branch of proud veterans. We welcome you to come by and witness our Fields of Honor as we have our patriotism on full display.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



South River EMC offices will be closed November 11 for Veterans Day and November 25 & 26 in celebration of Thanksgiving.

Nuclear 101	<b>B</b>
Co-op Principles	<b>C</b>
Nominating Committee	<b>E</b>
Energy Smarts	<b>F-H</b>

## Building a Brighter Future: Nuclear 101

As a safe, dependable and carbon-free source of power, nuclear energy is a key contributor to South River EMC's Brighter Future vision, part of which promotes environmental sustainability, including a goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. More than half of the electricity we provide to our members is generated from nuclear energy, and it will continue to be a critical component of our balanced energy portfolio.

### How Nuclear Works

Nuclear energy is stored in the core of an atom and can be released in the form of heat and radiation when an atom is split, a process known as nuclear fission. Nuclear power plants include a reactor where uranium atoms are split over and over again in a nuclear chain reaction. This reaction is continuously regulated using control rods that absorb neutrons to speed and slow the fission process.

The energy released from the atoms is used to heat water until it boils into steam, which then turns the blades of four turbines that drive the generator that makes electricity. The steam is then cooled back into water and reused to create more steam in an ongoing cycle. The water that touches the nuclear fuel is separate from the water that turns the turbines, and also not the same water that is emitted from the cooling towers as water vapor.

### Benefits of Nuclear

The use of uranium instead of fossil fuels makes the energy

produced by nuclear fission carbon free. The nuclear process also results in relatively little waste. To ensure safety, spent fuel rods are enclosed in steel-lined concrete pools of water for five years before being stored in special steel and concrete containers. Nuclear power plants are also closely regulated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and use numerous technologies and redundancies to keep their systems safe and secure.

Beyond being environmentally sustainable and safe, nuclear power is also extremely reliable. Based on data from the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy, nuclear power plants operated at full capacity more than 93 percent of the time in 2019. Nuclear power plants are designed to run 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can often go up to two years without being refueled.

Electric cooperatives in North Carolina invested in nuclear



MESSAGE FROM CEO  
CHRIS M. SPEARS

power years ago, and co-op members continue to benefit from the dependable, affordable and emissions-free power it provides. As more renewables are integrated into our portfolio, nuclear provides "always-on" power that supports reliability and smooths out the intermittency of sources like solar, which produces electricity only during sunny hours.

You can learn more about the ways we are Powering a Brighter Future at [sremc.com/brighter-future-initiative](https://sremc.com/brighter-future-initiative).



Catawba Nuclear Station, York County, S.C.



# IT'S A MATTER OF (CO-OP!) PRINCIPLES

For some, this is a time of year for reflection, and topping the list of things to be grateful for is our wonderful community. South River EMC employees are thankful to be in such an incredible place. We are fortunate to live in the same place where we work, which makes our ties to this community that much stronger.

Last month, a column touched on the first three Cooperative Principles, so this month it's time to talk about the remaining four qualities. The Cooperative Principles are essential to the co-op business model and benefit all members of the co-op.

## Autonomy and Independence

The fourth principal, Autonomy and Independence, means that the co-op operates in an autonomous way that is solely directed and guided by its members, reflecting the values and needs of our local community. This means the co-op is not being influenced by leaders or shareholders several states away. Instead, the co-op is led by the local members it serves.



## Education and Training

The fifth principle, Education and Training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members, which enables them

to contribute to the development of the co-op.

By investing in continual learning for our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment, not just to individual professional and personal growth, but to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

We also strive to inform our members (that's you!) and the public about the mission and operations of the co-op. In fact, that's why you receive this magazine every month, so we can share the latest co-op news and updates, as well as energy efficiency and safety tips.



## Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth principle and fosters the way that co-ops work together to address bigger challenges. While this principle applies to all types of cooperatives, it is especially relevant in the energy industry. In our case, we put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts—and we extend

the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

In addition, because we are part of the national electric co-op network, we can connect and collaborate with other electric



co-ops to tackle industry-related challenges, like cybersecurity and an ever-changing energy landscape.

## Concern for Community

The seventh principle, Concern for Community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community not only by being an essential service, but by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home, too.

You'll find that most cooperatives bring good people together to make good things happen in the community. We hope you feel that way about your local electric co-op.

On behalf of everyone at South River EMC, we're thankful for our members, and we hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

# BEING SMART THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

With the holidays approaching, saving money might be on your mind.

South River EMC has a few tools to help you.

**SmartView** is an energy-monitoring program that tracks both your energy use and temperature highs and lows. You need an online account to

participate, but once enrolled you can check your energy use daily.

**SmartEnergy Profile** is a report designed to help you better manage energy use.

The program uses your billing history, and outside temperature information, as well as home information provided by you to present a detailed bill analysis in straightforward terms. Just be sure to edit your profile so you can see what implementing recommended tips does to your electric bill.

Visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) to check out either, or both, of these programs.



## COOK UP ENERGY SAVINGS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

- Clean oven burners regularly.
- Match the pan size to the burner you're using.
- Use small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens when possible.

**From our table to yours,  
Happy Thanksgiving!**

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED

**S**outh River EMC is already considering options for the 2022 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 2022 can contact any member of the committee by January 5 or send an email to [Nominations@sremc.com](mailto:Nominations@sremc.com).

Members can also be placed on the ballot by submitting an authorized petition form 40 business days prior to the 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 South River EMC members.

Anyone interested in obtaining an authorized petition form should contact Barbara West-Lee at 910-230-2966 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**, 71 Unity 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 Anders**, 2055 Carr Church Rd., Clinton, NC 28328; 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 - Walter Clark**, 1124 Pony Dr., 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.



## Hot showers should not come at high energy costs.

By making the switch to solar or heat pump water heating, you could save money and be eligible for a rebate. Visit [sremc.com](http://sremc.com) for more details.



### Purchasing Smart With Energy Star

Energy Star appliances use less water and less energy. They might carry a slightly higher price tag, but that cost is made up for in energy savings.

Let's talk about Energy Star certified refrigerators, an appliance in constant use, but rarely thought of, unless someone leaves the door open:

- A refrigerator with a top-mounted freezer. While there are Energy Star certified French door, bottom-mounted freezers, a top-freezer refrigerator that has earned the Energy Star uses less energy than a 60-watt light bulb.
- An appropriately sized refrigerator. Generally, the larger the refrigerator, the greater the energy consumption. The most

efficient models are typically 16-20 cubic feet.

- Retire the old refrigerator in your kitchen, basement or garage. Refrigerators over 15 years old could be costing you more than \$80 a year to run. On average, an old refrigerator uses about 33 percent more energy than an Energy Star certified model.

An Energy Star certified clothes washer can help save energy and money as well:

- Energy Star certified models are available in stackable and under-the-counter designs, which fit in smaller spaces.
- Save the most by choosing a model with a high Integrated Modified Energy Factor (IMEF)

and a low Integrated Water Factor (IWF). The higher the IMEF, the more energy efficient, meanwhile, the lower the IWF, the more water efficient.

- Buy One, Save On The Other. Choosing an Energy Star certified washer saves you enough money to pay for a dryer. Not using an Energy Star certified clothes washer, you're using six extra gallons of water every wash cycle.

South River EMC offers rebates on Energy Star certified refrigerators, clothes washers, dryers and dehumidifiers. For details call 910.892.8071 x 2153 or visit [sremc.com/energy-star-appliances](http://sremc.com/energy-star-appliances).

## Your Heating And Cooling Equipment Is Important

Keeping up with heating and cooling needs can get expensive. Each month, as you look at your bill, at least 50 percent of it is due to heating and cooling costs. You want to be comfortable, but casual thermostat adjustments, the age of your system, and size, type and the efficiency of the system all contribute to costs.

If your equipment is more than 10 years old or it needs frequent repairs, and your energy bills are going up, it might be time for a replacement. The age and condition of your heating or cooling equipment may contribute to a reduction of efficiency.

Oversized units tend to have shorter lives due to "short-cycle," or turning on and off rapidly, which inflicts excessive

wear and tear on the compressor. Consider replacing it with newer, more efficient Energy Star certified equipment.

Changing to your thermostat, higher in the winter and lower in the summer, also impacts your electric bill. A higher set thermostat during cooler days means your heat pump will be running longer and more often.

If some of your rooms are too hot or cold (this could also be due to inadequate air sealing, windows or insulation) see more on that in the insulation and weatherization article on the next page.

While insulation and weatherization are cheaper actions to improve comfort, they might not be the only problem, and it may be time to replace your unit.

If so, you can replace it with a high-efficiency heat pump, 17 SEER or greater.

But you must also use your unit efficiently as well, and keep it properly maintained.

Systems do become inefficient as they age, so it is always best to be prepared, by looking into new and more efficient systems, you can begin saving to make the most efficient purchase for your home.

If you feel a new high-efficiency system is in your future, look at the options for systems and rebates from South River EMC at [sremc.com/hero-program](http://sremc.com/hero-program) or by calling 910.892.8071 x 2222.

## A High Efficiency Residential Option (HERO) is 30 percent more efficient than homes built to code.

HERO Home rebates are available.  
Find out more information at  
[sremc.com/hero-program](http://sremc.com/hero-program) or call 910.892.8071 x 2153.





## You could be eligible for a pool pump rebate!

### Eligibility:

- You must receive electric service from South River EMC in the home where the pool pump is installed.
- The unit must be purchased and installed within 90 days prior to application.
- The pool pump must be Energy Star Certified and a two-speed or variable-speed.

## The Importance Of Insulation And Weatherization

Why is insulation and weatherization so important? Because it plays a part in your comfort and your energy costs.

When you're cold, you adjust the thermostat, and the higher you turn your thermostat up in cooler weather, the longer and harder your heat pump has to run. And you might be comfortable, but then it doesn't usually last long.

This could be do to a lack of insulation or a sparse covering of it. Insulation acts to prevent heat transfer, or the loss of heat into or out of a place. Heat moves into cooler spaces to provide a more ambient temperature, so in winter, heat would be escap-

ing your home if insulation is thin or non-existent.

Another reason for discomfort could be weatherization. Air infiltration, or the passage of inside air out and vice versa, happens a lot more than you could imagine. It allows your heated air to be lost to the cooler outside and that cooler outside air in to replace it. This gives you a cooler home, which means you're wrapping up or even adjusting the thermostat.

By replacing or refreshing insulation and caulking and sealing areas in your home, you could see improved comfort and cost as well. Insulation upgrades might be needed to the attic in

existing homes, while attic and floor might be needed in manufactured homes.

Meanwhile, sealing common air leakage sites such as plumbing penetrations through insulated floors and ceilings, baseboard moldings, dropped ceilings above bathtubs and cabinets, attic access hatches, and doors.

There is always room for improvement, and this could mean money back as well.

South River EMC offers rebates on insulation and weatherization upgrades, for details visit [sremc.com/insulation-weatherization](http://sremc.com/insulation-weatherization) or call 910.892.8071 x 2222.

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