



santee.org

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SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS
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FIND US ON



SANTEE ELECTRIC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



The co-op model

AS WE APPROACH Santee Electric Cooperative's 2023 Annual Meeting, now is a great time to tell you how

your cooperative brings you the best of both worlds.

On one hand, SEC is right sized to maintain that feeling you get from a small business. Our people live here, we work here, go to church here and shop and play here. We look out for the communities we serve because they are our communities. On the other hand, we are a part of much bigger organizations that enable us to bring you all the benefits of size and sophistication.

My purpose for this month's column is to tell you how.

Given that Santee Electric owns and operates thousands of miles of infrastructure, and is approaching \$300 million in total assets, you might imagine that we buy a lot of materials and supplies. While our buying power is enough to get you—our owners—a good deal for the poles, wires and meters we buy every day, that is not enough. Decades ago, electric cooperatives in our state formed a utility supply buying organization called CEEUS so that, as part of a much bigger group, we can buy our materials and supplies at a great deal.

We are also part of the statewide trade association, called The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina (ECSC). They help us with political and legal issues, getting help when our area is hit by major storms and training our linemen and other employees. Without ECSC, your cooperative would need its own attorneys, instructors, political experts and communications team. In fact, the magazine you have in your hands was produced by ECSC.

The cooperatives of this state even pool our resources when it comes to

economic development. The SC Power Team is the arm of South Carolina's electric cooperatives that helps us attract industry (and its associated jobs and investment) to our area. Furthermore, these types of customers buy power around the clock, keeping our costs down and helping keep your rates low.

Last, but certainly not least, is our generation and transmission cooperative, Central Electric Power Cooperative. SEC and 19 other cooperatives in this state own and control Central for one purpose—to get the absolute best wholesale power rate for you, our member-owners. While SEC is a large cooperative, buying power together with 19 other cooperatives enables us to get the best deal on wholesale power for you. Furthermore, since Central handles our pooled generation and transmission needs, your cooperative can focus on why we were created—to distribute power throughout the service territory we were assigned.

Rural electric cooperatives like SEC were created back in the 1930s to serve the areas that investor-owned utilities deemed unprofitable because they were sparsely populated. While some parts of our formerly rural territories are denser than they once were, much of our territory has the same low density it did 80 years ago. While this makes our task challenging, the hard work of the team at SEC and our critical partner organizations allows us to deliver reliability and affordability to you. Have a great month!

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
 President and Chief Executive Officer

Our new rate structure

August bills will reflect changes

OUR NEW RATE will go into effect for July energy use (your August bill). In preparation for the switch, SEC wants our members to have as many resources as possible to understand our new rate structure because it gives members more control over their power bills than ever before.

Peak hours/peak charge

Winter peak hours are Nov. 1 to March 31 from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Summer peak hours are April 1 to Oct. 31 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The new peak charge is based on your highest ONE hour of electricity use during the peak hours in the billing

cycle. The charge is \$12 per kilowatt in your one highest hour. For the remaining 719 hours in the billing cycle, electricity use only costs 6.5¢ per kilowatt hour.

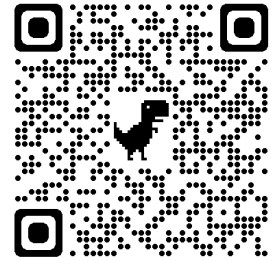
By shifting energy use outside of the peak hours, you will save. For example, if your clothes dryer runs for your full peak hour of the billing cycle it would cost you \$60 for that one appliance. But if you ran your clothes dryer outside of the peak hours for one hour it would only cost you 32.5¢. That is major savings.

Check out our videos

Hear from the experts about our new rate structure on santee.org/rate-structure. These

helpful videos will explain our new rate structure, what the peak hours are and how to avoid them, teach you about helpful devices, show you the benefits of SmartHub and the bigger picture behind the change. Subscribe to our YouTube channel to stay up to date on all things SEC.

To learn more about our new rate structure, use the camera on your smart phone to scan this code.



Before the storm

SEC prepares for storm season

BY JOANNA ARNSMEYER

Storm week for Santee Electric is all about storm preparedness. During this week, safety meetings are called and everyone at the co-op gets a refresher on the cooperative's storm response. Processes are worked through, information is given, updates are made, safety procedures are reviewed and many other storm related conversations take place. At SEC, we strive to provide reliable power to you, and preparing for storm season is one of the ways we make that possible.

How does SEC prepare for storms?

The preparation for a storm season does not start when a storm is approaching. SEC prepares for storms year-round. SEC has an Emergency Restoration Plan (ERP), which ensures that during a crisis SEC employees will have the tools at hand to respond efficiently and meet the main goal of restoring power as quickly and safely as possible. The ERP



SEC Manager of GIS, Dispatch and Procurement Christie Dyson leads the safety meeting about storm week and the restoration process.

JOANNA ARNSMEYER

is updated yearly, and employees review it regularly.

Other preparation activities include trimming right of ways (keeping trees off lines, clearing brush around poles/lines), completing regular routine maintenance, making updates to our system, sectionalizing fuses, reclosers and breakers, overall “system hardening” which means using stronger poles and stronger materials, and, of course, ensuring all employees are experts in their jobs.

We are prepared, are you?

SEC encourages you to practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during storm season as well. Talk with your family about what the plan is during a major storm. Make a storm kit and include items like water, non-perishable foods, a can opener, first-aid kit, flashlights (with extra batteries), prescriptions and baby/pet supplies. And, as always, look at our website and social media for more storm safety tips!

Returning to college? Scholarships for women available

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN for the Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship, a one-time award available to adult female members of Santee Electric whose pursuit of a college degree has been interrupted or delayed.

Sponsored by Women Involved in Rural Electrification (WIRE)—a service organization associated with South Carolina’s electric cooperatives—the \$2,500 scholarship is based on need and personal goals. The deadline to apply is June 1.

“I know there are many among our members who are pursuing a degree after making necessary sacrifices for the sake of their family,” says Stacey Clark, WIRE representative. “We salute them and encourage them to apply for this scholarship.”

An online application for the 2023 WIRE scholarship can be found ecsc.org/wire. Applications are also available at our offices. The scholarship will be awarded based on the information provided in the application.

Applicants for the program must:

- ▶ be a member of Santee Electric or another South Carolina electric cooperative;
- ▶ have graduated from high school or earned a GED at least 10 years ago;
- ▶ obtain acceptance into an accredited college or university.
- ▶ demonstrate financial need.

Recipients will receive scholarships for the fall 2023 or spring 2024 semester, with funds paid to the college or university.



How to apply

Apply online for the 2023 Jenny Ballard Opportunity Scholarship by June 1 at ecsc.org/wire.

Paper forms are available at Santee Electric and can be mailed to:

Peggy Dantzer
The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina
808 Knox Abbott Drive
Cayce, SC 29033

Send e-mail inquiries to Peggy.Dantzer@ecsc.org.

Scholarships Available

Empower the Future Scholarship (\$1,000)

Santee Electric Cooperative offers \$1,000 scholarships to seniors in the counties we serve. Applications and scholarship guidelines are available at santee.org/sec-schools. **The deadline to apply is April 10.**

Operation Round Up Scholarship (\$2,500)

The SEC Trust Board will provide one \$2,500 scholarship in each of the four counties that we serve. Applications and scholarship guidelines are available at santee.org/sec-schools. **The deadline to apply is April 10.**



\$500 Annual Meeting Scholarships

Santee Electric Cooperative will award eight \$500 scholarships to high school seniors at our Annual Meeting on April 18. Two awards each will be randomly drawn from applicants in Williamsburg, Clarendon, Georgetown and Florence counties. Please read eligibility information and requirements before submitting an application. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m., April 10.

Deadline:
April 10
Enter today!

Mail application to:
Joanna Arnsmeier
P.O. Box 548,
Kingstree, SC 29556

Requirements/Eligibility

- Must be a high school senior.
- All blanks must be filled out or the application will be voided.
- The application must be signed on the space provided and turned in by the deadline of April 10, or it will be voided.
- Applicant must be a SEC member or a child or legal ward of a SEC member. Only one scholarship will be awarded per family per year.
- A student can only receive this scholarship one time. It's not renewable.
- The scholarship monies can be used by undergraduate students to attend, on a full-time basis, any university/college.
- Only high school seniors with a "C" average or better may apply.
- The recipients will be chosen in a random drawing at the Annual Meeting on April 18.
- Selected applicants will be required to provide SEC with an official transcript and acceptance letter to verify their eligibility.



\$500 Scholarship 2023 Application

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Member's relationship to Applicant (if last name is different please indicate reason) _____

SEC Account Number _____

GPA _____ University/College Attending _____

I have read and understand all of the above listed requirements for the SEC Annual Meeting Scholarship, and I agree to meet all of them. If I am selected as a recipient, I agree to allow SEC to use my name and/or photo in future promotions.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Play it safe

10 do's and don'ts when using portable generators

BY ABBY BERRY

STORM SEASON is upon us, which means greater potential for power outages. If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, Santee Electric reminds you to play it safe.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.

Here are five do's and five don'ts to keep in mind when using portable generators:

DO:

1. Install backup CO alarms.
2. Keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.
3. Position generators at least 25 feet outside the home, away from doors, windows and vents that can allow CO to enter the home.
4. Ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to prevent electric shock injuries.
5. Use three-pronged extension cords that are rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or other damage before use.

DON'T:

1. Operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed (or partially enclosed) space. Generators produce high levels of CO, which can be deadly.
2. Open windows or doors while the generator is running.
3. Rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.
4. Overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.
5. Connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous—even deadly—if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

If you have questions about proper use of portable generators, we're here to help. Give us a call at (800) 922-1604 or visit santee.org for more information.



Let your trusted energy advisor assist you.

WHOLE HOUSE GENERATOR

up to 12% off

with the help of your Co-op.

For more information visit santee.org/energy-programs or call 1-800-922-1604.



Managing your account has never been easier...

...tap into your Santee Electric account anytime, anywhere with our free SmartHub app!

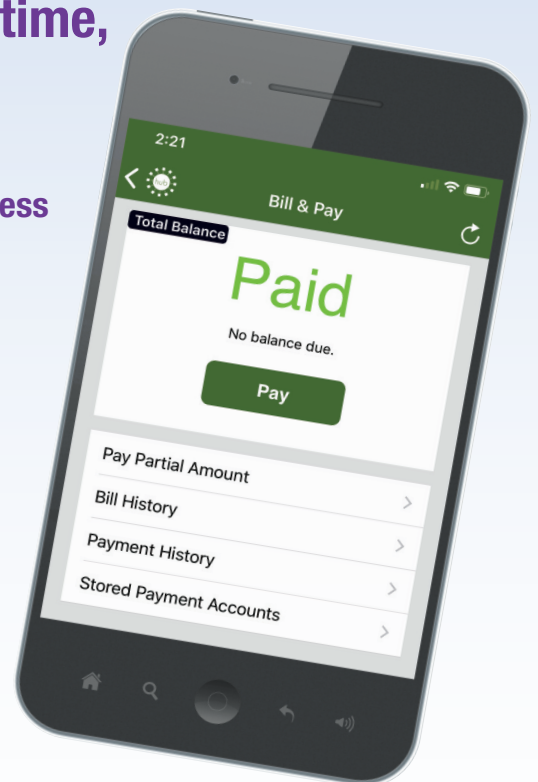
From making a fast payment to reporting a power outage, the Santee Electric SmartHub app gives you a quick and easy access to your account.

Available for all smart devices like iPhones, iPads and Androids. The SmartHub app also lets members:

- ◆ review payment history
- ◆ check on monthly electric usage
- ◆ stop and start service
- ◆ request maintenance

Just download the Santee Electric SmartHub app for free on your smart phone's app store.

Once you download, simply follow the directions to connect your account and you're all set!



For more information, visit santee.org.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1-800-922-1604

