



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



Back to school!

THIS MONTH, the students and educators in your life will head back to the classroom, and I want to make sure you know all your cooperative has to offer for the teachers and students we care so much about.

In this issue, we have some helpful information about Bright Ideas grants. This is an awesome program we have offered for years to help area educators get funding for neat ideas they have to spark the imagination and interest of students. Sometimes, the thought is there but the funding is not. SEC can help! Make sure to check out where to find the application in this month's issue.

Also, do you know a 4th or 5th grader? How cool would it be to see their artwork in one of your cooperative's corporate Christmas cards this holiday season? Each year, we encourage area students to submit their artwork for a chance to get published. If your child or grandchild is entering the 4th or 5th grade this fall, make sure their teachers know about Santee Electric's card design contest. Your student will have a chance to see their art in print and win some cash and prizes.

As we get into the second semester of each school year, applications for SEC scholarships become available for high school seniors. There are three different levels of scholarships available for students in our area, so make sure your students take advantage.

While the previous items I mentioned hit at certain times of the year, there is one thing your cooperative offers to schools all year long: experts in the classroom. Your cooperative wants to help prepare your students for some of the great careers we offer. We are happy to put our bright and talented employees in front of any group of students that might want to know about cooperative careers. If you have a group of students who want to know what it takes to be a lineman, an accountant, an IT professional or an engineer (for a few examples), just ask! We are happy to put our folks in their classrooms.

Two of the seven principles of electric cooperatives have to do with education and concern for community. Santee Electric is committed to all the cooperative principles, but we are particularly passionate about these two. Part of our mission is to improve quality of life in the communities we serve, and that goes well beyond providing safe, reliable electricity at the best possible cost. We also provide investment and careers. Your cooperative is here and ready to help area students and educators. All you have to do is make sure those in your area take advantage of what we have to offer.

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
President and Chief Executive Officer

Bright Ideas grants available

TEACHERS IN Williamsburg, Georgetown, Clarendon and Florence counties—applications are now open for the Bright Ideas grant!



Bright Ideas grants are intended to fund projects outside normal school funding parameters and are available to all disciplines in grades K-12. A school may submit more than one application, but a teacher is limited to one application per school year. Grants are awarded for up to \$1,000 each. The Bright Ideas Grant is a fantastic opportunity to bring creative and engaging projects to your school.

For more information about the Bright Ideas Grant program and to apply, visit santee.org/bright-ideas. Applications are due by Monday, Sept. 23.



Elizabeth Watts (center), a teacher at Walker Gamble Elementary School, was awarded a Bright Ideas grant in 2023. Her “STEAM Night” project allowed students to attend a STEAM event and participate in events relating to science, engineering and math concepts, fostering inquiry, collaboration and problem-solving skills.



New way to pay

VANILLADIRECT PAY is a new, convenient way for SEC members to pay their energy bill. On the back of SEC’s new bill print, there is a VanillaDirect barcode that allows members to make payments at various retail locations. Members will now be able to pay their energy bill at these retailers.

- ▶ CVS
- ▶ Dollar General
- ▶ Family Dollar
- ▶ GameStop
- ▶ Kwik Trip
- ▶ Pilot Flying J
- ▶ 7-Eleven
- ▶ Speedway
- ▶ Walgreens
- ▶ Walmart

There is a \$1.50 transaction fee when you pay using VanillaDirect.

SAVING TIPS



Do not use all of your high-use appliances at the same time (water heater, HVAC, and clothes dryer) during the peak hours. Or, use them before or after the peak hours.



Manually adjust your thermostat so your HVAC runs less during peak hours. Pre-cooling or pre-heating your home before the peak hours (when energy is 6.5 cents/kWh) will help. A programmable/smart thermostat can do this for you.



Limit hot water use during the peak hours. Consider placing a timer switch on your water heater that helps shift your energy usage off-peak hours when energy costs less (6.5 cents/kWh). That way, you can still use hot water during the peak, but the water heater is not running.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SUMMER PEAK HOURS

April 1 – October 31
4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

WINTER PEAK HOURS

November 1– March 31
6 a.m. – 9 a.m.

www.santee.org/rate-structure