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**SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS**  
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**SANTEE ELECTRIC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.**



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



# New rate structure begins July 1

**SINCE OUR MARCH**

announcement, we have been reminding members about the new rate structure that

begins July 1. I would like to take this opportunity to give you some helpful information to keep in mind about the new rate structure.

I want to talk to you about three classifications of electrical loads in your home as they relate to the new rate structure.

**Small loads**

While it will always be true that “every little bit helps,” some appliances in your home warrant less attention than others. This winter, I wrote a column titled “It’s not the lights,” referring to the fact that lights generally are not driving your electric bills. In addition to lights, quite a few devices in your home use a relatively small amount of electricity. A television uses around 250 watts, a ceiling fan around 100 watts, a radio around 75 watts and a washing machine uses around 500 watts. It’s always a good idea to be mindful of how much you use these devices, particularly during peak hours. However, they do not deserve as much attention as other appliances in your home.

**Larger loads that only run for a few minutes**

Some things in your home place a large demand on the system but only for a few minutes at a time. Toasters and microwaves, for example, are usually in the 1000 to 1200 watt range, but they do not run for long. Your hair dryer is usually around 1500 watts, but it typically only takes a few minutes to dry your hair. A one horsepower well pump is usually around 1100 watts, but it typically

only takes this pump a few minutes to fill the tank in your pumphouse. Since the new peak charge is based on the demand (measured in watts or kilowatts) **and** the amount of time something runs, low run times mean these electrical loads also have a smaller impact. Again, these devices deserve some of your attention, just not the lion’s share.

**Larger loads that run for a long time**

The final category are things that check both boxes—heavy electrical loads and longer run times. I mentioned a washing machine in the first category, but what about an electric clothes dryer? Both run for about an hour for a load of clothes, but a typical washing machine is only 500 watts while an electric clothes dryer can be 5000 watts. Similarly, popping a bag of microwave popcorn requires around 1100 watts and runs for a few minutes (less than one-tenth of a kilowatt-hour). Baking a cake in the oven requires around 3200 watts and likely runs an entire hour.

With our new rate structure, running any of these devices during the 21 off-peak hours each day will yield significant savings because it now only costs 6.5 cents per kilowatt-hour versus previously costing 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. The last category, however, is the one you want to watch during the peak hours on our residential rate.

Let us know if you have any questions and have a great month!



**ROBERT G. ARDIS III**  
 President and Chief Executive Officer



# When you use energy matters!

**SANTEE ELECTRIC'S** new rate structure will go into effect on July 1. The summer peak hours, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., will be in effect. The new peak charge will be based on your highest one hour of electricity use in the billing cycle during the peak hours. The charge is \$12 per kilowatt in your highest one hour. For the remaining 719 hours in the billing cycle, your electricity will only cost 6.5 cents per kilowatt-hour on our residential rate.

Here are three easy ways to shift energy use and save:

- ▶ Manually adjust your thermostat so your HVAC runs less during the peak hours. A programmable/smart thermostat can also 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 use.
- ▶ Use your dryer or other high-use appliances before or after peak hours. For example, running your clothes dryer for your full peak hour of the billing cycle would cost you \$60 for that one appliance. But running the dryer outside peak hours for one hour would only cost you 32.5 cents.

We're not suggesting that you use no power during the peak hours. But by simply not using all your major appliances at the same time, you will see rewards.

We are here to help! Visit [santee.org/rate-structure](http://santee.org/rate-structure) to learn more about peak hours and our new rate structure or call (800) 922-1604.



Verbitene Weaver of Hemingway loves her co-op, and her co-op loves her!



Smiling members like Ashley Strickland of Scranton are one of our favorite parts of the Annual Meeting.



Roxie and her human, Lewis Drucker, loved the convenience of drive-thru registration and voting.

# Thank you for coming!

**SANTEE ELECTRIC** Cooperative held its 83rd Annual Meeting on April 18 at the co-op's headquarters in Kingstree. We registered 4,706 members, a new record number of registered members. The business meeting was streamed live on our Facebook page. If you'd like to watch a replay of the meeting, go to [santee.org/annual-meeting](http://santee.org/annual-meeting).

Incumbent trustees Billy L. Morris, Jr. (District 6), Bill Floyd (District 8), and Harry Walters (District 9) were reelected to the cooperative board by acclamation.

Thank you to everyone who came out. We wouldn't be SEC without you, our members!



Members including Kathleen Dorrell (left) and Janie McKenzie received a bamboo cutting board at registration, as well as magnet to help them remember the peak hours!

PHOTOS BY JOSH P. CROTZER