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**SANTEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE NEWS**

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



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# New rate structure updates

**SEC RECENTLY PUBLISHED** a video updating you on our transition to the new rate structure. I felt this topic was so important that I wanted to address it again in this month's column. I'd like to discuss common misconceptions about the new rate structure and how to determine if you are saving money after the change.

One issue deals with how the \$12 peak charge is applied. While it is true that all 90 peak hours (assuming a 30-day billing cycle) are analyzed, only ONE of those 90 hours receives the \$12 per kilowatt charge. The other 89 hours get billed like the rest of the hours in the month, receiving only the 6.5 cents per kilowatt-hour (for residential consumers) energy charge. There was a concern with some members that all 90 hours would get the \$12 charge, which is not the case.

Another misunderstanding pertained to members expressing concern about receiving a 4,000 kilowatt-hour, or more than \$500, power bill this past July (an exceptionally hot month) and blaming the new rate structure. In fact, the July bills were still on the old rate structure. Your August bill was the first with the new rate structure. Santee Electric has four different monthly billing cycles, so some members did not receive their August bill until mid-to-late August. This same member, being billed on the new rate structure, will save money. Good news!

To remove any question, it is easiest to explain the calculation so that you can determine on your own if you are saving or not.

The image below shows a portion of a sample bill from SEC that we will use for the example below.

Rate		Service Location		Pole Number	
RES-B4					
Present Reading	Previous Reading	Mult	KWH Used	Amount	
25338	22733	1.00	2605	169.33	
Peak Charge		Peak Hour Usage	9.536	114.43	

**To determine if you are saving, take these three steps:**

1. Add the Energy Charge (\$169.33) and the Peak Charge (\$114.43). Total: \$283.76. \$283.76 is how much this member paid for electricity on the NEW rate structure.
2. Multiply the "kWh Used" (2605) by \$0.125. Total: \$325.63. \$325.63 is the base cost of energy under the OLD rate structure.
3. Compare the two totals. If the first number is less than the second, you are **SAVING** because of the new rate structure. If the number is more, you are spending more.

If you want to try to save on your bill, consider reducing your energy use during peak hours and avoid using large appliances at the same time. For example, if your air conditioning is running, try not to dry a load of clothes.

As always, if you have any questions specific to your account, do not hesitate to call us. Have a great month!

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

Connor Coker's visit to the State House included a discussion with two state legislators.



JOSH P. CROTZER



COURTESY OF OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Mikayla Emmen met Gov. McMaster and sat at his desk while on Cooperative Youth Summit.

## Local teens experience Cooperative Youth Summit

BY JOSH P. CROTZER

**MIKAYLA EMMEN WASN'T** interested in being lifted high in the air by an electric cooperative boom truck, but she did sit in one of the state's highest seats of power.

"To get to sit in the governor's chair, that was great," says Emmen. "I just wouldn't want to sit in it for hours. It wasn't that comfortable."

Emmen was one of 45 student-delegates selected and sponsored by their local electric cooperatives to participate in the four-day exploration of their state's capital, energy-related technologies and the cooperative business model. The students toured the State House grounds before crowding into Gov. Henry McMaster's office and taking turns sitting in his chair, a privilege suggested by the governor after he welcomed the students and answered some of their questions.

Emmen, a student at Hannah Pamplico High School, and Connor Coker of The Carolina Academy were sponsored by Santee Electric Cooperative.

Before their sit-down with McMaster, the Cooperative Youth Summit students learned about political advocacy and civic duty from two state legislators—Rep. Micah Caskey and Rep. Russell Ott—and John Frick, vice president of government relations for The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina. Frick related the story of Benjamin Franklin's post-Constitutional Convention exchange with a woman asking if the nation would be a monarchy or a republic. Franklin's response came in the form of a challenge—"a republic, if you can keep it."

"If you want your voice to be heard, you have to put it out there," says Emmen. "One of the ways of doing that is to vote. You're not always going to get your way, but you have to put it out there and hope for the best."

That same week, the students traveled to Newberry Electric Cooperative, a visit highlighted by a lift in one of NEC's boom truck buckets, which are typically

used in maintenance and restoration work on utility poles. Newberry Electric officials also showed off their outage management and communications center, their community solar farm and their fiber-optic system that is providing high-speed internet to their members.

Throughout the week and after, the students worked in teams on podcasts around the theme of living in South Carolina. They interviewed legislators and community leaders to get their perspectives on what's great about the state and how it can improve.

The students also participated in the Soda Pop Co-op, which sold snacks and beverages. Some students served as the cooperative's board members. Others were a part of the management team. All students received cash back as their share of the end of the trip margins. The exercise allowed the students to learn first-hand how the not-for-profit co-op business model works.

### Bright Ideas applications due Sept. 25

**TEACHERS IN** Williamsburg, Georgetown, Clarendon and Florence counties—don't forget to submit your applications for a 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 multiple applications, but a teacher is limited to one application per school year. Grants are awarded for up to \$1,000 each.

For more information about the Bright Ideas grant program and the application, visit [santee.org/bright-ideas](http://santee.org/bright-ideas). Completed applications are due by Monday, Sept. 25.



### Peak hours reminder

We are two months away from switching over to winter peak hours!

- ▶ Summer peak hours: July 1 to Oct. 31, 4 p.m.–7 p.m.
- ▶ Winter peak hours: Nov. 1 to March 31, 6 a.m.–9 a.m.