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**SANTEE ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE NEWS**
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FIND US ON



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Ever wonder how big your cooperative is?



IF YOU ARE LIKE ME and are curious about such things, this is a great time to answer those questions. Each year, we get a report from one of our lenders that compares cooperatives within our state and the nation. Here are some interesting facts from

that report and others.

Santee Electric has around 44,000 active accounts. That puts us in the top 15% among electric cooperatives in the country. However, because South Carolina has relatively large electric cooperatives, we are just slightly above average for our state in this category.

On the other hand, we have nearly 6,000 miles of power lines (top 20% in our state) and over 2,000 square miles of service territory (the most in our state by a large margin). You might wonder why the number of accounts and the size of our system do not really match up. The answer is meter density. Our service territory is relatively sparsely populated. This means we maintain a lot of lines and territory to serve relatively few homes and businesses.

Most people know that electric cooperatives are not-for-profit entities. While that means we do not pay income taxes, a lot of people mistakenly assume we do not pay taxes at all. The truth is that we still pay a great deal in property taxes (because of the lines, substations and

facilities we have in our counties). In fact, we rank quite high in the four counties that we serve. Santee Electric is the 10th largest taxpayer in Florence County and the 3rd largest in Williamsburg County. We are the 2nd largest taxpayer in both Clarendon and Georgetown counties!

Last year, SEC's operating revenue was around \$130 million. That sounds like a lot, but well over \$100 million went toward covering our wholesale power bill and our depreciation, taxes and interest expenses. Our total assets were just shy of \$250 million. If you have looked at our published annual report, you already knew these figures. However, I thought I would share them just in case.

Our system demand averages roughly 300 megawatts. In 2020, Santee Electric purchased 1.25 billion kilowatt-hours on behalf of our member-owners. Those are some large figures (7th and 4th in the state, respectively), and they are due in large part to the fact that SEC serves some large industrial customers.

I hope you have found these facts and statistics interesting. After all, this is information about your electric cooperative. You should be proud. Have a great month!

ROBERT G. ARDIS III
President and Chief Executive Officer

Let's Beat The Peak together

AS A MEMBER of Santee Electric Cooperative, you know how to make smart energy choices that help you save money. But did you know *when* you use electricity can be just as important as *how much* you use?

Throughout the day, energy use fluctuates based on consumer demand. Typically, most households use larger amounts of electricity in the morning when most people are getting ready for their day, and in the evenings, when people return from work, cook dinner, wash clothes and watch television.

These times when people are using more electricity at the same time are called “peak” hours. The cost for Santee Electric to provide power is higher during these times because of the additional demand for electricity.

That's why Santee Electric is encouraging its members to participate in our Beat The Peak program and sign up to receive phone, email or text notifications that remind you to reduce your electricity consumption during peak periods. Go to **BeatThePeak.com** to sign up. By shifting some of your energy use to hours when you receive the alerts, you can help keep rates low.

In combination with other demand control efforts—like our Smart Thermostat Program or H2O Select—electric

cooperatives in South Carolina have saved nearly \$580,000 in annual power costs. As an extra incentive, anyone that signs up for Beat The Peak is automatically eligible for our bi-annual VISA gift card drawings with values up to \$500. The next drawing will occur this fall.

There are many ways to save energy and money by making a few minor adjustments to your daily routine. Whether you get our notifications or not, here are a few easy ways you can shift energy use to off-peak periods:

- ▶ Adjust your thermostat. During summer months, raise the thermostat a few degrees during peak hours.
- ▶ Wash full loads of clothes in cold water during off-peak hours.
- ▶ Run the dishwasher right before you go to bed, or air-dry dishes by opening the dishwasher instead of using the heated dry cycle.
- ▶ Turn off lights and electronics when not in use. (Try to make this a daily habit, whether during peak or off-peak hours.)

We're here to help. Contact us if you have questions about your energy bill or for additional energy-saving tips. Call (800) 922-1604 or visit **santee.org** for more information.

SEC Manager of Marketing Kevin Myers presents Kim Ward with a \$100 gift card she won by participating in Beat The Peak. Sign up today to make sure you're eligible for the next drawing.



RONALD CARTER

More ways to save

In addition to Beat The Peak, Santee Electric offer other programs that can help you save money and hold down wholesale power costs.

Smart Thermostat Program

Santee Electric members can save hundreds on ecobee smart thermostats. By purchasing one through their cooperative, members can get an Alexa-enabled ecobee 4 smart thermostat for just \$75 and an ecobee 3 smart thermostat for \$35.

To qualify, your home must be Wi-Fi enabled and you must grant Santee Electric permission to control the thermostat during peak load periods.

H2O Select

Santee Electric's H2O Select water heater program pays you to stay in hot water. Any Santee Electric member buying an approved large capacity water heater is eligible to receive a \$200 rebate through this program.

To qualify for H2O Select, just purchase and install a new large capacity electric water heater that meets co-op approval. A load management device, installed by Santee Electric, is required to receive the \$200 rebate and a free three-year maintenance agreement.

To find out more about these and Santee Electric's other energy programs visit **santee.org/energy-programs**.