



## Singing River Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Bringing power and energy services to local communities

### A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

## Recent cost of service study calls for rate adjustment



Brian Hughey  
General Manager  
& CEO

For the first time in six years, Singing River Electric Cooperative is adjusting the monthly customer charge (flat monthly charge) for the residential and small commercial classes of members. This change was guided by the results obtained from the cooperative's recent cost of service study. It is the responsibility of management and the board of directors to examine rates periodically to be sure they are equitable and reasonable. The cost of service study gives insight and guidance allowing the cooperative to fulfill its obligations to members and cooperative lenders. The study is the primary tool used to accomplish this goal.

Beginning March 6, 2020, residential members will see a \$3 per month increase to their bill. Similarly, the small commercial members receiving single-phase electric service will see a \$1.50 per month increase. These changes will result in a \$25 per month customer charge for both member classes. The monthly customer

charge offsets the fixed costs of operations such as the cost of building and owning electric facilities, the cost of the metering system, the cost of billing and the cost of maintaining service. All of these costs are incurred each month regardless of whether one kilowatt-hour of electricity is ever used. The per kilowatt-hour charge will not change for either member class. Residential rates were nearly 14 percent below national average this past year. Even after the adjustment, Singing River Electric will have one of the lowest customer charges and some of the lowest rates in the region. While virtually all costs of living continue to rise, we pride ourselves in how little member bills have changed through the years, as can be seen in the table below.

As you know, your power bill is comprised of different variables which are explained on our website. Additionally, the site contains a user-friendly bill calculator that breaks down your monthly bill in full detail. Singing River Electric's adjusted rates will be posted on our website at [singingriver.com](http://singingriver.com) beginning Monday, March 2.

We value our members and will always place a strong emphasis on providing you with exceptional service at the lowest cost possible.

### SRE Residential Rate Comparison for 1,000 kWh on a 31-day cycle

Year	March 2014	March 2016	March 2018	March 2020
Total Bill	\$120.22	\$114.35	\$117.25	\$119.29

**BRIAN HUGHEY**  
General Manager & CEO

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[singingriver.com](http://singingriver.com).

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SRE is an equal opportunity  
employer and provider.



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### Simple savings

When conducting energy audits this time of year, we often encounter homes operating heating or cooling when there is no need.

Pay attention to your unit's schedule. Turn off the air or heat and open a window if the weather is comfortable. Heating and cooling accounts for up to 60 percent of your electric bill.



In addition to turning off the heating or cooling units, you can also hang clothes outside to dry in the sunshine and grill out to give your oven a break. Little things such as these can make a big difference on your power bill.

For more simple savings, download the 101 Ways to Save brochure on our website at [singingriver.com/ways-to-save](http://singingriver.com/ways-to-save). Also, join our efficiency conversations on Facebook and Instagram (SingingRiverElectric) and Twitter (SRECooperative).

Visit [singingriver.com](http://singingriver.com) or [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) for more tips.



Nick Greer  
Right-of-way Coordinator

### Planting Instructions

1. Carefully untangle roots, and soak in water 3-6 hours.
2. Dig a hole, wider than seems necessary, so roots grow outward without crowding.
3. Plant tree deep enough to bury roots. Do not use fertilizer or soil amendments.
4. Shovel in dirt firmly but not too tight.
5. Water tree.

## BARE-ROOT SEEDLING GIVEAWAY

Spring is in the air and Earth Day and Arbor Day are fast approaching. Singing River Electric would like to help by giving away 1,000 bare-root, hardwood seedlings.

Trees add tremendous value to our homes and communities. Come visit us at one of three locations below and receive up to three free bare-root seedling trees to plant at your home.

### GIVEAWAY LOCATIONS:

**March 14**  
Second  
Saturday  
Main Street  
Lucedale, MS  
5-8 p.m.

**March 19**  
Singing River Electric  
Sand Hill Office  
39276 Highway 63 N  
Richton, MS  
3-5 p.m.

**April 4**  
Earth Day Event  
George Martin City Park  
Senior Center  
Gautier, MS  
10 a.m. - Noon

## HOLD THAT SHOVEL! THINK SAFETY FIRST.

Look up and live. It is important to consider the mature height of any tree you plant. Will it grow too close to a power line? Mississippi's 10-foot Rule designates

a 10-foot clearance around each power line. Trees that grow into power lines can pose a threat of electrical shock to all that come in contact with the tree.







# Co-op Days of Service

Singing River Electric in conjunction with Cooperative Energy, Coast Electric, Dixie Electric and Yazoo Valley Electric, participated in the 2020 Cooperative Days of Service. This event is held annually in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Electric cooperative employees volunteer during the weeks of MLK’s birthday and holiday in their local communities throughout the state to show the importance of serving others.

Twenty SRE employees answered the call for service by spending 10 hours cleaning flower beds and trimming trees at Greene County High and Leakesville Elementary and by serving lunch and cleaning facilities at Our Daily Bread in Pascagoula.

“It was a great opportunity to take time to give back to the community,” said SRE Fleet Coordinator Fred McCann, who led the projects in Greene County. “At first, I wondered if removing some trees and sprucing up flower beds would

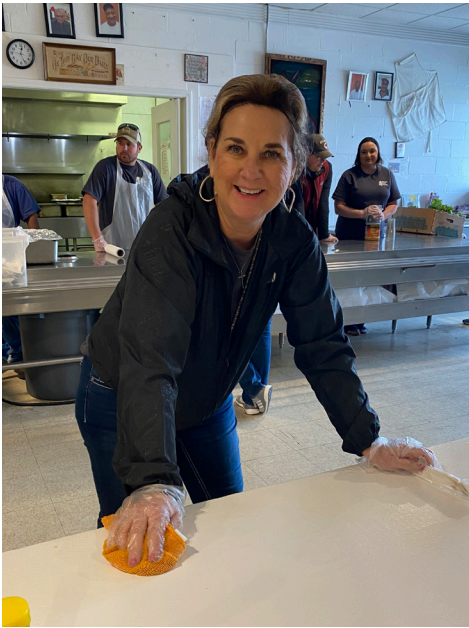
make a difference, but the smiles and handshakes we received made me understand even more what Dr. King meant by, ‘What are you doing for others?’” He added, “So yes, it made a difference.”

The other participating cooperatives completed projects including cleanup efforts removing 93 bags of trash and debris, volunteering at Habitat for Humanity and food pantries, as well as delivering care packages and lunch at the Salvation Army and other ministries.

The Cooperative Days of Service was created by Cooperative Energy and its member systems to empower employees and give them an opportunity to give back and serve others in our communities.

“Cooperative Energy and our member systems are always looking for opportunities to give back in the places we call home,” said Cooperative Energy Executive Vice President and Chief Communications Officer Christa Bishop.

For more information, visit [singingriver.com/my-community](https://singingriver.com/my-community) and join the conversations about service in our communities on Facebook and Instagram at [SingingRiverElectric](#) and Twitter at [SRECooperative](#).



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FABLAB Jackson County

## Providing STEM summer camps

### SRE and CE support STEM education locally

Cooperative Energy, SRE's energy provider, donated funds in honor of their recent dedication of a gas-fired engine power plant at its Benndale Station in George County. This addition is part of a smart power generation solution and will provide flexibility for increased integration of renewable generation.

Singing River Electric and Cooperative Energy recently donated a collective \$5,000 to Jackson County FABLAB to host two STEM education summer camps in 2020.

These summer camps will be held in the East Central community and will reach students located in Hurley, George County and the surrounding area. The funds also allow the mobile FABLAB to visit schools in the East Central community and George County during the school year.

## Smart way to report outages

The quickest way to report a power outage is the SmartHub app. It only takes seconds to not only report your outage, but get it right into the system for repairs. Visit [singingriver.com/smarthub](http://singingriver.com/smarthub).

## Spring savings start here

Find tips to stay comfortable, save money and more by visiting [singingriver.com/ways-to-save](http://singingriver.com/ways-to-save) and joining our efficiency conversations on Facebook and Instagram (SingingRiverElectric) and Twitter (SRECooperative).

As an electric co-op, Singing River Electric is member-driven and built by the communities we serve. For more information on how we partner with our communities, visit [singingriver.com](http://singingriver.com) or join on Facebook/Instagram (SingingRiverElectric) and Twitter (SRECooperative).

