



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

January chill could affect winter power bills



Brian Hughey
General Manager & CEO

During the first three weeks of January, our service area experienced overnight temperatures slightly below normal. While we didn't experience miserable temperatures in the teens and 20-degree range, we did have many overcast days where temperatures never made it above 40 degrees. For this reason, our members can likely expect slightly higher power bills this winter.

Cold weather, especially extended or extreme cold weather, can create higher electric bills because it takes more energy to heat a home than to cool one. Various factors determine the impact extended cold weather has on your electric bill, such as how efficient a home is built, how efficient the HVAC unit is and even how the thermostat is set. It is possible to curtail kilowatt-hour use and maintain or lower your power bill in cold weather. Singing River Electric has many tools available to our members and works to partner with you for energy savings. For more information, please visit our website at singingriver.com/ways-to-save.



Jeff Gray
Energy Services Representative
gray@singingriver.com

Consider operating costs when using space heaters

Electric space heaters are inexpensive to purchase and convenient to use. However, the operating cost of an electric space heater is considerably higher relative to the small amount of heat it generates. At 1500 watts it is quite possibly the least efficient means of heating a space. It is staggering to consider that two space heaters use nearly the same energy as a 3-ton ductless mini split heat pump. If you are using multiple space heaters to heat your living area, it's time to consider installing a ductless mini split heat pump as your primary source of heating. You will increase your whole house comfort and decrease operating costs.

For more on mini split heat pumps and applicable heat pump cash rebates, visit our website at singingriver.com/my-home/heat-pumps.

Notice of Singing River Electric Director Qualification Period

Candidates seeking election to the board of directors for Singing River Electric Cooperative must visit Singing River Electric's Lucedale office located at 11187 Old 63 South and obtain a Director Qualification packet. The forms and petitions included must be completed and the packet returned by close of business on the last business day of February (Friday, February 26, 2021).

HEATING TIPS

- Program your thermostat to 68 degrees or lower during the day. Every degree difference lower than 68° saves you around 5%.
- Dress for the weather, even indoors. Keep socks, shoes and sweaters on to keep from raising the heat.
- Layer blankets on your bed and lower the thermostat a degree or two while you sleep. Program thermostat to raise back up 10-15 minutes before your alarm for added comfort.
- Harness the sun's heat by opening drapes and blinds in sunny windows and closing them at sundown.
- Close garage doors.
- Keep the fireplace flue closed when not in use.
- Use space heaters sparingly, if at all, and only when you are in the room.



Education Mississippi Youth Leaders

Four local high school juniors represent co-op and state.

Singing River Electric's Youth Leadership Program provides high school juniors the opportunity to network with fellow Mississippi student leaders and strengthen leadership skills. Nominees participate in a one-day Cooperative University and interviews with selected students attending the Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson, Miss., and the Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. Our 2020 student leaders are: Laney Kate Hulbert, George County High School; Byron Swetman, St. Martin High School; Bethany Toche, Ocean Springs High School; and Avarie Wells, Resurrection High School. These students attended the Jackson workshop but were unable to visit Washington, D.C. due to COVID-19. They recently received scholarships to commemorate their youth leadership journey.

Best of luck to these four youth leaders as they complete their senior year and apply what they've learned to the next phase of their lives.

With COVID-19 and caution around large gatherings and travel, the 2021 Youth Leadership Program is cancelled. Visit singingriver.com/my-community for information about this program.

Seated: Avarie Wells and Laney Kate Hulbert. Standing: Bethany Toche. Not pictured: Byron Swetman.

Upcoming right-of-way projects

Singing River Electric clears trees, limbs and underbrush from the area around and below the power lines called the right-of-way. Right-of-way clearing helps decrease the number of outages and reduces the risk of someone coming in contact with the power lines.

Here are the substations and surrounding areas that are either currently being cleared or where clearing will begin soon:

- **Agricola Substation** – Highway 613, Barton-Agricola Road, Highway 612 and surrounding areas.
- **Aleco Substation** – Wire Road, Highway 15, Highway 57, Old Biloxi and surrounding areas.
- **Lucedale South Substation** – Highway 26, Twin Creek Road, Highway 63, and surrounding areas.
- **Harleston Substation** – Highway 613, Hurley-Wade Road, Highway 614 and surrounding areas.



Community
Co-op Days of Service

Electric co-op employees complete local service acts to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.



Singing River Electric joined other Mississippi electric cooperatives to participate in Co-op Days of Service, held annually in conjunction with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and holiday.

King stated, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" Singing River Electric employees answered the call for service the week of King's birthday with three acts of service. The first was held at the Chikasawhay River's Leakesville Landing. Tasks performed included landscaping around the landing sign and artesian well, cleaning and painting the well, and gathering fallen limbs and trash. This project was in conjunction with Main Street Leakesville Organization.

The second and third service projects were at the Boys & Girls Club in Gautier and Love Thy Neighbor food ministry in Lucedale. SRE employees worked to clean, build shelving and

paint at these locations.

"This is a way to celebrate King's accomplishments and continue his passion for serving the community that he inspired," said Singing River Electric General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey. "Joining together and serving communities across our state is part of the co-op heritage, and as employees we live and work in these communities. This is where we call home."

Singing River Electric Cooperative was joined in the Co-op Days of Service annual event by Cooperative Energy, Coast Electric, Dixie Electric and Southern Pine Electric. They completed similar acts of service including clean ups, collecting backpacks for foster children and more.

For more information on each of the service projects, visit singingriver.com or on Facebook/Instagram (SingingRiverElectric) and Twitter (SRECooperative).

“*Life's most important question is what are you doing for others. – Martin Luther King, Jr.*”

