



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

Unstable fuel prices drive the increased cost of power



Brian Hughey
General Manager & CEO

Starting in January 2022, Singing River Electric billing statements include a power cost adjustment (PCA) increase of 2.10 mills or \$0.0021 per kilo-watt hour. The new PCA will result in an estimated increase of \$2.10 for a residential member using 1,000 kilo-watt hours per month.

During 2021, we saw fuel costs rise across the country. While gasoline, diesel, and propane prices climbed by nearly 50%, the cost of natural gas saw a larger increase as it doubled between March and October. Throughout 2021, global and domestic natural gas markets had higher volatility than in recent years. The volatility was driven by several factors including the effects of Winter Storm Uri that left millions of homes without power across the country. Additionally, global markets began experiencing supply issues that affected prices in the U.S. from summer to late fall.

Higher natural gas costs combined with increased costs for line maintenance and power transmission charges resulted in this passed-through cost increase from our wholesale power provider, Cooperative Energy, to Singing River Electric members.

As you are aware, Cooperative Energy owns and operates generating facilities

throughout our region. Over the last decade, Cooperative Energy has made significant strides in converting older coal-fired generating units to more environmentally-friendly renewable and natural gas driven options. As a result, less than 10% of Cooperative Energy's owned generation today is powered by coal. While renewables, such as solar, certainly have power generation advantages, we must consider the associated risks like the lack of around-the-clock reliability. Today, natural gas makes up more than 70% of Cooperative Energy's generation portfolio, resulting in an increased cost to generate electricity. Fortunately, Cooperative Energy does an exceptional job of securing future fuel contracts to minimize exposure of costs for its member distribution systems, including Singing River Electric. Even with the contracts and success in the MISO power market, Cooperative Energy is expecting continued upward pressure on natural gas purchases during the upcoming year.

While the price of natural gas has seen a small decrease over the last two months, forecasts continue to keep prices well above those in 2020.

As your electric service provider, Singing River Electric will continue to meet our members' energy needs while providing electric service at the lowest possible cost and enhancing the lives of the members and the communities we serve.



Jeff Gray
Energy Services Representative
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Heat pump savings in the winter

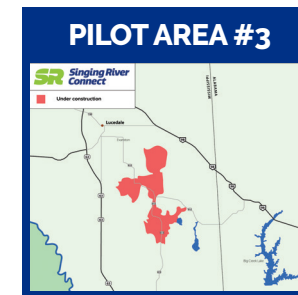
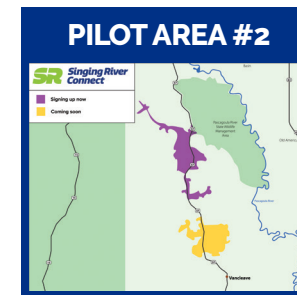
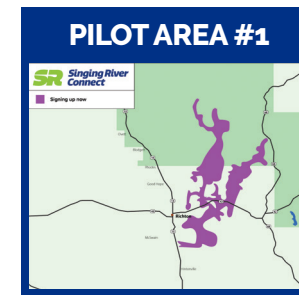
The winter heating period is when you see the most energy savings from a heat pump. A heat pump is not designed to turn on and off daily; it is designed to maintain the temperature setting in your home. We do not recommend adjusting the thermostat more than two degrees at a time. Your thermostat has an emergency heat setting which should not be used under normal conditions. When using the emergency heat mode your heat pump will not operate, and electric strips will heat your home at a considerably higher cost.

Freon is used to heat your home in the winter and cool it in the summer. Semiannual or annual maintenance agreements with local HVAC contractors are recommended to ensure your heat pump is operating at 100% efficiency in winter as well as in summer.

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 in February (Monday, February 28, 2022).

We are opening fiber sign-ups in more of the pilot areas!



These maps show current fiber sign-up areas in purple*. They include all of the first pilot project in the Brewer community and half of the second pilot in the Vestry community. The portion in Vestry is along Highway 57 North.

If you are in one of the pilot areas listed above and are eligible to sign up:

1. Call 877-272-6611 to speak to a SR Connect fiber customer service representative.
2. Complete and return your service agreement and make your initial payment.
3. Once that is complete, they will schedule your drop installation (fiber service constructed to your home or business).
4. The final step will be scheduling a home installation once your drop installation is complete.

**National Forest Service areas are not included as a sign-up area even though they display purple on the map. Great news! We have received the NFS permit and expect to begin signing up in that area by mid-February.*

Projected Dates for Fiber Construction

Pilot project 1 - SRE Brewer Substation Area

All** feeders (fiber lines leading out from Brewer substation) in this area are in Step 7 - Scheduling Installations.

Pilot project 2 - Aleco Substation Area (Vestry Community)

The Highway 57 North feeder is in Steps 5 and 6 - Taking sign-ups, scheduling Service Drops and Splicing. The Lake-O-Pines feeder is in Step 4 - Splicing and is projected to begin sign-ups in mid-February.

Pilot project 3 - Agricola Substation Area

The Highway 63 North feeder is in Step 3 - Fiber Construction. The Movella feeder is also in Step 3 - Fiber Construction.

(Note: These are projected dates and are subject to change due to weather and many other factors.)

***NFS lands will begin sign-ups mid-February. They are currently in Steps 3, Fiber Construction, and 4, Splicing.*



Amazon Echo Show Giveaways

Congratulations to Dee Myrick who won an Amazon Echo Show 5 in the SRE Brewer substation - Cochran Road feeder SR Connect fiber sign-up drawing! All in this feeder who subscribed for SR Connect fiber service by January 12, 2022, were entered to win.

Fiber subscribers in the SRE Brewer substation's Camp 8 Road and Union Road feeders who signed up for SR Connect fiber internet by February 28, 2022, will be entered into separate drawings for an Amazon Echo Show 5. Eligible subscribers will receive mailed postcards and emails once they are eligible to sign up and about this promotion.



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:

Dickerson Sawmill Substation - Highway 63, Dickerson Sawmill Road, Brushy Creek Road, and surrounding areas.

Sunplex Substation - Highway 57, Brown Road, and surrounding areas.

Rocky Creek Substation - Highway 98, Rocky Creek Road, Highway 63, and surrounding areas.

Fountainbleau Substation - Highway 90, Old Spanish Trail, Old Shell Landing Road, 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, "Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve."

Singing River Electric employees answered the call for service with three days of service. The first was held at the Jackie Leverette Memorial tennis courts in Leakesville. Tasks performed included painting the court's scoreboard, bleachers and benches.

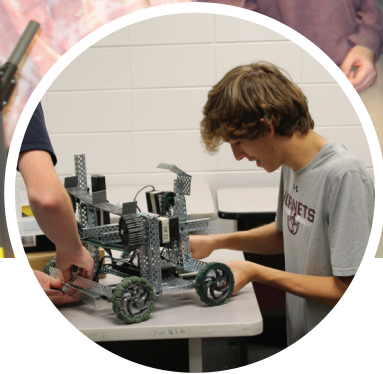
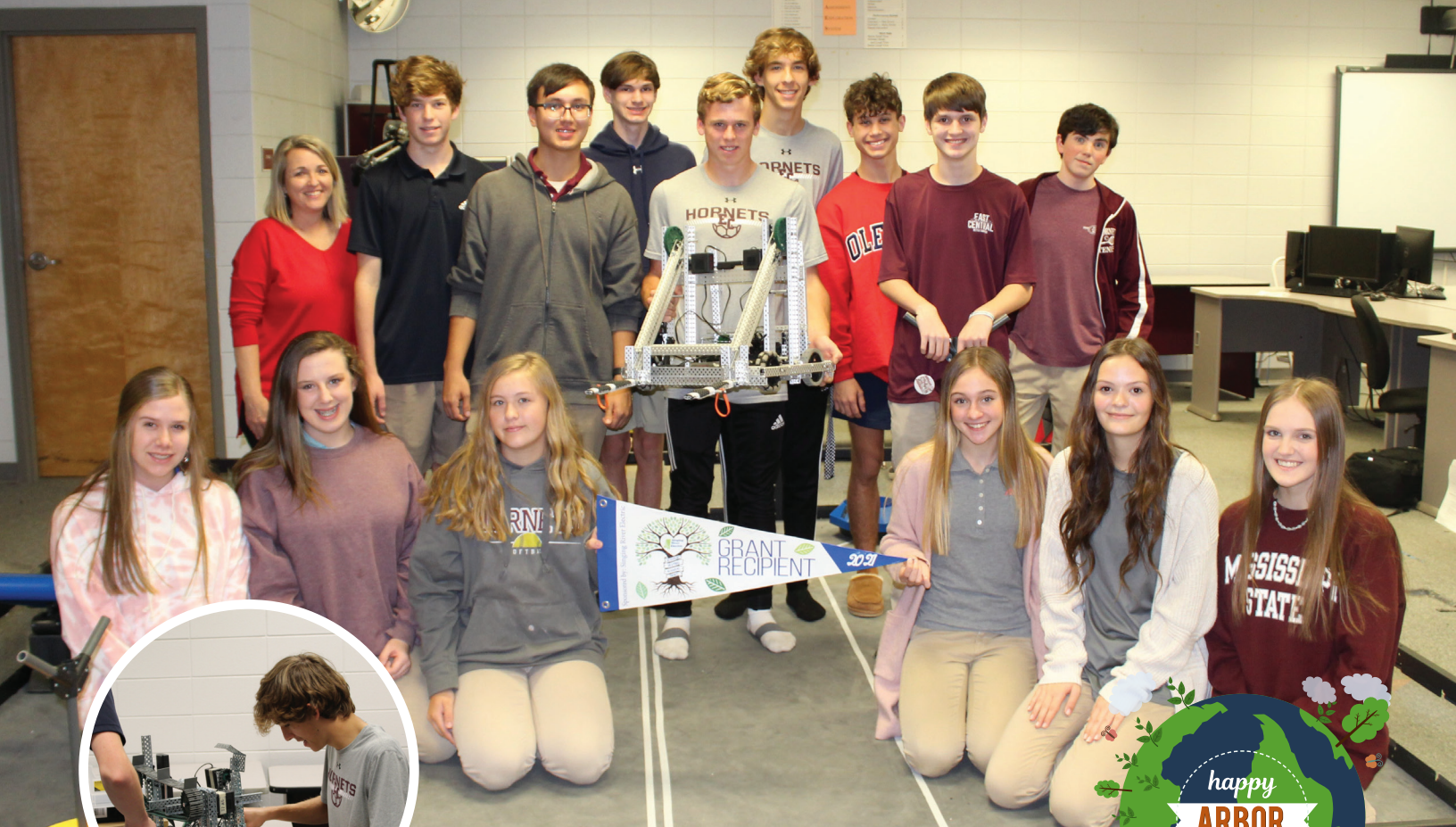
The second and third service projects were at the Wilkerson Ferry West boat launch in George County and Bennett Bayou Preserve in Jackson County. SRE employees worked to cut grass, trim weeds, pick up trash and generally clean up the area, including the artesian well at the boat launch location.

"It feels good to give back, but it's also about pride in your community," said Singing River Electric General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey. "Serving our local communities is part of our electric co-op heritage; and as employees we live and work in these communities. This is where we call home."

Singing River Electric was joined in the Co-op Days of Service annual event by Cooperative Energy, Coast Electric, Dixie Electric, Magnolia Electric and Southern Pine Electric. They completed similar acts of service including serving at community kitchens, collecting diapers, assisting at a local animal shelter and more.

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

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”



Encouraging tech skills through design, programming, and teamwork

SRE NHN Grant benefits East Central High School Robotics Team

NHN Community Grants

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) Community Grants help Singing River Electric merge efforts with the hard work of those within our communities.

Since the program's inception in 2001, \$324,641.22 has been awarded to local non-profits in local communities.

The engineering program at East Central High School began in 2014 and has expanded throughout the years to include manufacturing processes, product design, robotics, and automation. A \$2,477 Singing River Electric Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant has allowed the robotics team to get back to robotics competitions.

"We have three teams and actually took first, second, and third out of 17 teams at our first competition," explains Tammy Sampson, teacher, and robotics team sponsor. "We are so thankful for this grant—it has allowed us to purchase a new robotics system and get our students back to competitions."

For more information on SRE NHN Community Grants and how to apply, visit singingriver.com/my-community. Grants for up to \$2,500 are awarded to nonprofits in SRE's service area three times a year in January, May and September.

Mississippi celebrates Arbor Day February 11

Although National Arbor Day is celebrated in April, Mississippi has been celebrating Arbor Day in February since 1926 as a special day to recognize the statewide contributions of trees and forests. Mississippi celebrates in February because late winter is the best time to plant new trees in our region. This increases the survival rate by giving young trees time to establish their root system before spring begins.

In 2020, forestry was the third most valuable agriculture industry in the state with a value of \$1.12 billion. Trees cover 19,700,000 acres in Mississippi. Arbor Day represents hope for the future; trees provide clean air and water, cooling shade, habitat for wildlife, healthier communities, and endless natural beauty — all for a better tomorrow.