



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

# Looking back at 2023

As we near the end of the year, I've been reflecting on your electric cooperative's accomplishments during 2023. This year presented challenges and opportunities, and as expected, Singing River Electric's employees stepped up and made the most of every situation.

From an operations standpoint, our employees implemented system upgrades, as defined in our long-range work plan, to allow for projected load growth on our electric distribution system. Some examples of this work include upgrading copper lines to the more durable aluminum wire, upgrading tie lines to allow for better system reliability, and installing fiber optic lines from our 45 substations to our three offices allowing for real-time monitoring of substation equipment.

Equally important was the necessary maintenance performed on Singing River Electric's distribution system. Over the past year, our linemen continued conducting line inspections to address any deficiencies on the system. Singing River Electric partnered with Cooperative Energy to use infrared technology to inspect substations during the summer heat. These inspections identified potential issues early and allowed our linemen to make proactive

repairs, reducing both outages and inconveniences to our members.

The same fiber optic infrastructure connecting our substations and offices is allowing our subsidiary, Singing River Connect, LLC. to grow at a rapid pace. With assistance from contractors, SR Connect has provided high-speed fiber internet service to more than 6,000 subscribers. Fiber internet is available in 13 of Singing River Electric's substation areas and is delivered over 2,574 miles of fiber that have been constructed to date.

Singing River Electric continued its support for our communities through programs that provide education, assistance, and value to members, such as Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant and energy assistance programs, projects and events with community and conservation partners, such as the Pascagoula River Audubon Center, and a variety of youth leadership and educational programs. As your electric cooperative, we will continue our efforts to enrich the communities we serve in the years to come.

On behalf of the Singing River Electric family, we wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**by Brian Hughey**

General Manager and CEO

## Energy Tips



**Gabe Robbins**  
Energy Services Representative  
[robbsins@singingriver.com](mailto:robbsins@singingriver.com)

### Is your home ready for winter?

Did you know that 45-55% of your electricity bill in winter months is directly tied to heating your home? We have already had a taste of cold weather this fall. Now is the time to review a home preparedness checklist before winter begins on December 21.

- ✓ Making small changes can help ensure your home's efficiency this winter. Visit [singingriver.com/ways-to-save](http://singingriver.com/ways-to-save) for seasonal tips that can help you, including installing a smart thermostat, closing drapes at night, using extra blankets on beds so you can lower your heating setting while you sleep, and closing garage doors to keep out cold winds.
- ✓ Seal gaps, cracks, and holes to keep cold air from coming into your home. You can do this yourself with items from the local hardware store. It comes in the form of caulking guns and tubes of caulk used to seal windows, insulating spray foam to seal gaps and around piping, and weather strips to seal around exterior doors.
- ✓ Check your home's insulation. Good insulation can be an inexpensive way to reduce your electricity bill in the winter. You can visibly inspect attic insulation to see if it has been trampled or damaged or if you need to add more.
- ✓ Give your heating system a checkup. Schedule an annual heating system/heat pump checkup with a local HVAC vendor. They will clean your system, if needed, and ensure it is ready to run efficiently. A checkup can also find problems early and save you the inconvenience of a breakdown during severe cold weather. Also, heating is one of the largest costs contributing to your power bill. If the unit is running efficiently, it will save you money.
- ✓ Wrap hot water pipes that are not in an insulated or interior area. Depending on how far the water must travel and whether it is in interior spaces, you can be losing heat. Adding insulation around hot water pipes can raise the temperature of the water by 2-4 degrees and save you money.

For more tips and ways to save, visit [singingriver.com/ways-to-save](http://singingriver.com/ways-to-save).



## Youth Leadership Cooperative University

Singing River Electric hosted its youth leadership Cooperative University on October 19. High school juniors nominated by their schools learned about the cooperative form of business, how SRE provides power and restores outages, and Singing River Connect fiber internet.

A legislative panel discussion driven by student questions was a highlight of

the day. Thank you to Secretary of State Michael Watson, Senator Chris Johnson, and Representatives Manly Barton, Charles Busby, and Dale Goodin.

Each student also participated in a 10-minute interview. Based on participation and interviews, Makayla-Jade Mendez (Pascagoula High School), Vicky Vo (St. Martin High School) and Riley Tingle (Perry Central High School) were selected to attend the 2024 Cooperative Leaders Workshop in Jackson, Miss. and the Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

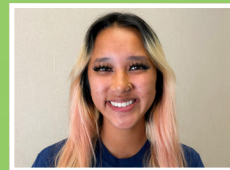


Scan to view the full story and more photos.



## SRE Cooperative Youth Leaders

These three students will attend the 2024 Cooperative Youth Leaders Workshop in Jackson and Youth Tour of Washington D.C.



**Vicky Vo**  
St. Martin High School



**Makayla Jade Mendez**  
Pascagoula High School



**Riley Tingle**  
Perry Central High School

## SRE Cooperative University Participants



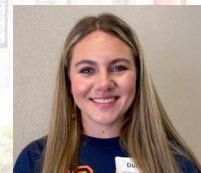
**Alysa Martinez**  
Ocean Springs High School



**Amelia Fairley**  
East Central High School



**Diana Pickens**  
St. Patrick Catholic High School



**Dusty McCoy**  
Greene County High School



**Gabriella Cochran**  
George County High School



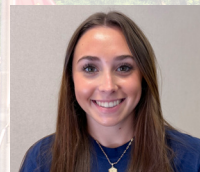
**Jasmine Loftus**  
Resurrection Catholic High School



**Jayce Gossett**  
Wayne County High School



**KyAsia Freightman**  
Gautier High School



**Lainey Margherio**  
Vancleave High School



**Mallory Henderson**  
Richton High School

[singingriver.com/mycommunity](https://singingriver.com/mycommunity)



## Fiber Construction Timeline

### STEP 1: Make-ready engineering

*Examine. Design.*

Forts Lake substation area



### STEP 2: Make-ready construction

*Planning the most efficient approach to fiber deployment.*

Benndale, Rocky Creek and Wade substation areas



### STEP 3: Construction

*Building a network from the ground up.*

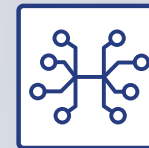
Lucedale North, Leakesville, Joe Batt and Vancleave substation areas



### STEP 4: Splicing

*Connecting the dots.*

Sand Hill, Big Point (Three Rivers, Highway 613N feeders), Frank Snell, and Cumbeast Bluff substation areas



### STEP 5: Service drop & drop splicing

*The last outdoor step. Almost there...*

Big Point (Highway 613S feeder), State Line, Kittrell and McLain substation areas and all previously opened areas



### STEP 6: Installation

*The speed of light, right to your home.*

State Line, Kittrell and McLain substation areas and all previously opened areas



**SR Connect is delivering lightning-fast, fiber internet.**

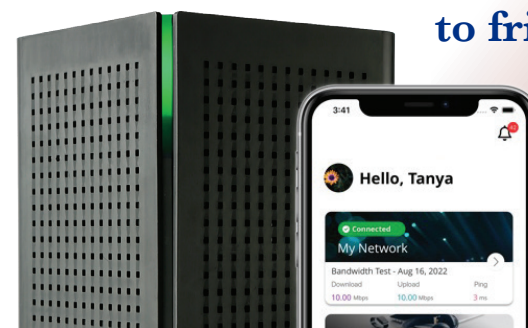
New fiber areas are announced by electric substation and feeder. You can search open fiber areas and your address for service at [singingriverconnect.com/signup](https://singingriverconnect.com/signup).

To find out which SRE substation and feeder serves your home, text SRE MSR during business hours at 228-591-9166. **Scan here!**



# THIS HOLIDAY STAY CONNECTED

to friends, family & devices



Sign up TODAY at  
[singingriverconnect.com](https://singingriverconnect.com)



## SR CONNECT SPONSORS WATER FOR GEORGE REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM GOLF TOURNAMENT

We are working hard to be out in the community to spread the good news about our lightning-fast fiber internet and local service. You just can't beat it!! Follow our Singing River Connect Facebook page as we announce newly open fiber areas and sign up right from your phone at [singingriverconnect.com/signup!](https://singingriverconnect.com/signup!)



**SR Singing River Connect**  
[singingriverconnect.com](https://singingriverconnect.com)





Leakesville Elementary School students and staff show off the new playground privacy screen, which adds safety and security thanks to a Singing River Electric Neighbors Helping Neighbors Grant.

## Privacy playground screen adds security for Leakesville Elementary

**Singing River Electric Neighbors Helping Neighbors Grant Funds campus improvements**

### Concern for Community

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, \$356,568.55 has been awarded to local non-profits in local communities.

The historic Leakesville Elementary School has housed area students since the sixties and is home to the largest student body in the Greene County School District. The campus playgrounds border the main road, and the pickup car lines wrap around the perimeter. "In the past, we've had issues with vehicles stopping along the fence to try and speak to students they knew," explains CharLee Cook, principal. "This can cause some safety and security issues for our students."

The \$2,139 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Grant allowed the school to purchase 1,400 feet of privacy screen and fasteners to attach to the current chain link fencing. "As a lifetime member of Singing River Electric and a former Youth Leadership representative, I know firsthand the positive outcomes that are realized by investing in future members," Cook adds.

For more information on SRE NHN Community Grants and how to apply, visit [singingriver.com/my-community](https://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.

# GIVE JOY



## this holiday season

Round up your electric bill and help a neighbor in need this holiday season and year round. It's easy! Simply check the NHN Energy Assistance box on bill payment stub, sign up using the SmartHub app on any mobile device, go online and visit [singingriver.com/give-joy](https://singingriver.com/give-joy) or call any SRE office and request to be enrolled in Neighbors Helping Neighbors Energy Assistance giving.

Donations average only \$6 per year and yet bridge the gap for the elderly and those needing a helping hand.

[singingriver.com/give-joy](https://singingriver.com/give-joy)

