



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

# Power cost adjustment increase due to wholesale power costs

Starting in January 2024, Singing River Electric billing statements included a power cost adjustment (PCA) increase of 3.2 mills or \$0.0032 per kilowatt-hour. This 'pass through' increase is due to our wholesale power provider's rising costs of operating and maintaining its power plants and transmission system. The new PCA will result in an estimated increase of \$3.20 for a residential member using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month.

Cooperative Energy, headquartered in Hattiesburg, is Singing River Electric's wholesale power provider. Cooperative Energy operates the power plants that produce electricity, as well as

the transmission lines that move that electricity to you. The cost of producing the electricity you use and moving it to you represents as much as 75% of your monthly power bill.

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. Singing River Electric and Cooperative Energy will continue to study our options and plan for future generation in an effort to assure reliability and to keep electricity costs as low as possible.



*by Brian Hughey*

General Manager and CEO

## Energy Tips



**Gabe Robbins**  
Energy Services Representative  
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### Vacant home efficiency during winter

With the cold weather, I'm often asked, "If I own a home that is vacant, what should I set my thermostat to?" My advice is if the temperature stays above freezing, you can set the thermostat in the vacant home to the off position. However, when temperatures drop below freezing, it is a good idea to keep the thermostat set closer to 50 degrees so pipes in the walls do not freeze. Depending on how well the home is insulated will dictate how much the unit runs to keep a set temperature.

A related question I'm asked involves water heaters in vacant homes. Although the heat escaping from a water heater amounts for about 5-10% of your bill, shutting off the water heater in a vacant home can save you money. Even when a water heater is not being used, heat escapes and triggers the heating element to come on and warm the water to the temperature selected. Water heater blankets and water heater timers are great ways to help reduce energy use.

Speaking of freezing temperatures, if you use a heat lamp in your pump house to keep your well from freezing and busting, keep in mind that running a 250-watt heat lamp for 24 hours will use around 6-7 kilowatt-hours. If you use these lamps, turn them off when temperatures rise above freezing each day.

### 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 the close of business on the last business day of February (Thursday, February 29, 2024).



## BEST BETS FOR WINTER SAVINGS

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.

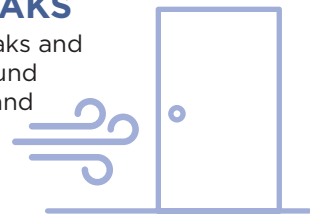
### UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE

Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.



### ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.



### USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER



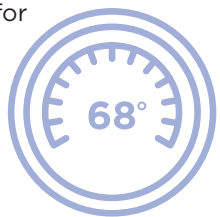
Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.

### MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT

Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

### LOWER THE THERMOSTAT

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).



## Questions about electric demand?



We have answers at [singingriver.com/understanding-demand](https://singingriver.com/understanding-demand)

- Electricity demand is different for every member.
- You can find your electricity demand in the top bar graph on the back of your bill. If you don't receive a paper bill, you can view your bill on the SmartHub app.



## Fiber Construction Timeline

### STEP 1: Make-ready engineering

*Examine. Design.*

Tucker Road substation area



### STEP 2: Make-ready construction

*Planning the most efficient approach to fiber deployment.*

Benndale, Wade, Forts Lake, Helena, Escatawpa South, and Helena Industrial substation areas



### STEP 3: Construction

*Building a network from the ground up.*

Rocky Creek, Lucedale North, Leakesville, Joe Batt and Vancleave substation areas



### STEP 4: Splicing

*Connecting the dots.*

Sand Hill substation area



### STEP 5: Service drop & drop splicing

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

Big Point, parts of Cumbest Bluff, Frank Snell, State Line, Kittrell, McLain substation areas, and all previously opened fiber internet areas



### STEP 6: Installation

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

State Line, Kittrell, McLain, Big Point, parts of Cumbest Bluff, Frank Snell substation areas, and all previously opened fiber internet 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!](#)



## SR CONNECT HOSTS LEARNING LABS

Singing River Connect hosted Learning Labs for existing and future subscribers in November 2023. These events introduced the new StreamNow tool on SRC's website that helps navigate through the many streaming options currently available and identify the ones that carry your favorite channels, including local news.



Other subjects covered included cybersecurity tips, smart home devices such as smart plugs and smart bulbs, and the benefits of the ProtectIQ and ExperienceIQ bundle for greater security and control over your home's Wi-Fi network.



**SR Singing River Connect**

[singingriverconnect.com](https://singingriverconnect.com)

## 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 power lines.

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

- **Fort Bayou Substation** – Fort Bayou Road, Yellow Jacket Road, Windsor Park subdivision, and surrounding areas.
- **Lucedale North Substation** – Highway 63, Beaver Dam Road, Highway 98, Fig Farm Road, and surrounding areas.
- **Ocean Springs Substation** – Highway 90, Old Spanish Trail, Ocean Springs Road, and surrounding areas.
- **Gautier Substation** – Highway 90, De La Pointe Drive, Old Spanish Trail, and surrounding areas.

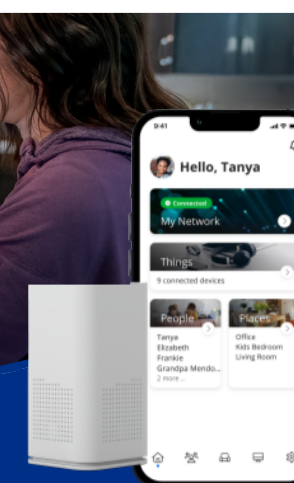


## Get the Wi-fi that works for you - and improves your life.

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City of Gautier representatives show off their new fire rescue chainsaw. Pictured left to right are Captain Maurice McClure, Firefighter Austin Graham, Mayor Casey Vaughan, Chief Josh Latch, City Manager Paula Yancey, Training Chief Josh Hill, Grants & Projects Director Kim Saucier, Deputy Chief Kevin Finn, Captain Jered Graham, and Firefighter Ian Goff.

## Enhancing public safety and rescue efforts

### NHN Grant benefits City of Gautier Fire Department

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

A \$1,539.99 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant from Singing River Electric allowed the City of Gautier to purchase a rescue chainsaw.

This specialized piece of equipment is designed exclusively for fire, rescue, and emergency service personnel. The immediate goal is to provide exceptional life safety capabilities to Gautier residents and visitors.

"The chainsaw is capable of cutting through glass, metal, roofing, wood, and other materials firefighters often encounter during rescue operations," said Fire Chief Josh Latch. "Rescue is the most important function of every fire department."

## Mississippi celebrates Arbor Day February 9



Although National Arbor Day is celebrated in April, Mississippi has been celebrating Arbor Day on the second Friday of February since 1926. 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.

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.