



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

More than \$5 million in capital credits being retired to SRE members

There are many benefits of being a member of an electric cooperative, and a major benefit is the retirement of capital credits. Singing River Electric Cooperative's (SRE) board of directors recently approved a retirement of more than \$3.5 million in SRE capital credits to our membership; this represents capital credits for the year 1998.

Our generation and transmission cooperative, Cooperative Energy, also returns capital credits to SRE members; they are returning \$1.56 million in capital credits to our membership for the year 1994.

What does this mean for Singing River Electric members?

As a member, you have a share in the earnings of your not-for-profit electric cooperative. SRE's rate revenue is used to operate, make payments on loans, and make improvements to the electric system. Any remaining revenue is allocated to the members in the form of capital credits. The amount of capital credits assigned to a member is based on the amount of electricity used during a particular year. When funding is available, Singing River Electric's board of directors can approve retiring a portion of a members' capital credits in the form of a bill credit or check; the same applies for Cooperative Energy. As always, this year's

retirement is dependent on potential tropical storms or hurricanes through the remainder of this year's storm season.

How do I get capital credits?

SRE members during the years 1994 and 1998, with an account that is still active and receiving a monthly billing statement, will automatically receive either a bill credit or a check depending on the credit amount. These members do not have to fill out any paperwork to receive their capital credits.

Previous SRE members who had an account during the specified years, but no longer have an active account, can visit our website at singingriver.com or call any SRE office between November 1 and December 31 to receive instructions and download the necessary paperwork to claim their capital credits. Completed documentation must be returned to SRE's Lucedale office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024.

We hope these returned capital credits help you and your family this holiday season. On behalf of our board and employees, I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving.



by **Brian Hughey**

General Manager and CEO

Energy Tips



Gabe Robbins
Energy Services Representative
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Heater settings for greater energy savings

Properly operating your heating system during colder months can make a difference with energy savings. Pay special attention to the thermostat setting. Do not confuse the "Heat" setting on your heat pump with the "EmHeat" (Emergency Heat) setting.



- **"Heat"** allows the heat pump to warm your house by capturing heat through the change from liquid to gas freon. This setting also allows the unit to avoid reliance on heating strips.
- **"EmHeat"** relies solely on the heating strips located in the furnace. This method of heating is much more costly than letting your heat pump do its job.

For maximum savings

- Set your heating temperature no higher than 68 degrees
- Avoid using the "EmHeat" setting
- Increase the temperature on your heat pump only 1-2 degrees at a time; turning it up by more than 2 degrees will cause your heating strips to cycle on.



AIDING HURRICANE HELENE POWER RESTORATION

An 11-man Singing River Electric crew traveled to Florida in late September to restore power outages after Category 4 Hurricane Helene.

The linemen first traveled to Talquin Electric Cooperative based in Quincy, Fla., where 55% of their 57,000 meters were without power after the storm.

The crew then traveled further east to help Central Florida Electric Cooperative based in Chiefland, Fla., who had more than 18,000 of their 35,231 meters without power.

Central Florida Electric posted this on their Facebook page shortly after the storm: "Crews have been working tirelessly, day and night, rain or shine, to clear the massive amounts of debris,

downed trees, and broken poles caused by Hurricane Helene. This is not just a repair job—it's a full-scale rebuild of our

electric system after a catastrophic, deadly storm. Restoration will be an extended process, and we urge everyone to practice compassion. Many of our neighbors have lost homes, businesses, and more. This will take the entire community coming together to recover."

"We were asked to send linemen to Florida following Hurricane Helene, and our answer was yes, as that is the cooperative way," said Singing River Electric General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey. "Our linemen are always eager to put their skills to use to restore power for fellow electric cooperative's members."



6th Cooperative Principle

COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

GET CONNECTED. STAY LOCAL.

With the Benndale and Rocky Creek substation areas now open for fiber internet sign-ups, all Singing River Electric members in George, Greene, Perry, Stone, and Wayne counties now have access to reliable high-speed internet from your trusted local provider!

Whether you are a Speed Fanatic, an Entertainment Enthusiast, or an Everyday Scroller, Singing River Connect has the perfect package to fit your home and business needs.



**Singing River
Connect**

Powered by Singing River Electric

ALL PACKAGES INCLUDE:

- Unlimited data
- Free installation – a \$200 value
- Equally fast upload and download speeds
- No equipment fees - modem and router included
- No annual commitments
- Free My SR Connect App to easily manage and monitor your network
- 24/7 tech support



[SINGINGRIVERCONNECT.COM/SIGNUP](https://singingriverconnect.com/signup)



**Singing River
Connect**

Fiber Construction Timeline - November 2024

Step 1: Make-ready engineering

Examine. Design.

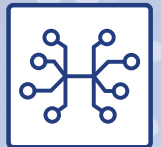
Bayou Cassotte and Kreole substation areas



Step 4: Splicing

Connecting the dots.

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



Step 2: Make-ready construction

Planning the most efficient approach to fiber deployment.

Monaco Lake, Fountainbleu, Singing River Mall, Gautier, and Hamill Farm substation areas



Step 5: Service drop & drop splicing

The last outdoor step. Almost there...

Wade, Benndale, Rocky Creek, Leakesville, Lucedale North, Vancleave, Joe Batt, and all previously opened areas



Step 3: Fiber Construction

Building a network from the ground up.

Sunplex, Ocean Springs, Gulf Park, Fort Bayou, Martin Bluff, Hickory Hills, St. Martin, and Tucker Road substation areas



Step 6: Installation

The speed of light, right to your home.

Wade, Benndale, Rocky Creek, Leakesville, Lucedale North, Vancleave, Joe Batt, and all previously opened areas



Blazing-fast fiber internet from local people you trust.

New areas are announced by electric substation and feeder; text a SRE member service rep. at 228-591-9166 to find out which one serves you. Visit singingriverconnect.com/signup to apply for service and to see all areas where SR Connect fiber internet is available.

VOLUNTEERING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Singing River Electric employees have been out and about in our local communities this fall – visiting with our members and partnering with local organizations.

Our efforts include registering voters at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College poll events as part of Co-ops Vote, attending the Lucedale Downtown Merchants Second Saturday event to talk about linemen work, and setting up for the Pascagoula River Audubon Center's Hummingbird Festival.



Best SMART HOME TECH on a budget

When upgrading to smart technology at home, consider the purchase cost as well as long-term savings over the lifetime of the appliance. Here are some smart devices that will take the work out of saving energy.

Smart thermostats save energy by automatically adjusting your heating or cooling system. For example, you can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling costs by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for eight hours a day, according to the Department of Energy (DOE). You can program a smart thermostat to change the temperature when you are asleep or away or use a smartphone app to adjust your thermostat settings. Some models use artificial intelligence to maximize efficiency by learning your patterns and preferences. Prices range from \$80 to \$250, depending on features. Smart thermostats do not work with all heating and cooling systems, so check compatibility before you buy.

Your **water heater** can also be controlled for energy savings. Installing a timer on your electric water heater can save 5% to 12% of the energy it uses by turning it off at night and when you don't need to use hot water, according to the DOE. If you are already planning to replace your electric storage

water heater with a heat pump water heater, consider a model equipped with smart technology features, including Wi-Fi capabilities for controlling it remotely or during peak demand times, viewing the amount of hot water available and tracking energy use.



Smart heat pump water heaters are equipped with automation features that help you use less energy. Photo Credit: Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

Smart lighting gives you the power to control lights in your home remotely or set a lighting schedule that fits your lifestyle. This can be beneficial for energy savings and provide home security benefits. If you or other members of your household are notorious for leaving lights on, smart lighting can help. Numerous features are available, including dimmable bulbs and color-changing effects.

Smart light switches are another budget-friendly way to control lighting. They're priced from about \$10 to \$50. Smart switches with dimmable options are available and can also control ceiling fans. Some have occupancy sensors that turn lights off when no movement is detected in a room.

A **smart plug** fits into any outlet to control whatever is plugged into it. Set them to automatically turn off and on or control them using a smartphone app. Prices range from \$8 to \$25.