



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

# The effects of this summer's heat wave

There is no doubt extreme temperatures came in abruptly this summer. Traditionally, it takes a while to see the extended hot temperatures we have already experienced. **In June alone, we felt 12 days of suffocating temperatures above 95 degrees.** Of those days, we exceeded the 100-degree mark three times! As a result, electric energy use by our members for the month of June set a 10-year record. Unfortunately, with the increased energy use at your home comes an increased power bill from your cooperative.

If these temperatures are any indication of what we can expect through October, we could be facing a particularly challenging summer in many ways. It's miserable trying to do anything outdoors after 8 a.m. The water temperature of the Gulf of Mexico rivals the temperature of bath water, and while I am no weather expert, this doesn't fare well for our tropical outlook later in the year. And, as already mentioned, the early heat wave has resulted in a high demand for electricity across the nation.

Power generation companies and those that work to stabilize our electric grid across the United States have annual plans to accommodate added seasonal electricity demand. Singing River Electric's power supplier, **Cooperative Energy**, as well as its regional transmission organization, **MISO**, are closely monitoring operating conditions this summer and have already taken actions to prepare for increased demand including delaying discretionary equipment maintenance, completing seasonal assessments/regular drills, and preparing emergency resources in the event they are needed. As the Electric Power Research Institute reported last year, hurricanes, extreme heat events, and extreme cold events are all becoming problematic for the energy

sector. However, the issues are not limited to weather. According to MISO, the generation fleet in our region of the United States has been shifting away from conventional baseload resources (coal and natural gas) toward weather-dependent, intermittent renewables. These power sources may not be available when they are needed the most. This is and will continue to be a challenge for power generation companies across our nation.

We will endure this summer heat and whatever it may bring together. If you have questions about your energy use or want to learn more ways to save on your bill, visit our website at [singingriver.com](http://singingriver.com). You can monitor your daily energy use on the SmartHub app. You're also welcome to give us a call or stop by one of our offices - our energy professionals are here and eager to help you.



by **Brian Hughey**

General Manager and CEO



## Energy Tips



**Jeff Gray**  
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### Prevent air infiltration

Infiltration, which is outside air leaking into your home, can impact your energy use significantly. Hot air comes inside through cracks and crevasses, and the air you paid to cool escapes outside. Having to cool more air causes your air conditioner to operate at longer intervals, raising your power bill. This can also increase humidity in your home. The same can happen in winter as heated air escapes and cold air enters, causing the heating system to run longer and electric bills to rise.

You can do several things to prevent air infiltration in your home:

- Make sure exterior doors are sealed with weather stripping and a good threshold seal.
- Add a door sweep if leaks are detected under the door.
- Caulk around all exterior windows. Seal any exterior holes (plumbing or electrical) with foam sealant such as Great Stuff.
- Seal inside the top of heater closets. Gas heater closets must be left open for ventilation.
- Add skirting to homes built off-the-ground to stop air flow under the home.

Visit [singingriver.com/ways-to-save](http://singingriver.com/ways-to-save) for more energy-saving tips.

# The power of working together and how it benefits you

As a member of Singing River Electric, you can take comfort in knowing that you are part of a large network of power companies that work together to provide you with affordable, reliable power. Here's how it works:



**1** Singing River Electric and 10 other electric cooperatives across the state are partners with another electric cooperative known as Cooperative Energy.

**2** Cooperative Energy operates the power plants that produce electricity, as well as the transmission lines that move electricity to you.

**3** Because these 11 cooperatives are joined as one mutual source of power, your service is more affordable and reliable than it would be if each system operated alone.

**4** Cooperative Energy is part of MISO, an even larger network that joins it with other power companies in the U.S. and Canada.

These companies work together to produce electricity for everyone from Mississippi to Manitoba at the lowest possible cost, and to make sure electricity is readily available.



# POWER in MEMBERSHIP

## 2022 Annual Meeting held June 30

Singing River Electric held its 2022 Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 30.

During the meeting, General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey reviewed the highlights from 2021 and shared some of the co-op's accomplishments and plans for 2022.

SRE linemen restored outages after local weather events and helped fellow electric cooperatives after storms. Employees volunteered for several projects inspired by the Concern for Community cooperative principle. SRE will add texting as a communications method for outages and member service. Cooperative Energy continues to meet the energy requirements for Singing River Electric and its other distribution cooperatives, and partner with MISO to balance electricity supply and demand. Regarding fiber, a SCADA system connecting all SRE substations and offices is underway, and SRE's board approved Phase 2 for SR Connect, which will bring high-speed fiber internet to more than 12,000 potential subscribers.

Meeting attendees participated in

board elections online, by SmartHub app, by mailed-in proxies and in person at the annual meeting. Three Singing River Electric members were elected at the meeting to serve three-year terms on the cooperative's board of directors. One board member was elected to represent District 1, one was elected to represent District 2, and one was elected to represent District 3.

- **Stanley R. Busby, District 1**
- **Ronald R. Wilson, District 2**
- **O. Howard Davis, District 3**

For a full list of board members, visit [singingriver.com/my-coop/#board](https://singingriver.com/my-coop/#board).

Singing River Electric members Milton Driskell, Linda Eckford, Philip Busby, Obie Wells, and Richard Fleming served on the 2022 Credentials and Election Committee. This committee reviews and approves board candidates, oversees elections, and sees first-hand the efforts made to be transparent when conducting the business of the electric cooperative.

To view the 2021 SRE Annual Report, visit [singingriver.com/my-coop](https://singingriver.com/my-coop).

### SRE 2021 highlights

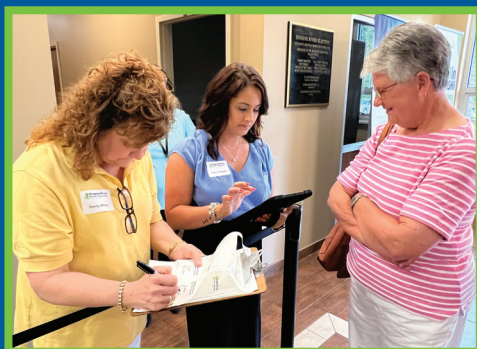
- Began building the Cumbest Bluff substation in north Jackson County.
- Began construction of a SCADA system connecting all SRE substations and offices to provide real-time data to minimize outage response times and give engineers greater control over the system.
- Retired \$2.5 million in capital credits for the year 1995; Cooperative Energy retired \$1.5 million in capital credits for the year 1991 and partial returns for 1994, 2006, and 2007.
- Commissioned nine solar home installations.
- Awarded nearly \$20,000 in NHN Community Grants to local nonprofits.
- Assisted many fellow cooperatives during 2021: Magnolia Electric and Southwest Electric after Winter Storms Uri and Viola, Central Electric and East Mississippi Electric after thunderstorms, and Magnolia Electric and South Louisiana Electric following Hurricane Ida.
- Certified 47 Comfort Advantage homes.
- Awarded 227 heat pump rebates.
- Completed 400 energy audits.
- Partnered with Cooperative Energy to place a two-vehicle, Level 2 EV charging station in Lucedale.
- Answered more than 140,000 SRE member calls.
- Added prepay as a payment option for those who want to pay in advance for electricity as they go.
- Re-cleared 930 right-of-way miles to ensure reliable service to all members.
- Awarded scholarships to local students through chamber of commerce programs.
- Hosted Cooperative University and selected three high school juniors for the 2022 youth leadership program and Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.
- Cleaned up several local boat launch areas, planted trees, distributed bare-root seedlings, and assisted with a local food pantry and a Boys and Girls Club.

### SRC 2021 highlights

- Completed construction of nearly 800 miles of fiber lines by SR Connect contract crews.
- Connected 1,000 fiber internet subscribers throughout Greene, George, Perry, Wayne and Jackson counties.
- Moved into Phase 2 of fiber construction in 2022. Substation areas in construction will be announced as they open for sign-ups.

#### 2022 Annual Meeting Membership Meeting Prize Winners

\$500 winner: Boyce Kendrick of Vancleave. \$250 winners: John Bilbo of Pascagoula, Paul Cole of Moss Point, Martin Hathorn of Lucedale, Barbara Reid of Leakesville, James Newman of Lucedale, and Ione Atkinson of Gautier.



Top left: SRE member service representatives register a meeting participant.

Top right: Members who regularly attend the annual meeting are like family, and we love seeing them each year.

Left: Annual membership meeting attendees learn more about SR Connect's high-speed internet service.



# Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi's 35th YOUTH TOUR

A group of 63 rising high school seniors from all over Mississippi traveled to Washington, D.C. in June to attend the 2022 NRECA Youth Tour.

Gianna Pierce of Ocean Springs High School, William Rasberry of George County High School, and Sarah Jean Scarse of Resurrection High School were Singing River Electric's youth representatives.

The trip was the culmination of the students' participation in the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi's Youth Leadership program.

The program instills leadership skills, inspires creative thinking, encourages community service, and introduces students to lawmakers that represent their communities.

During the program workshop in Jackson in March, the students had the

opportunity to meet and hear from state legislators. During the trip to Washington, D.C., the students met and spoke with their U.S. senators - Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith.

While in Washington, D.C., the students and adult chaperones visited historic sites, monuments, and museums, explored Capitol Hill, and had an opportunity to learn about the impact electric cooperatives have on their communities.

The students were chosen by their hometown electric cooperatives. The Youth Leadership Program is fully funded - including the trip to D.C. - by the local electric cooperatives as a commitment to molding future leaders for Mississippi and the state's local communities.

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Students and teachers at the Jackson County Exceptional School are proud of their living lab.

## Supporting children with special needs

### SRE NHN Grant helps Jackson County Exceptional School offer hands-on gardening experience

#### 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, \$333,842.12 has been awarded to local non-profits in local communities.

Special-needs students at the Jackson County Exceptional School can now experience hands-on gardening with wheelchair-accessible raised beds and a boardwalk.

The \$1,845.83 grant was used to build a living lab with raised flower and vegetable beds, a rain collection system, composting area, worm farming, and a sensory garden area. The school has served children in Jackson County with disabilities for 50 years.

"What we envisioned for our students has been made possible with this grant," explains Dr. Leslie Beaugez, special education teacher. "Opportunities for hands-on learning through exploration and experimentation can be especially beneficial for children with special needs."

## How is my power restored?

To restore power to many people quickly, utilities follow a standard restoration plan. First, transmission lines that carry high voltage electricity to substations are checked for damage, while other employees scout storm-affected areas to assess the damage. Employees are pre-assigned areas to speed restoration. Hospitals are given high priority when possible, and restorations work outward from the substations toward your home.

For more information, see the Storm Ready Fact Sheet available at [singingriver.com/storm-and-outage](http://singingriver.com/storm-and-outage).

## What is the fastest way to report an outage?

Using the SmartHub mobile app can speed restoration time by directly entering your outage information into our system. Dispatch is then able to assign your power outage for faster repairs. Download the SmartHub app at [singingriver.com/smarthub](http://singingriver.com/smarthub).



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