

cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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EmPOWERing our members

“I’ve always taken care of myself. I don’t like to ask for help.” This is a common refrain among people who have found themselves in need of assistance. Whether they have suffered the loss of a job or a decrease in their household income, the economy has affected many residential customers in Maryland.

SMECO has programs to help residents save energy and save money through

EmPOWER
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SMECO joins the Youth Tour. From left to right: Tyreen Agnew, Ariel Queen, Ahana Mack, and Charnice Frazier. Read more about the Youth Tour on page 3.



EmPOWER

CONTINUED

the Co-op's EmPOWER Maryland programs. The Limited Income Energy Efficiency Program was

designed to help customers save energy at home.

Kim Lawson of Lexington Park has recently benefited from SMECO's Limited Income program. Although Kim has a full-time job, she was unable to afford the investment required to replace her heat pump and obtain a comprehensive energy audit. She had received an offer in the mail from SMECO, but she was reluctant to call. "I was embarrassed to ask for help, but one of my co-workers convinced me to check into the program." After determining that Kim qualified for the limited income program, the pieces fell into place.

The energy auditor conducted a blower door test to measure air infiltration into the home. He used energy analysis software to ascertain the most cost-effective improvements to make, because every home is unique. Improvements included installing a high efficiency heat pump and adding attic insulation and rim joist insulation on the exterior wall areas. Air sealing reduces infiltration so that outside air doesn't cause drafts and make the heating and cooling system run longer. A water heater blanket and pipe insulation reduce the amount of energy used to heat water. Low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators reduce the amount of water being used to help save on water heating. And, of course, compact fluorescent lights reduce lighting costs.

SMECO has EmPOWER Maryland programs for every type of customer: residential, limited income, and commercial customers with appliance rebates, refrigerator and freezer recycling, lighting discounts at local stores, new homes and existing homes. Visit our website at www.smeco.coop for rebate forms and program details.



SMECO takes four students to the Youth Tour in D.C.

Each year, SMECO takes four high school students—one from each county we serve—on the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. This year Alyana Mack, Charnice Frazier, Ariel Queen, and Tyreen Agnew joined chaperones and SMECO employees Charlie Herbert and Natalie Brown from June 13 through June 17 for the 2010 Youth Tour. The goal of the Youth Tour is to help students learn more about our government in action during their week-long study tour of the nation’s capital. Students are selected based on counselor recommendations and adherence to established criteria.

Cooperatives began sending students to Washington in 1957 in part because of comments made by then-Senator Lyndon Johnson at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) annual meeting in Chicago that same year. As many states began sending students, the NRECA decided to coordinate the program and send all of the students from the various cooperatives at the same time. The first year of the coordinated tour was 1964, and approximately 400 young people from 12 states attended. Since that time, the Youth Tour has continued to grow, and in 2010, there were almost 1,500 young people and chaperones in attendance from all over the United States.



College scholarships awarded

Each year, SMECO awards four \$1,500 college scholarships to high school seniors who live in the Co-op's service area. SMECO awards scholarships based on applicants' scholastic achievement, financial need, and school and community involvement.

SMECO has awarded each of the following students a \$1,500 college scholarship.

Joy Williams, daughter of Judith Williams of Waldorf, is a senior at North Point High School. Joy participates in numerous activities including All-County Honors Choir, Key Club, and cross country racing. Joy has supported her community as a member of her Youth Group, Church District Youth Committee, and Seminary Class. She has received recognition through the Principal's Honor Roll and the National Society of High School Scholars. She has also volunteered at a local hospital and nursing home. Joy plans to study medicine and forensic science at Brigham Young University in Utah.

Monica Dureja, daughter of Anita Dureja of Owings, is a senior at Northern High School. She has participated in the Future Business Leaders of America, Student Government Association, National Honor Society, and girls' lacrosse. She has volunteered with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Calvert Country School, Tri-County Animal Shelter, Calvert Hospice, and as a math tutor. Monica is an honor roll student who has been recognized for her achievements by the National Honor Society. She has been an intern in the office of Dr. Aarti Patel, an oncologist, and plans to study oncology at George Washington University.

Cali Copsey, daughter of James and Susan Copsey of Leonardtown, is a senior at Leonardtown High School. She has participated in cross country and has won recognition as captain of the team, rookie of the year, first team all-conference, and first team all-county. Cali has received Minds in Motion awards

for cross country and track and field. She has been recognized as a Maryland Distinguished Scholar and received a Chemistry Achievement Award. She is a member of the National Honor Society and leader of the Peer Development Program. Cali plans to study engineering at Christian Brothers University.

Kaitlyn Kistler, daughter of James and Valerie Smith of Lexington Park, is a senior at Great Mills High School. She has participated in March of Dimes, American Red Cross, Relay for Life, and Special Olympics programs and fund raisers. Kaitlyn led a fundraiser for Heifer International to raise money to provide livestock to third world countries. She served as president of the National Honor Society and as a Student Government Association representative. Kaitlyn was a member of the National Art Honor Society and won a photography award. She plans to attend St. Mary's College of Maryland to study biology.

SMECO provides scholarships to local students who excel academically and who show promise in their chosen field of study. Past scholarship winners include teachers, nurses, and a medical doctor.

Load management program ending

SMECO is filing a request to end the existing load management program on air conditioning units and water heaters. This program and the corresponding monthly credits on participants' bills will stop at the end of December 2010. In place of the older load management program, SMECO is transitioning to a new and more effective program—CoolSentry, which could help avert energy shortages in the community during hot summer months.

Participants in CoolSentry receive a programmable thermostat and \$50 in annual electric bill credits while they help protect the environment and keep electricity rates lower longer. Visit smecocoolsentry.com for more information.

plug into Green

Windows are a large source of heat gain in the summer, making air conditioning units work harder and increasing your bill. Increase the energy-efficiency of your windows without the cost of replacement by following some cost-effective tips:

- Control air leaks with caulking or window stripping.
- Install shades, shutters, or drapes to reduce heat gain and reflect heat away from the house.
- Close curtains during the day.
- Awnings, exterior shutters, or screens can also be used to reduce heat gain in the summer.
- Apply sun-control or other reflective films.

around **TOWN**

September 11

Point Lookout

Lighthouse Open House

Sponsor: Point
Lookout Lighthouse
Preservation Society

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Point Lookout State Park,
Scotland, MD

No charge to enter the
lighthouse, but standard
park entrance fees apply.

301-872-5688

www.PLLPS.org

Woodland Indian

Discover Day

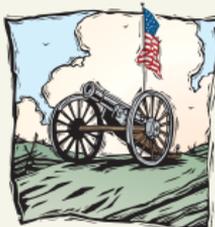
Sponsor: Historic
St. Mary's City

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Historic St. Mary's City
Admission fee required
for anyone 5 and older.
Hands-on activities from
archery and dancing to
pottery and tanning.

240-895-4990

www.stmaryscity.org



September 18

The War of 1812

Reenactment

Sponsor: Jefferson Patterson
Park and Museum

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Experience the site
of Maryland's largest
Naval engagement!

All ages will enjoy this
living history event with
demonstrations of battle
reenactments and camp
life. Hands-on activities.

Admission Fee.

www.jefpat.org

Tavern Night

Sponsor: Jefferson
Patterson Park and
Museum

6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Come unwind in our
version of an 1800s
tavern. Admission Fee.

410-586-8515

www.jefpat.org



Visit www.smeco.coop/community/aroundtown for more events.

Pet Loss Support Group

Sponsor: Hospice of Charles County, Inc.

10:30 a.m. to Noon
Humane Society of Charles County
Register in advance.

301-934-1268

hospiceofcharlescounty.org

Friends of the Poor — Walk a Mile in My Shoes

Sponsor: Saint Vincent de Paul Society

9 a.m.
Father Andrew White School, Leonardtown
Pledges made on behalf of registered walkers in a given community will benefit those most in need in that same community. Come join us for live music, free post-walk brunch, face painting and door prizes.

301-904-7990/301-904-7990
www.walkforthe poor.com

September 25

RiverFest

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Historic St. Mary's City
Route 5



Free admission. All ages. No registration.

Discover your maritime heritage, the beautiful St. Mary's River, and 101 ways to protect and play in the Tidewater landscape.

800-SMC-1634/240-895-4990
www.stmaryscity.org

September 26

Annual Parish Dinner

Sponsor: Sacred Heart Catholic Church

1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Sacred Heart Catholic Church Friendship Room

301-934-2261

Watt an Idea!



Susie

In the summer, Susie tapes brand new, heavy-duty aluminum foil at the top of each of her windows with the shiny side facing out. She places the foil at the top because this is the spot where the sun is the most intense.

“My energy-saving tip is probably unorthodox, but I do it and we do notice a difference,” Susie said. “It’s amazing how much cooler and how much less the air conditioner has to run.”

Want to share your energy-saving idea?
E-mail jonna.jones@smeco.coop.



Your neighbors are doing it

Join us Wednesday, September 1, at the Blue Crabs Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf for the Co-op’s Annual Meeting. Register and vote from 3 p.m. until 7:30 p.m.

After you vote, you can also learn about our many energy-conservation programs, sign up for a Quick Home Energy Check-up or CoolSentry, and enjoy entertainment provided by local performers, including Sam Grow and the Port Tobacco Players’ Encore Kids.