

Cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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Beating the heat with CoolSentry

The summer of 2010 delivered extreme heat and long periods of humid, hot, and hazy days. In July, SMECO's customer-members faced 18 days of 90-plus degree heat—putting extra pressure on the air conditioning units and heat pumps of Southern Maryland, and exponentially increasing the demand for power. Peak demand times occur when everyone uses a lot of electricity at the same time.

CoolSentry
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SMECO worked with the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum in Calvert County to provide a safe nesting alternative to a local osprey. SMECO currently has 62 osprey platforms in Southern Maryland to help ensure the safety of these and other native and migratory birds. See page 3.



CoolSentry

CONTINUED

Thanks to the 16,000-plus customer-members who are currently participating in the CoolSentry program,

SMECO was able to offset the increased demand and beat down our peak usage. CoolSentry is a load management program where SMECO installs a programmable thermostat in your home. If you already have a programmable thermostat, a digital cycling unit is placed on the outdoor unit of the central A/C or heat pump. When the circumstances for high demand are present—those hot, hazy, humid days—SMECO operates CoolSentry, which cycles the A/C or heat pump.

By reducing load on peak demand days, SMECO saves money for all customer-members.

This year we can reduce our demand between June 1 and September 30 by 13 megawatts each time we operate CoolSentry, achieving an estimated savings of \$840,000 during the summer. This savings is passed back to customer-members through the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). As participation increases, the megawatt reductions will grow, and the savings will increase as well.

Conservation events will only occur during times of peak electricity demand, between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. from June 1 through September 30. We are limited to 100 hours of events per season. The number of events can vary and an event can last up to 6 hours. Typically, the program is not activated on weekends or holidays unless there is a system emergency. In addition, customers receive up to \$50 in thank-you bill credits each season for participating.



For more information about the CoolSentry program, or to sign up to help your neighbors reduce consumption during peak demand, visit www.smeco.coop/CoolSentry or call 1-866-921-9474.

SMECO linemen build safer housing for osprey

As a cooperative, our priorities include concern for the community. One of the ways we protect our environment is to install alternative nesting locations for local ospreys, a protected bird of prey. On August 13, linemen arrived at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum to install two osprey platforms for birds who had built their nest atop the paint booth exhaust chimney.

SMECO installed the poles and platforms and recommended placing a deterrent on the chimney to persuade the ospreys to relocate their nest and keep them from rebuilding on the chimney in the future. SMECO is permitted to remove osprey nests as long

as no eggs or young birds are inside. The main goal of SMECO's Avian Protection Plan is to protect migratory birds from electrocution.

Left: Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum had two archaeologists on hand to sift through the upturned soil and ensure no artifacts were damaged or lost in the excavation of the pole sites. Below: SMECO linemen assemble the ospreys' new home.



Above: The existing osprey nest.

Left: Local ospreys have responded favorably to the platforms.

Need help paying your electric bill? Help is available!

Having trouble paying your electric bill? You may be eligible to participate in one of two payment programs offered by the State of Maryland.

If you qualify for the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) or the Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP), you may receive payment assistance. EUSP participants are required to be enrolled in a monthly budget payment plan. MEAP customers have the option to participate in a special budget payment plan offered through the Utility Service Protection Program (USPP) that is designed to safeguard MEAP customers from termination of service during the winter.

To find out if you qualify for a MEAP or EUSP grant, apply at your local Office of Home Energy Programs. The locations and phone numbers are listed below. Be sure to call ahead to obtain an appointment to fill out the necessary paperwork.

If your electricity has been turned off, you may be able to be reconnected and placed on a MEAP or EUSP budget payment plan. If you fail to make your monthly payments after being placed on a payment plan, you can be dropped from the program and your service can be turned off.

MD Office of Home Energy Programs

Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee

8371 Leonardtown Rd., Business Rt. 5, Hughesville

410-535-1010

Calvert County

301-274-4474

Charles County

301-475-5574

St. Mary's County

301-870-3770

Metro Line

Prince George's County Department of Social Services

805 Brightseat Road, Landover

301-909-6300

Pr. George's County

Apply for assistance in person at the Energy Assistance Fair

Select a convenient date and location
to apply in person for energy assistance.

No appointment necessary!

Wednesday, October 6

9 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

**SMECO's Hughesville
Headquarters Auditorium**

15035 Burnt Store Road
Hughesville, MD 20637

Wednesday, October 13

9 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

SMECO's Leonardtown Office

23365 Hollywood Road
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Wednesday, October 20

9 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

SMECO's Prince Frederick Office

901 Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Representatives will be available to assist in filling out applications. **Please bring the following with you to apply for energy assistance:**

- **photo identification**
- **copies of social security cards** for all household members, including children
- **proof of all household income** for the last 30 days
- **copy of your most recent electric bill** and other heating bills showing the name of your energy supplier and your account number
- **copy of your lease** (if you rent)

Income eligibility standards apply.

plug into Green

Fall is the perfect time to prepare your home for the cold winter months ahead. Before the temperatures dive, take this opportunity to make sure your house is at its most efficient.

- Weatherize doors and windows with caulking and weatherstripping to prevent cold air from entering your home. Also use locks on your windows to make them tighter and draft resistant.
- Have your heat pump professionally serviced at least once a year.
- Make sure ductwork is sealed and insulated.
- Keep the area around the outdoor unit of your heat pump clear by removing leaves or snow that can build up and impede the airflow.

around **TOWN**

October 2

Best Buddies

Friendship Walk

Sponsor: Best Buddies MD
8916 Chesapeake Ave.
North Beach
Registration: 9 to 9:45 a.m.
Walk begins: 10 a.m.
Games (including lunch):
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
No registration fee.
bestbuddiesmaryland.org

October 2-3

43rd Annual Blessing of the Fleet

Sponsor: 7th District
Optimist Club
St. Clement's Island
Museum Grounds
38370 Point Breeze Road
Coltons Point
www.7thdistrictoptimist.org



Oktoberfest

Sponsor: Hospice of
Charles County
Oct. 2, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.;
Oct. 3, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Charles County Fairgrounds
Family friendly event
featuring live German
entertainment, beer, food,
contests, kids area, and
much more!
301-934-1268
www.oktoberfestcc.org

October 9

Chopticon High School Showcase of Bands

Sponsor: Chopticon High
School Band
Noon to 10 p.m.
Chopticon High School
Morganza, Maryland
Chopticon High School
to host a United States
Scholastic Band Association
(USSBA) Marching Band
Competition.
571-259-1046
www.chopticonband.org



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

Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy Alumni Reunion

Sponsor: Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy

Noon to 4 p.m.

Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy School Grounds
Admission fee.

301-475-8029

www.lhjna.com

Fall Craft Fair

Sponsor: La Plata Vol. Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary

9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, 911 Washington Ave., La Plata
Donation requested.

301-934-4329

October 14–16

Ghosts of Sotterley Tours

Sponsor: Historic Sotterley, Inc.

First tour at 7 p.m.

Sotterley Plantation

301-373-2280

www.sotterley.org

October 16

Militia Muster

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rt. 5, St. Mary's City

Admission fee. Children under five are free.

800-SMC-1634

www.stmaryscity.org

Second Annual Fall Festival

Sponsor: Church by the Chesapeake

1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

3255 Broomes Island Road
Port Republic

410-495-7500

October 16–17

44th Annual St. Mary's

County Oyster Festival

Sponsor: Lexington Park Rotary Club

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.,

Sunday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.,

St. Mary's County

Fairgrounds. Admission fee.

301-863-5015

www.usoysterfest.com

Sign up today to receive a Quick Home Energy Check-up

The Check-up includes a one-hour walk-through of your home by a professional who will check:

- insulation levels
- air tightness
- heating and cooling systems
- windows
- doors
- appliances

You will receive a summary to show you how to reduce the amount of energy used in your home. You may also receive up to six energy-saving items such as smart strips, compact fluorescent lights, a water heater tank wrap, faucet aerators, or pipe insulation (eligibility requirements apply). The Quick Home Energy Check-up is available to all SMECO customer-members as part of your existing service.

Visit www.smeco.coop/save to sign up for your Quick Home Energy Check-up or call **1-877-818-4094**.



This program supports the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act.

Additional rebates and savings are also available.

For information about federal tax credits, visit www.irs.gov.

For additional information about saving energy, visit www.energy.state.md.us.