

cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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Blazing, blistering, boiling...July was a scorcher

Records for high temperatures were broken all along the East Coast in July 2011, and those high temperatures drove the demand for electricity up. SMECO's CoolSentry program kicked in to combat the high prices that go along with electricity purchased at peak demand times. Peak demand times occur when everyone uses a lot of electricity at the same time—frequently those blazing, blistering, boiling days.

Blazing
continued page 2

“While focusing on customer needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities....” One of many reasons to celebrate being a member of an electric cooperative this October during National Cooperative Month. More on page 4.



PJM Interconnection manages the high voltage transmission system in all or part of 13 states and Washington, D.C. serving 58 million consumers through the utilities in the mid-Atlantic region, including Maryland. PJM set a new record for peak power use on July 21, at 5 p.m. when PJM utilities met the demand for 158,450 megawatts (MW) of power. *That means that in one hour, people in the PJM region used roughly the amount of power that Switzerland uses in a typical day.*

PJM uses load management to meet the high demand for electricity and ensure reliability on the grid over the peak hour. Under load management programs, utilities sign up their own customers who voluntarily agree to reduce electricity use when needed. Our load management program is CoolSentry.

We operate CoolSentry during PJM conservation events, and when demand is high. By reducing load during peak periods we are able to reduce peak prices and maintain reliability on the grid—saving money for all customer-members.

Thanks to our 25,000-plus CoolSentry participants, we were able to reduce load by up to 21 MW during each of the 10 conservation events held so far this season, which runs from June 1 to Sept. 30. More than half of these events occurred during the July heat wave.

CoolSentry is a load management program where we install a programmable thermostat in the home or a digital cycling unit on the outdoor unit of the central A/C or heat pump. When the circumstances for high demand are present SMECO operates CoolSentry, which cycles the A/C or heat pump. Customers receive up to \$50 in bill credits each season for participating.

SMECO notifies participants about conservation events through our Facebook and Twitter pages, or participants can sign up to receive an e-mail notification by sending a request to info@smeco.coop with “CoolSentry Notification” in the subject line.

For more information or to sign up, visit www.smeco.coop/CoolSentry or call 1-866-921-9474.

Make bill paying easier

SMECO has many options to make paying your bills easier. Two of these programs are our Even Monthly Payment Plan (EMPP) and our online bill pay.

Want to take the wonder out of your electric bill? Sign up for the EMPP and we will bill you in even monthly payments. It's easy to join, simply submit your completed EMPP enrollment form. Once you are accepted, we will begin to bill you in even monthly payments. Accounts are reviewed annually and adjusted accordingly.

You can request enrollment at any time as long as you meet the eligibility requirements and make your request in writing. You may also terminate your participation at any time.

Are you eligible?

- You must be billed under SMECO's **residential** rates.
- Your account must be paid in full at the time the EMPP payments begin.
- Your electric bills at that location must total \$300 or more for the most recent 12 consecutive months.
- In the absence of a 12-month history for the location, you may be accepted on the EMPP when a reasonable estimate can be made by SMECO.

For more information or to obtain an enrollment form, visit www.smeco.coop and select *Even Monthly Payment Plan* under the *Your Account* drop-down menu. You can also call 1-888-440-3311.

Another way to make bill paying easy is to utilize online billing. You can sign up to view and pay your SMECO bill online. Pay your bills automatically each month if you use your checking account, or you can go online each month and pay with your credit card (Visa, Discover, or MasterCard).

Accounts with a past-due balance can not be paid online. Want to pay your bill online? Visit www.smeco.coop and select *Online Bill Payment* under the section titled *Your Account*.

Celebrate national Cooperative month this October!

Cooperatives are the backbone of this country, and each October, cooperatives of all types celebrate their role in shaping America. Cooperatives are tied to their communities in ways most other businesses are not because they are owned and controlled by the very people who use the services offered.

What does it mean to be a member of a Cooperative?

Cooperatives follow the Rochdale Principles, also know as the Seven Cooperative Principles, which are:

- **Voluntary and Open Membership:** Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.
- **Democratic Member Control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership.
- **Members' Economic Participation:** Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.
- **Autonomy and Independence:** Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.
- **Education, Training, and Information:** Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers, and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.
- **Cooperation Among Cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working



together through local, national, regional, and international structures.

- **Concern for Community:** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

As a cooperative, SMECO is motivated by service to our members, not by profit—all surplus revenues are returned to our customer-members in the form of capital credits.

Electric cooperatives took root in America after President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935. Today there are more than 900 electric cooperatives that provide reliable and technologically advanced service to more than 40 million Americans.

If you get an electric bill from SMECO, you are more than a customer... you are a member of this cooperative and an owner of SMECO.



First pitch winner on 811 night

Jared Rebarchick throws out the first pitch during 811 night at the Blue Crabs game on August 11, 2011.



Get the most benefit from your programmable thermostat. Install your thermostat away from heating or cooling registers, appliances, lighting, doorways, fireplaces, skylights and windows, and areas that receive direct sunlight or drafts. Interior walls are best.

Source: www.energystar.gov

around **TOWN**

October 1

Calvert County 4H

Livestock Auction

Sponsor: Calvert County 4H Livestock Auction Committee

5:30 p.m. Calvert County Fairgrounds. Support local 4H children by purchasing a lamb, goat, steer, or hog.

410-535-0026

calvertcountyfair.com

Basket Bingo

Sponsor: St. Mary's Bryantown School

6 to 10 p.m., St. Mary's School, 13735 Notre Dame Place, Bryantown. Doors open at 6 p.m. Early bird games at 6:45 p.m. Regular games start at 7 p.m. Must be at least 7 years old to play. **\$ Admission.**

301-870-1868

bryantown.org

October 1-2

Riverside WineFest at Sotterley 2011

Sponsor: Historic Sotterley

Noon to 6 p.m. Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood. Wine tastings from over 20 Maryland wineries, local

artisans, live music, exhibits and demos. **\$ Admission.**
301 373-2280, sotterley.org

October 8

Craft Fair

Sponsor: La Plata VFD Ladies Auxiliary

9 a.m. to 2 p.m. La Plata VFD, 911 Washington Ave., La Plata. Crafts, a bake sale, and a raffle. \$1 donation requested at the door.

October 9

Feel the History

5K Race/Walk

Sponsor: Point Lookout Lighthouse Preservation Soc.

9 to 11 a.m. Point Lookout State Park. Kids younger than 12 walk free with a participating adult.

\$ Admission.

301-684-3704

pllps.org

Fall Craft and Vendor Show

Sponsor: The Bay District VFD and Associates

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 46900 S. Shangri-La Dr, in the social hall, next to the library.

301-737-5242

bdvfd.org



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

October 15–16

Civil War Comes to St. Mary's

Sponsor: Historic SMC

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Historic St. Mary's City Experience wartime with living history activities.

\$ Admission.

240-895-4990

stmaryscity.org/events.html

October 21

School Day and Off to the Races

Sponsor: Friends of Old Waldorf School

6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Greater Waldorf Jaycees Center, US 301 N, Waldorf Buffet dinner, reverse drawing, hobby horse races, and more. **\$ Admission.**

301-645-5564

October 21–22

Ghosts of Sotterley Tours

Sponsor: Historic Sotterley

Tours begin at 7 p.m.

Sotterley Plantation

New script each year.

Reservations required.

\$ Admission.

301-373-2280, sotterley.org

October 22–23

Oktoberfest

Sponsor: Society for the Friends of Hospice

Oct. 22: Noon to 7 p.m.

Oct. 23: Noon to 5 p.m.

Charles County Fairgrounds

Contests include biggest beer belly, Miss Oktoberfest, and keg toss. **\$ Admission.**

301-934-1268

oktoberfestcc.org

October 23

Quarter Mania Auction

Sponsor: Hollywood Vol.

Rescue Squad Auxillary

Doors open at noon, games

start at 1 p.m. Hollywood

Vol. Rescue Squad. Food

and snacks will be available

for purchase. **\$ Admission.**

301-536-0619

October 29

Grave Matters

Sponsor: Historic SMC

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Historic St. Mary's City

Colonists provide a glimpse

into 17th century life and

death in a fun and haunting

event. **\$ Admission.**

240-895-4990

stmaryscity.org/events.html

Get ready for Energy Efficiency month

October is Energy Efficiency month. Take advantage of October's cooler temperatures and get your house ready for the cold, blustery winter ahead. Little changes around your house can make a big difference in the energy efficiency of your home.

- Weatherize doors and windows with caulking and weather stripping to prevent cold air from entering your home. Also use locks on your windows to make them tighter and draft resistant.
- Have your HVAC equipment serviced professionally 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.
- Change your air filter regularly, at least every three months, preferably monthly.
- Install a programmable thermostat.
- Consider installing ENERGY STAR® qualified heating and cooling equipment.

Small changes add up and every effort made to save energy and save money counts. Make sure to keep lights and appliances turned off when not in use. Replace incandescent light bulbs with ENERGY STAR® qualified compact fluorescent lights in high-use fixtures.

For more tips and information on ways you can save energy and save money, visit www.smeco.coop/save.