

# cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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## SMECO solar farm nears completion

SunEdison is making substantial progress on the construction of the solar farm in Hughesville.

The 5.5 megawatt (MW) project covers 33 acres on a 47-acre site owned by SMECO. Installation of the racks that will support the 280-watt panels has been completed and crews are now working to install approximately 23,580 solar panels atop the racks.

**Solar**  
*continued page 2*

*In late 1979 and into early 1980, flatbed trucks began arriving at the Leonardtown office with the steel poles for the section of 230-kV line to be built between Lovellville and Lexington Park. Learn more about SMECO history in Al Gough Jr.'s book, *Lighting Up Our Lives: The History of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative.**



**SMECO**  
People. Power. Progress.™

SMECO  
**75**  
YEARS

## Solar

CONTINUED

Delivery of the racks began in early September and the modules began arriving later that same month. Expected completion of the project is by the end of 2012.

SMECO is subject to the Maryland Renewable Portfolio Standard, which requires that a certain percentage of our energy load be provided by renewable energy or the equivalent Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). One REC is equal to 1,000 kilowatt hours (1 MWh) of renewable generation. Beginning in 2012, all solar RECs must be generated within the state of Maryland. Operating the solar farm is the most cost-effective way to meet SMECO's solar REC obligation.

The output for the solar farm's first year is expected to be 9,229 megawatt hours (MWh), which exceeds our solar REC obligation of 9,062 MWh for 2013.



***Above:** This will be a concrete pad for the DC to AC inverter and SMECO's transformer. There will be six of these pads in the solar plant. **Below:** Solar panels that have been installed.*





## Reliability project update

The 230-kilovolt (kV) Southern Maryland Reliability project is moving ahead on schedule. Installation of poles from the new Sollers Wharf substation north through St. Leonard Shores will be completed during the month of November, and beginning in mid-November a helicopter will be employed to string the wires between the poles. Access road construction is ongoing through Prince Frederick and will continue northward to our Holland Cliff station for the rest of the year. After the roads are completed, foundations will be installed and crews will start setting the poles along the next segment of the route. View the timeline and route map, and read more detailed information on the project at [www.smeco.coop/reliability](http://www.smeco.coop/reliability).

## Knowledge is power when it comes to customer choice

The Electric Customer Choice and Competition Act of 1999 gives Maryland electric customers the ability to choose their electric power supplier. If you choose to buy power from another electricity supplier, the cooperative still continues to distribute the power, maintain and service the electric lines, read your meter, and bill you for electric distribution service.

SMECO uses a portfolio approach to purchasing power, aggregating power supply agreements with a variety of suppliers to purchase energy. The cost for electric power is a pass-through cost, meaning the cooperative does not make a profit on energy costs.

Visit [www.smeco.coop/customerChoice.aspx](http://www.smeco.coop/customerChoice.aspx) to learn more about Customer Choice.

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# Just one dollar a month could help your neighbor

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We know that part of being a good neighbor is to lend a hand when needed, and we know our customer-members share this charitable spirit. For people who have fallen on hard times, receiving enough money to pay past due electric bills can make a big difference.

By contributing to Members Helping Members,

*“I contribute to help people who are trying to make ends meet. Everyone needs a helping hand now and then.”*

*—Yvonne G.,  
SMECO member*

you can help other SMECO customer-members to keep their lights on. Members Helping Members is a program

where customers in Southern Maryland can help their neighbors who are struggling to pay their electric bills throughout the year.

## How does it work?

It's easy! Simply sign up to add \$1, \$5, or \$10 to your SMECO electric bill every month.

Each month, the accumulated donations will be sent to the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, which will administer the funds to those customer-members who seek aid and meet the qualifications. Only SMECO customer-members who meet the eligibility requirements will receive assistance to pay their electric utility bill.

If you would like to donate just \$12 a year, you can sign up to enroll in Members Helping Members. Just call 1-888-440-3311, go online at [www.smeco.coop/ourCommunity/membersHelpingMembers.aspx](http://www.smeco.coop/ourCommunity/membersHelpingMembers.aspx), or sign up in person at the customer service counter at a SMECO location. If you would like to make a lump-sum donation to Members Helping Members, you may send a check to Members Helping Members, P.O. Box 1937, Hughesville, MD 20637. Participants can opt out at any time.



## Keep your family safe this holiday season

The holidays are right around the corner, and SMECO wants everyone to have a safe and happy holiday season. From Thanksgiving to New Year's Day, please keep safety in mind. Here are a few simple tips to remember.

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.
- In homes with small children and pets, take special care to avoid sharp or breakable decorations.
- Don't use frayed or damaged electric cords, and never use electric lights on a metallic tree.
- If you have a live tree, make sure it always has an adequate amount of water, and keep it away from any source of heat.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Avoid using candles; they are a primary cause of house fires during the holidays.

SMECO cares about your safety. Please have a safe and fun-filled holiday season.



**Celebrate the season with savings on energy-efficient lights and appliances!** With SMECO rebates up to \$350 on qualified ENERGY STAR® clothes washers, refrigerators, water heaters and other appliances, you'll save now and reduce your energy costs for years to come. Visit [SMECO.coop/save](http://SMECO.coop/save) for details.

## around **TOWN**

### **Dec. 1**

#### **Joyful Paws Holiday**

#### **Open House**

Sponsor: Calvert Animal Welfare League

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

1040 Prince Frederick Blvd., Prince Frederick

Bring your family and pets for a fun-filled day. You can take your picture with Santa or visit with dogs and cats for adoption. Also featured will be a holiday yard sale, vendors, baked goods, raffle baskets, food, and more.

[cawlrescue.org](http://cawlrescue.org)

### **Dec. 3**

#### **Lecture: The Power of History**

Sponsor: Historic St. Mary's City

7 to 8 p.m.

Historic St. Mary's City, 18751 Hogaboom Lane.

Ruth J. Abram, founder of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, will discuss "The Power of History" to address contemporary social issues.

[stmaryscity.org](http://stmaryscity.org)

### **Dec. 5**

#### **Concert and Open House**

Sponsor: Historic

St. Mary's City

7 to 9 p.m.

Historic St. Mary's City State House. St. Maries Musica harmonies in the decked-out halls of the State House.

Doors open at 6 p.m.

240-895-4990

[stmaryscity.org/events.html](http://stmaryscity.org/events.html)

### **Dec. 7-8**

#### **Solomons Christmas Walk/ First FREE Friday**

Sponsor: Calvert Marine Museum

6 to 9 p.m.

Calvert Marine

Museum, Solomons.

Enjoy entertainment, refreshments, Santa, holiday crafts, and shopping in the museum store on both nights. Santa's Coffee House will be open on Saturday with complimentary hot tea, coffee, hot cocoa, and holiday cookies. Museum is open free from 6 to 9 p.m.

410-326-2042

[calvertmarinemuseum.com](http://calvertmarinemuseum.com)



Visit [www.smeco.coop/ourcommunity/aroundtown.aspx](http://www.smeco.coop/ourcommunity/aroundtown.aspx) for more events.

### **Dec. 7–9, 14–16**

#### **Madrigal Dinners**

Sponsor: Historic  
St. Mary's City

6 p.m. each night.

Historic St. Mary's City

Feasting, fun, and beautiful  
music. **\$ Admission.**

240-895-4991

[stmaryscity.org/events.html](http://stmaryscity.org/events.html)

### **Dec. 8**

#### **6th Annual**

#### **Christmas Market**

Sponsor: All Saints  
Episcopal Church

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All Saints Episcopal Church,  
100 Lower Marlboro Rd,  
Sunderland, MD.

Come for handmade  
treasures from local  
craftsmen. Plenty of free  
parking at the church. Also  
available: hot spiced wine,  
hot chocolate, home-baked  
goodies, and 50/50 raffle.  
Proceeds benefit parish and  
community projects.

410-257-7694

[allsaints1692.org](http://allsaints1692.org)

### **Dec. 15**

#### **Carols of Christmas and Songs of the Season**

Sponsor: The Sanford  
Concert Series

7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

St. Andrew's Episcopal  
Church, California

Come out for an  
evening of seasonal  
music presented by  
members of The  
Washington National  
Opera, Two Rivers  
Harmony, and The  
Cosmic Flute Choir.  
Wassail and treats of  
the season to follow at a  
reception after the concert.

**\$ Admission.** Children  
younger than age 5 are free.  
[sanfordconcertseries.com](http://sanfordconcertseries.com)

### **Dec. 25**

#### **Christmas Day**

SMECO offices closed.

Our Contact Center is  
available 24/7.

1-888-440-3311

[www.smeco.coop](http://www.smeco.coop)

## Final golden ticket prizes

November's golden tickets represent a harvest salute featuring local agricultural businesses.

**Alvey Brothers Farms** has donated a prize of 30 lbs. of Alvey Brothers Farm gourmet sausage—15 lbs of country sausage and 15 lbs of Italian sausage. Prize is valued at \$110. They have been providing Southern Maryland with the highest quality farm fresh products for six generations. Their long experience shows in their hogs, as they use absolutely no steroids or growth hormones. Visit [alveybrothersfarm.com](http://alveybrothersfarm.com).

**Morris Point Restaurant** has donated a \$100 gift certificate to their restaurant—a quiet retreat only minutes from Leonardtown. Sink your teeth into Southern Maryland's freshest seafood at the fairest prices. A small place with a big heart! Morris Point Restaurant serves delicious local homemade seafood where portions are abundant and prices are reasonable. Visit their website at [morris-point.com](http://morris-point.com).

**Forever Eden** is providing assorted organic skincare products valued at \$80. Forever Eden believes in the power of nature. Their products have no artificial ingredients, chemicals, color, or fragrances. Their collection is 100 percent organic—so natural, you could eat most of them! They handcraft great items for men, women, and children from scratch in their Southern Maryland facility. Visit [myforevereden.com](http://myforevereden.com).

Win a harvest basket of locally grown fruits and vegetables from **Zekiah Farms** valued at \$75. Fill your holiday table with this deluxe assortment of seasonal fruits and vegetables, honey, and naturally raised USDA-inspected meats. Zekiah Farms is located on Bryantown Road in Charles County. Visit their beautiful on-farm store, open Wed.–Sun. Learn more at [zekiahfarms.com](http://zekiahfarms.com)

**Serenity Farms** donated \$75 worth of natural, pasture-raised beef, lamb, or pork. The Robinson Family has owned and operated Serenity Farm since 1965. Natural and pasture-raised, Serenity Farm Beef, Lamb, and Pork are creating a sensation in Southern Maryland and are sold year round. The farm meat is processed at a USDA facility. Visit [serenityfarminc.com](http://serenityfarminc.com)

