

cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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Looking back and charging forward

A year-end message from President & CEO Austin J. Slater, Jr.

The year 2012 marked the 75th anniversary of SMECO and it was recognized as the International Year of Cooperatives by the United Nations. This designation reflects the acknowledgment by the international community that cooperatives “drive the economy, respond to social change, are resilient to the global economic crisis

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Richard Berry, Joshua Trueman, John Trueman, George Duckett and Sauls Berry Claggett at Joshua Trueman's Sawmill in Aquasco, Maryland, circa 1910. 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

and are serious, successful businesses creating jobs in all sectors,” according to 2012.coop, the official website of the International Cooperative Alliance for the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives.

Looking back at the past year, we celebrated our continued commitment to our cooperative roots. Even as we celebrated 75 years of service to Southern Maryland, we look forward to the continued advancement of this community.

As part of our 75th anniversary celebration, we hosted a 75-mile bike ride on June 2, with additional 29-mile and 47-mile routes available for the 375 people registered. In March, youngsters participated in anniversary events by submitting artwork based on the theme, “What can you do to help save energy?” The scavenger hunt throughout the month of May took interested customer-members through our service area to learn facts about local history while visiting local landmarks and parks. Each month also featured a set of golden ticket prizes sponsored by local businesses and awarded to randomly selected residential customer-members. For a list of our valued local sponsors, see page eight of this newsletter.

Reliability project advances

The Southern Maryland Reliability Project calls for upgrading SMECO’s existing 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to 230 kV. This upgrade will ensure reliable power for SMECO’s customer-members with a minimal effect on current rates or the environment. Total project length is 30 miles, including two miles of transmission cable that will be installed under the Patuxent River. The project will complete a continuous 230-kV loop through our service area, providing increased reliability and better flexibility to move power around in the event of an outage.

SMECO hosted several open houses and visited with homeowners’ associations prior to the beginning of construction in spring 2012. In early March, work began on the Sollers Wharf substation, with contractors clearing trees and brush from

approximately 10 acres of the 40-acre site and grading the area.

Construction for the first four-mile segment — from the Sollers Wharf substation heading north — is nearly complete. In May, crews began building temporary access roads, foundations were poured, poles installed, and conductors strung by the end of November.

Access road construction is ongoing through Prince Frederick and will continue northward to our Holland Cliff station through the end of 2012. After the roads are completed, foundations will be installed and crews will start setting the poles along the next phase of the route. View the timeline, route map, and more detailed information about the project at www.smeco.coop/reliability.

SMECO solar farm powers up

Construction of the SMECO Solar’s photovoltaic generation facility was completed in mid-November 2012 and crews began the testing phase. The solar farm is expected to be operational by the end of 2012. The project covers 33 acres of a 47-acre site and contains 23,716 280-watt panels that will produce 5.5 megawatts (MW).

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). Beginning in 2012, all solar RECs must be generated within the state of Maryland. Operating the solar farm is the most economic and reliable way to meet SMECO’s solar REC obligation.

Output for the solar farm’s first year is expected to be 9,229 megawatt-hours (MWh), which exceeds our estimated solar REC obligation for 2013.

Bits and pieces

On top of the many projects to enhance service and performance, SMECO and our customer-members weathered a derecho and a side swiping by one of the costliest hurricanes in history. We know that our cooperative is prepared for the increased demand of our customer-members and anything Mother Nature can throw our way.

The days are colder and your bills may be higher

Winter's chill is upon us and cold weather means higher energy usage, which translates to higher energy bills.

There are several things you can do to control energy consumption when the weather is cold. To save energy and save money this winter, try these tips:

- Find the coolest comfortable setting (we recommend 68°F) on your programmable thermostat and leave it there. Manually changing your thermostat more than three or four degrees may cause your auxiliary heat to come on, which costs more to run because the resistance heat elements cost more to operate.
- Make sure to clean or replace the filters on your heating system monthly.
- Do not set your heat pump to run in emergency heat mode or auxiliary heat mode, because the resistance heat elements cost more to operate.
- Keep exterior doors and windows closed.
- Keep window blinds and curtains open during the day to let in sunlight, but close them at night to keep cold air out.
- Use bathroom exhaust fans only when needed. They pull warm air and humidity out of the house.
- Keep snow and leaves away from the outdoor unit of your heat pump.
- Have your heating system professionally serviced on a regular basis to keep it operating efficiently.

Remember: energy use varies based on many factors, including the amount of insulation and the type of heating system in the home, as well as the type of appliances you use. Adjusting your energy use on cold weather days can help control winter electric bills.

Reliability project gets a high-wire act in November

Beginning November 14, many residents in Calvert County may have seen a low-flying helicopter near SMECO's 230-kV transmission line. This activity represented the next phase of construction on our Southern Maryland Reliability Project. A small MD 500-class helicopter was used as we installed the lines on the new 230-kV poles from the substation at Sollers Wharf north through St. Leonard Shores.

The helicopter had an attachment in the rear that pulled lead lines, one at a time, starting on the bottom of one side of the poles. Once the helicopter pulled in the four lead lines on one side, SMECO's contractor used the lead lines to pull the new conductors. The process will be repeated on the other side of the poles once the conductors are attached to the insulators and the rollers are moved. This method of construction is quick, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly, reducing vehicular traffic through environmentally sensitive wetlands.

View the timeline, route map, and more detailed information about the project at www.smeco.coop/reliability.





Get a head start on your New Year's resolutions with a SMECO Quick Home Energy Check-up.

A check-up professional will do a one-hour visual inspection of your home to evaluate opportunities to help you save energy and money. Plus you'll get energy-saving measures like CFLs, pipe insulation, and smart strips. Schedule your check-up today at SMECO.coop/save.

aroundTOWN

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

Jan. 1
New Year's Day

Jan. 21
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

SMECO offices closed. Our Contact Center is available 24/7.
1-888-440-3311 • www.smeco.coop



Have you ordered your piece of local history?

In celebration of the 75th anniversary of providing service to Southern Maryland, SMECO commissioned a historical book, as well as an original painting by local artist Mary Lou Troutman. These items are limited in quantity; don't miss your opportunity to have your piece of Southern Maryland history.

Lighting Up Our Lives: The History of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative by Al Gough Jr. is a journey through the history of the electrification and transformation of Southern Maryland from rural farm land to its modern-day incarnation. Through political maneuvering, blood, sweat and tears, natural disasters and lucky breaks, the people who built these lines and Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative throughout the years will come to life on each page. The book is available for \$8.48 per copy.

The painting is an original created by Mary Lou Troutman depicting both the Bushwood Post Office and a SMECO line truck from the early days of the cooperative.



The three print sizes are matted. Prices and available sizes are:

- 8"x10": \$5.30 (+\$5 s/h)
- 11"x14": \$10.60 (+\$5 s/h)
- 18"x24": Signed and numbered prints are only available at the SMECO offices.

To obtain your copy, visit our website for more information at www.smeco.coop/history, visit the cashier window at any of our regional offices, or mail a check (please add \$5 for shipping and handling) to:

SMECO, 75th anniversary
P.O. Box 1937
Hughesville, MD 20637

Thank you for celebrating 75 years with us

From scavenger hunts to corn mazes, we want to thank our customer-members and local businesses for supporting and participating in our celebration throughout the year. Each month, local businesses donated prizes for our golden ticket giveaways. We would like to take a moment to acknowledge them one more time for their generosity.

- Addie McBride, Franzen Realtors
- Alvey Brothers Farms
- The Apple Basket
- Back Creek Inn
- The Bike Doctor
- Black Belt Academy of Prince Frederick
- Blair's Jewelry & Gifts
- Café Des Artistes
- Camp Merrylande
- Capital Clubhouse
- Captain Billy's Crabhouse
- Chesapeake Pet Resort & Day Spa
- Cecil's Country Store
- Classic Images
- Dickinson Jewelers
- Dyson Building Center
- Everything Amish
- Forever Eden
- The Galleria
- Golden Renaissance Jewellers
- Glover's Septic
- The Greenery Nursery
- Hair It is Salon & Spa
- The House of Dance
- Images Photography By Darrin Farrell
- The Inn at Brome Howard
- Jerry's Place
- Josen Jewelry & Home Boutique
- Maertens Fine Jewelry
- Mama Lucia
- Maximum Fitness
- Morris Point Restaurant
- Mr. Tire, Mechanicsville
- Mr. Tire, Prince Frederick
- Mr. Tire, California
- Mr. Tire, La Plata
- Mr. Tire, Waldorf
- Patuxent Adventure Center
- Prime Street Grille
- Rick's Jewelers
- Serenity Farms
- Tractor Supply Co.
- Tracey Eno Massage
- Vera's White Sands and Beach Club
- Victorian Candle Bed & Breakfast
- Zekiah Farms

