

cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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Increase your comfort and safety—and reduce energy use by up to 20 percent

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® takes a whole-house approach to improving your home's comfort, energy efficiency, durability, and safety—while reducing its energy

Energy

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SMECO will be holding its Second Annual SMECO 75 Bike Ride on June 1, 2013. All proceeds will be donated to a local organization. More information is included on the back cover. Pictured at right are several riders who participated in the inaugural ride in celebration of SMECO's 75th anniversary.



SMECO
People. Power. Progress.™

SMECO
75
YEARS

consumption. Rather than focusing on a single problem—such as an outdated heating and cooling system, inadequate insulation, or drafty rooms—Home Performance with ENERGY STAR employs a comprehensive home energy audit. The audit uses diagnostic tests that will identify specific improvements that can make your entire home more comfortable and save you money.

The Home Performance energy audit for just \$100* (a \$400 value)

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR looks at your home as a system. Certified contractors begin with a comprehensive Home Performance energy audit that examines all the areas of your home that can cause comfort and energy efficiency problems, as well as high electricity use. These include:

- Insulation levels
- How much air leaks into and out of your home
- Moisture problems
- Condition of your appliances
- Efficiency of your heating and cooling system
- Lighting

A participating Home Performance contractor will help you prioritize energy efficiency investments for your home by performing several advanced, diagnostic tests including:

- A blower door test that uses the combination of pressure and airflow measurements to determine your home's air leakage, which contributes to higher energy costs.
- Thermographic camera tests that use infrared images to assess the effectiveness of your home's insulation.
- Combustion and safety testing to detect carbon monoxide and gas leaks.

And if you have a specific issue that's bothering you, like a bedroom that's always too hot or too cold, you'll find out why.

Included with every audit is a variety of items that your contractor will install in your home that can include:

- 12 compact fluorescent lights (CFLs)
- Four faucet aerators
- Two efficient-flow showerheads
- Pipe insulation (installed on hot and cold pipes from electric water heater)
- Electric water heater tank wrap

Once the audit is done, you will receive a list of solutions for problems identified during the audit. This can include increasing insulation levels in a specific part of the home and sealing air leaks to end those annoying drafts. It also might include replacing outdated or malfunctioning equipment.

When improvements are done, we'll test your home again to ensure that we've met the goals we set for your job. Follow-up tests ensure that you're getting what you paid for and that your home's energy, comfort, and safety issues have been properly addressed.

Terms and conditions and eligibility criteria apply. See SMECO.coop/save or ask your contractor for complete details.

**The \$100 offer is valid for homes up to 3,000 square feet with a single combustion appliance zone. Audits on larger homes or ones with multiple combustion appliance zones may cost more than \$100 and customers should discuss fees with the selected participating contractor.*

This program supports the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act.

Benefits of Home Performance with ENERGY STAR

- Save \$300—SMECO customer-members pay only \$100 for a home energy audit (a \$400 value).
- Enjoy less drafty and more comfortable rooms.
- Reduce energy usage by up to 20 percent.
- Receive rebates up to \$2,750.
- Rest assured you're getting comprehensive work performed by specially trained contractors.
- Have a healthier, safer, higher quality home.
- Decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

Start saving today!

To find a certified Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor, visit SMECO.coop/save and click on "Home Performance with ENERGY STAR."

SMECO surpasses energy-savings goals, eyes future

The goal of the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act of 2008 is to reduce energy consumption by 15 percent by the end of 2015. To support this initiative, SMECO launched its programs with a lighting discount kick-off in November 2009; other programs began in January 2010.

In the past three years, participation in EmPOWER Maryland programs has taken off. By the end of September 2012, SMECO's customer-members had saved 87,630 MWh through the EmPOWER Maryland programs—surpassing our goal of 83,870 MWh. At a Senate Finance Committee update in December 2012, the PSC chairman announced that **SMECO was the only utility to surpass its EmPOWER goals.**

How did SMECO and our customer-members surpass these goals? Since the start of the programs, we have:

- discounted more than one million CFLs and recycled more than 5,000 appliances;
- conducted more than 6,000 Quick Home Energy Check-ups;
- conducted more than 150 audits through the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® program;
- issued rebates for more than 3,400 high efficiency heating and cooling systems; and
- certified nearly 1,100 new homes under the ENERGY STAR New Home program.

We don't plan to stand still—there are big plans for 2013 and beyond. We will soon begin the Home Energy Reports (HER) program. In this new program, randomly selected customers will receive a report comparing their household's energy use with similar homes in the same area. Customers who receive the report are encouraged to reduce their energy use to save money with helpful tips. Customer-members will also be able to access an online web portal, which provides a more detailed view of the information included in the reports. Be on the lookout for more information on the HER program!

Reminder: scholarship applications are due by March 1

SMECO is offering \$1,500 college scholarships to four high school seniors graduating in 2013 who live with parents or guardians who are SMECO customers.

We would like to remind all eligible high school seniors that completed scholarship application packages (all items must be submitted as one package) are due by **March 1, 2013**. They may be taken to one of the SMECO offices listed below or mailed to:

Attention: Bernadette Lewis, SMECO Headquarters
P.O. Box 1937, Hughesville, MD 20637

For more information or to obtain an application, visit www.smeco.coop, see your school career counselor, call SMECO at **1-888-440-3311, ext. 4340**, or visit a customer service desk in SMECO's Leonardtown, Prince Frederick, and Hughesville offices.

Applicants for Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's scholarships shall be considered based on the cooperative's established guidelines without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, or handicap.

Spring is right around the corner—remember to call 811 before you dig

Call Miss Utility by dialing **811** before you plant a tree or shrub, start a garden, or install a fence. SMECO will mark the location of underground power lines on your property. One call will save you a lot of time, trouble, and money.

Don't plant your trees near overhead power lines. Trees that will grow 20–50 feet tall should be planted at least 30 feet from overhead lines. Check our website for guidelines at www.smeco.coop/yoursafety/safeplanting.aspx.

One call will save you a lot of time, trouble, and money. It could also save your life!





Fall in love with your new energy-efficient home this month! If you're in the market for a new home, SMECO's ENERGY STAR® Certified Homes program will be the start of a beautiful relationship. ENERGY STAR Certified Homes typically include energy-saving features that make them 20–30 percent more efficient than standard homes. Visit SMECO.coop/save or call 877-818-4094 for details and to find a builder.

around **TOWN**

March 2

13th Annual Mardi Gras

Sponsor: United Way of Calvert County

7 to 11 p.m.

Holiday Inn Conference Center and Marina, Solomons. Shimmy on down to a southern-style juke joint in New Orleans for live music, dancing, parlor games, and cajun cuisine.

410-286-0100

unitedwaycalvert.org/Mardi_Gras.php

March 23

Hiking Trail

Maintenance Day

Sponsor: American Chestnut Land Trust

9 a.m. to Noon

676 Double Oak Road, Prince Frederick

The spring hiking season begins as the group clears and maintains some of the ACLT trails. Volunteers are

needed for chainsawing, sign placement, general trail maintenance, etc. Work locations to be announced. Water, equipment, and lunch will be provided. Please register in advance or call the office.

410-414-3400

actlweb.org/calendar/calpage.cfm

March 24

Barn Work Day

Sponsor: American Chestnut Land Trust

8 a.m. to Noon

Join the Barn Volunteer Crew as they maintain the historic Barns. Bring work gloves, clippers, and a smile. Registration required. Please contact the office for more information and details on the meeting location.

410-414-3400

actlweb.org/calendar/calpage.cfm



Visit www.smeco.coop/ourcommunity/aroundtown.aspx for more events.

Water Quality

Monitoring Training

Sponsor: American Chestnut Land Trust

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

676 Double Oak Road,
Prince Frederick

Join the water quality management volunteers in a training course to learn how to include a classroom portion at the ACLT office and hands-on sampling experience. Please call or email the office for more information.

410-414-3400

acltweb.org/calendar/
calpage.cfm

March 29

Good Friday

SMECO offices closed.

Our Contact Center is available 24/7.

1-888-440-3311

www.smeco.coop

March 2013

The 4th annual Charles County Sheriff's Office Bike Ride

Sponsor: United Way of Charles County and Spring Dell Center

Village Green Pavilion,
100 Walter Thomas
Road, Indian Head, MD

Check-in at 9 a.m. and a flex-start time of 10 a.m.

Everyone is welcome. Ride all of or a portion of the 26-mile, scenic Rail Trail.

Lunch, snacks, and drinks will be provided to all who participate. Registration forms are available now.

301-609-4844

unitedwaycharles.org
(Special Events tab)





Save the date for our second annual SMECO 75 bike ride

SMECO is hosting its second annual 75-mile bicycle ride beginning at the headquarters building in Hughesville on June 1, 2013.

The route for the SMECO 75 ride includes two segments of the Three Notch Trail and a portion of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail on-road bike route. The ride will feature a 75-mile route for experienced riders and 29-mile and 47-mile routes, as well. We will feature four rest stops, which will be stocked with appropriate fuel for bike riders, and lunch at the finish. Participating riders will also receive event-themed items. All proceeds will be donated to a local organization to benefit Southern Maryland.



Mark your calendars! The SMECO 75 is a perfect opportunity for healthy camaraderie with your fellow customer-members. We will provide more details once registration is available, or check out smeco.coop/SMECO75 for updates.