

cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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Electricity— more bang for your buck

SMECO's energy rate for January 2013 was as low as it has been in seven years.

As the cost of other goods and services continues to rise, the price of electricity remains a good value to consumers.

The cost of most common goods—including a gallon

Compare
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SMECO sponsored the 24th annual Computer Bowl on March 2. "We are honored to have sponsored the Computer Bowl for 24 years, and it is very rewarding to see the top technology experts from our local schools challenge each other to do their best. The Computer Bowl highlights computer skills, which are valuable not only for students' careers, but also important for SMECO's future," SMECO spokesperson Tom Dennison said. See page 5 for the full story.



SMECO
People. Power. Progress.

Compare

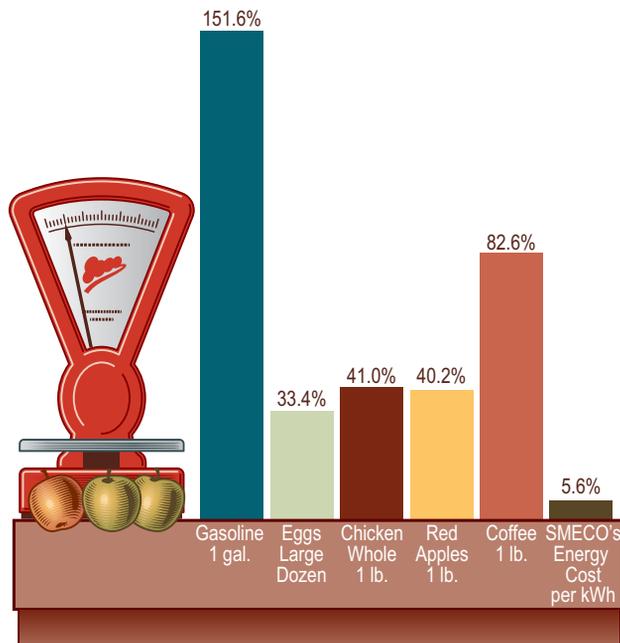
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of gasoline, a pound of Red Delicious apples, a dozen large eggs, a pound of chicken, and a pound of coffee—has risen drastically, but the cost of energy has only increased by a small percentage. In January 2006, SMECO's cost of energy was \$0.078 per kilowatt hour (kWh). In January 2013, the cost was only \$0.082 per kWh—a change of only 5.6 percent. Compare that to the 151.6 percent increase in the cost of gasoline! That means that while 10 gallons of gas went from \$15.28 in 2006 to \$38.44 in 2013, a thousand kilowatt-hours was only \$4.37 more than it was in 2006.

SMECO uses a portfolio approach to purchase power, aggregating power supply agreements with a variety of suppliers to purchase energy. This is to ensure our customer-members get the best bang for their buck.

SMECO continues to negotiate the best rates for power supply for our customer-members.

Percentage change in cost from 2006 to 2013



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Join the SMECO Energy-Savings Challenge

SMECO and Opower launched the SMECO Energy Savings Challenge for residential customer-members beginning on April 1.

Compete against your neighbors to win prizes in an individual challenge to reduce your energy use from April 1 through June 30, 2013! Join the challenge, reduce your usage by at least 3 percent over the next few months, and be recognized for your success.

We are awarding prizes to customers who can reduce their energy use the most. One grand prize winner will win a \$1,000 Sears gift card—good for the purchase of any ENERGY STAR® certified Kenmore appliance. Two second-place winners will win energy efficiency gift baskets from AM Conservation Group (\$200 approximate retail value). Eight third-place winners will win energy efficiency gift baskets from Niagara Conservation (\$45 approximate retail value).

Challenge participants' energy use from April 1 through June 30, 2013, will be compared to their own 2012 baseline usage. Those participants who show the greatest percent reduction in energy use will win.

Join the challenge by logging into Opower's Social Energy Tool at social.opower.com/smeco. After you've connected to your SMECO account, the challenge will appear under the "Pages" tab. If you do not have a Facebook account you will not be able to participate in the challenge; however, you can still access similar energy-use information from the Home Energy Reports Web Portal at smeco.coop/energyreports.

Don't worry, all of your account information is secure. Data are stored on Opower's servers and adhere to their privacy practices and data security model. Facebook never receives any energy provider usage data unless you choose to share this information on Facebook.

Visit www.smeco.coop/saveenergy/savingschallenge for more details and official rules.

Nominating Committee to meet in May

The 2013 Nominating Committee—appointed at the March meeting of SMECO’s Board of Directors—will meet on Saturday, May 18, 2013, at 9 a.m. to select candidates for SMECO’s Board. The meeting will be held in the Board Room of SMECO’s Executive Building in Hughesville, Maryland.

Customer-members interested in being nominated by the committee should submit their application by Friday, May 10, 2013, to SMECO, Attention:

Joe Densford, Board Attorney; 15045 Burnt Store Road, P.O. Box 1937, Hughesville, MD 20637.

Alternatively, a member may submit a petition, signed by any group of 15 or more SMECO members, no later than Friday, June 14, 2013. All candidates, including those running by petition, must complete a Board of Directors Candidate Application. To obtain an application, contact Lisa Oliver at 301-274-4489 or lisa.oliver@smeco.coop.

The following Board seats will be open: one in Calvert, two in Charles, one in Prince George’s, and one in St. Mary’s. Board members will be elected at SMECO’s Annual Meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2013.

Selection of Nominating Committee members complies with SMECO’s bylaws. For more information regarding the committee, nominations, and director qualifications, refer to Article IV, Sections 4.02 and 4.03. A copy of the bylaws may be obtained online at www.smeco.coop or from any SMECO office.

Call 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.

It could also save your life!

SMECO sponsors 24th High School Computer Bowl

More than 80 young computer experts tested their programming skills and technical knowledge during the 24th annual Southern Maryland High School Computer Bowl, held on March 2 at North Point High School in Waldorf. Sponsors for the Computer Bowl were SMECO, the College of Southern Maryland, Booz Allen Hamilton, and the public school systems of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties.

Winners received plaques and trophies. SMECO awarded gift cards to the top four teams, and the second-place team also received gift cards from the Charles County Technology Council. Booz Allen Hamilton awarded Kindle Fire tablets to the first-place team. The College of Southern Maryland also awarded the four first-place winners with \$500 scholarships.



The first-place winners, from La Plata High School, are (from left) coach Richard Williams and team members Cody McGinnis, Alex Smith, and Thomas McGinnis.



The second-place winners, from Huntingtown High School, are (from left) Vince Kubala, coach Tom Currier, Joey Watts, Gunnar Arnesen, and Jason Merewitz.



The third-place winners, from Great Mills High School, are (from left) Andrew Herbig, Nancy Bolton, Jonathan DuBose, coach Nora Blasko, and Noab Wichrowski.



Celebrate Earth Day with SMECO! Act now, and save year-round. Recycle an old working fridge or freezer, and we'll pay you \$50. Upgrade to CFLs and LEDs and get discounts for your lighting needs. Other rebates also exist for scheduling a Quick Home Energy Check-up or buying a new GE GeoSpring Hybrid Water Heater. New this month, track your energy use at www.smeco.coop/energyreports. Visit www.smeco.coop/save or call 877-818-4094 and start saving!



around **TOWN**

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

May 1

Law Day

Sponsor: St. Mary's County Dept. of Aging and Human Services & Elville & Associates
Northern Senior Activity Center. Topic: Advance directives. Attorneys on site for questions and help at no charge. Appt. req'd.
301-475-4200, ext. 1050
stmarysmd.com/aging

May 2-5

Holy Face Church

Spring Festival

Sponsor: Holy Face Church
St. Mary's Fairgrounds, Leonardtown. Carnival rides, games, hay ride, food, artists.
301-862-4300

May 9

Archaeology Speaker Series

Sponsor: Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Calvert Library. Rose Greenhow: A First-Person Portrayal presented by Emily Lapisardi.
410-586-8501
jefpat.org

May 11

6th Annual Calvert

Arts Festival

Sponsor: All Saints Episcopal Church
11 a.m. to 6 p.m. All Saints Episcopal Church, Sunderland. Sample wines (\$) with a souvenir glass. Food, live entertainment, crafts, raffles, and more. Rain or shine. Age verified.
410-286-7586
allsaints1692.org

May 18

Maryland House and Garden Pilgrimage

Sponsor: Charles County Garden Club
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. American Legion, Jameson Harrison Post 238, 6265 Brandywine Rd., Hughesville. Adults and children age 12 and older. Bus trans. with box lunch available by reservation only.
\$ Admission.
301-934-2999
mhgp.org

Commodores U.S. Navy Jazz Band Concert

Sponsor: Commissioners of Leonardtown
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Leonardtown Square.
301-475-9791
leonardtown.somd.com

May 19

Tea in the Garden

at Point Farm
Sponsor: Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. JPPM.
Tour the home of Jefferson Patterson and have tea in the garden at Point Farm. Call for reservations. \$ Admission.
410-586-8501
jefpat.org

May 19-20

Art Show and Garden Market

Sponsor: Historic SMC
State House. Shop HSMC's annual Garden Market on the green.
240-895-4990
stmaryscity.org

May 24-25

Potomac River Waterfowl Show

Sponsor: Comm. Foundation of Southern Maryland
5/24: 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. ; 5/25: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Mary's Fairgrounds, Leonardtown.
301-885-0108
cfsomd.org/waterfowlshow

May 27

Memorial Day Ceremony

Sponsor: Town of La Plata
11 a.m. to Noon
La Plata Town Hall
A ceremony to remember and honor the men and women who died while in the military service.
301-934-8421
townoflaplata.org

May 31

Trinity Church Card Party

Sponsor: Trinity Church
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
9611 Trinity Church Rd., Newport. Refreshments available. \$ Admission.
301-643-0191

Embracing technology to make bill paying easier

SMECO has a lot of convenient and easy ways to pay your electric bill, and we've added a few more options in the last year by using technology to make it even easier.

“Pay My Bill Now”

In a hurry? The “Pay My Bill Now” option on SMECO’s website is a quick and easy one-time, on-line bill payment option for customer-members so they can make a payment with no login or password information needed.

Mobile access

You can pay your bill securely through a mobile device. The cooperative launched a mobile version of the website to enable customer-members to access information more easily from their smart phones and other mobile devices, including the outage map and the bill payment feature. This makes paying on the go easy!

E-bill with FiServ

This option is now available for customer-members whose financial institutions partner with FiServ, which makes all their available bills viewable and payable at one location on their bank’s site. Does your bank participate? Visit www.ebillplace.com/cda/ebillplace/ to find out.

Don't forget to register for the second annual **SMECO 75 bike ride** by May 1, 2013, to save \$10 and ensure you receive a commemorative shirt. The ride is scheduled for June 1, 2013.

Visit www.smeco.coop/smeco75 for more information and to register!