

cooperative REVIEW

for members of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative

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How does your home compare to your neighbor's?

On behalf of SMECO and its customer-members, Opower sent letters to approximately 50,000 randomly selected homes in early 2013 showing how a home's energy use compares to that of its neighbors. **This comparison doesn't necessarily mean the house next door.** For customers who received the letter

Compare
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SMECO and four local high school students joined the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. June 16–20, 2013. The full story is on page 3.



SMECO
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Compare

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or those who use the online tool, your energy use is being compared to the usage patterns of a group of about 100 neighbors in your area whose homes are similar to yours. (The comparisons are completely anonymous, and no customer's personal information or individual energy use is released.)

The letters provide direction to visit the online web portal. SMECO's Home Energy Reports web portal provides personalized information about your home's energy use and will offer tips specific to your home to help you save money and make your home more energy efficient. All residential SMECO customers (excluding net metered customers) may use or have access to the Home Energy Reports web portal regardless of whether they have received the letter. To access the portal, simply sign on to **smcc.opower.com** and create a password-protected login using your SMECO account number. The web portal enables you to make changes to the information about your home to make comparisons as accurate as possible.

The web portal includes:

- A progress tracker that will show you how your energy usage changes over time and across seasons.
- A comparison to other similarly sized and equipped homes in your area.
- A bill comparison allowing you to compare your current bill to the previous month and the same month from the previous year.
- A home energy assessment tool to assist you in identifying the "load profile" of your home and specific actions you can take to reduce consumption.
- Energy conservation tips based on your energy use patterns and the characteristics of your home.

We will be hosting a team energy-savings challenge in the fall—be on the lookout for registration information through Facebook in August.

If you currently receive the letter and would like to opt out, you can log onto the portal and go to the "My Account" section page or call 1-877-818-4094.

Chosen juniors enjoy 2013 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

SMECO once again joined other cooperatives from around the nation at the Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. with four local high school students from our service territory. From June 16 to June 20, SMECO chaperones **Natalie Brown** and **Charlie Herbert** took **Mohammed Ayuby** from Gwynn Park High School, **Rachel Howdysshell** from The Calverton School, **Alec Hunsaker** from La Plata High School, and **Jacqueline Vukmer** from The King's Christian Academy to the 2013 Youth Tour.

The goal of the Youth Tour is to help students learn more about our government in action during their week-long study tour of the nation's capital, where they meet members of congress.

Cooperatives began sending students to Washington in 1957. As many states began sending students, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association decided to coordinate the program and send all of the students from the various cooperatives at the same time. The first year of the coordinated tour was 1964, and approximately 400 young people from 12 states attended. Since that time, the Youth Tour has continued to grow, and in 2013, there were over 1,800 young people and chaperones in attendance from 43 states.



From left: Natalie Brown, SMECO chaperone; Mohammed Ayuby, Gwynn Park High School; Rachel Howdysshell, The Calverton School; Jacqueline Vukmer, The King's Christian Academy; Alec Hunsaker, La Plata High School, and Charlie Herbert, SMECO chaperone.

College scholarships awarded

This year, SMECO celebrates 20 years of providing scholarships to local high school students. Each year, SMECO awards four \$1,500 college scholarships to high school seniors who live in the Co-op's service area. SMECO awards scholarships based on applicants' scholastic achievement, financial need, and school and community involvement.

SMECO has awarded each of the following students a \$1,500 college scholarship.

Jasmine V. Ammar, daughter of Rebecca Ammar of La Plata, is a senior at La Plata High School. Jasmine is very active at school and in the community. She has participated in numerous activities, including Key Club International, the National Honor Society, lacrosse, the American Legion Junior Auxiliary, 4-H, and the student government association. She has supported her community as a 4-H Maryland Delegate, a Hard Bargain Farm worker and camp counselor, and through various other activities to support animal welfare, the elderly, and those in need. Jasmine cultivated an interest in dogs into a way to help others. She trains dogs in obedience and showing. In addition to competing in these categories, Jasmine takes her dogs to various senior centers for their residents to enjoy. Jasmine plans to study biology at the University of South Carolina.

Grant Alexander Homan, son of Robert and Linda Homan, is a senior at La Plata High School. Grant is a member of the National Honor Society, a student government association class representative, and a school representative of both the Charles County and Maryland association of student councils. He is also a member of the Key Club and participates in cross-country track. Grant has won many awards, including the math team achievement award, Student Government Representative of the Year, Principal's Award for Academic Excellence, and the Student Government Exemplar Service Award. Grant plans to

attend the University of Maryland to study business.

Samantha Frederick Janey, daughter of Crystal Frederick, is a senior at Great Mills High School. She is a member of the National Honor Society, International Thespian Society, and marching band. Samantha is active in sports, playing on the Lady Hornets softball team and participating in indoor track and field. She was also awarded an academic letter. Samantha plans to attend Towson University to study computer science.

Amber Rabie, daughter of Sharon Rabie, is a senior at Lackey High School. Amber has received many honors, including the Principal's Award, Minds in Motion, and an academic letter for four years. She graduated in the top five students of her class. Amber is very involved in helping the community, participating in mission trips to impoverished areas, 4-H, and Key Club community events. Amber will be attending Liberty University to study graphic design.

SMECO has awarded scholarships to 84 students over the past 20 years.

PSC approves smart meter installation for SMECO

The Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) issued an order on June 21, 2013, to allow SMECO to proceed with deployment of smart meters in Southern Maryland. In 2011, SMECO installed close to 2,000 smart meters as a pilot to test the technology. The pilot's success played a big role in the PSC's decision to award approval to SMECO.

SMECO is currently negotiating contracts for the installation of the new meters and a web portal for customer-members to actively view their energy usage. This safe, and highly secure advanced technology will give customers more information on ways that customer-members will be able to reduce their energy usage, helping them save energy and save money.



Send your old fridge packing! Let us recycle your old, working refrigerator or freezer and we'll give you a \$50 reward. Recycle an old, working room air conditioner at the same time and get a \$25 bonus. We'll haul them away at no cost to you. To take advantage of this program, just visit **SMECORecycleMyOldFridge.com** or call **866-261-5970** to schedule a pickup.

around **TOWN**

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

Sept. 7

Annual Yard Sale

Sponsor: Ladies of Charity, Holy Ghost Catholic Church
7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
15848 Rock Point Road
Furniture, lawn mowers, wood chipper, household items, Christmas decorations, flowers, baskets and jewelry.
301-259-4553

Car Show

Sponsor: Mt. Zion United Methodist Church
3 to 8 p.m. Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 27108 Mt. Zion Church Road, Mechanicsville. **\$ Admission.** Children age 12 and younger are free. Vendors, craft tables, food, and music.
301-481-0360

Holly Arboretum Work Day

Sponsor: American Chestnut Land Trust
9 a.m. to Noon. Warrior's Rest Sanctuary, Scientists Cliffs Road, Port Republic. Registration required.
410-414-3400
acltweb.org/calendar/calpage.cfm

Sept. 14

Brown Bag Auction

Sponsor: Ridge Volunteer Rescue Squad and Auxiliary
Noon to 4 p.m. Knights of Columbus hall, Ridge
Gift cards, certificates, and tickets.
240-561-5733
ridgevrs.org

The Affair at Point Farm

Sponsor: Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum
6 to 9 p.m. JPPM.
The Friends of JPPM host their annual Benefit Auction and Dinner. Live and silent auctions, food and drink, and entertainment. Reservations required.
410-586-8515
jefpat.org

Sept. 21

Riverfest

Sponsor: Historic SMC
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Entertainment, demonstrations, and exhibits.
301-737-2903
smarystcity.org

Sept. 28

Contra Dancing

Sponsor: Historic SMC
7 to 8 p.m. State House.
Join the St. Maries City Militia and Southern Maryland Traditional Music and Dance. Learn some basic steps and dance the night away to live traditional music. Donation.
240-895-4990
smarystcity.org

St. Mary's Militia

Sponsor: Historic SMC
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Historic St. Mary's City The St. Maries City Militia musters for drills, mock battles, and fencing. March along, visit an encampment, watch a musket fire demonstration, and more.
\$ Admission.
240-895-4990
smarystcity.org



Vine Vindicator Work Day and Training

Sponsor: American Chestnut Land Trust
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. 676 Double Oak Road, PF. Learn to recognize non-native invasive plant species and properly remove them to improve habitat for unique and rare native species. Dress for the weather. Lunch will be included.
Registration required.
410-414-3400

The 1812 Fair and Reenactment and Tavern Night

Sponsor: JPPM
Fair: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ; Tavern Night: 6 to 10 p.m. Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum. Fair is all ages, tavern night is most ages. Living history event puts you in the middle of life in Southern MD during the early 1800s. **\$ Admission.** (Food and beverage are an additional fee.)
410-586-8501
jefpat.org

Update on 230-kV project in Calvert

Work on the Southern Maryland 230-kV Reliability Project continues to make progress through Calvert County.

At this time, the foundations have been completed between the new Sollers Wharf substation in Lusby and the Holland Cliff substation in Huntingtown. Approximately 14 miles of new structures have been installed along this section of the route, and wire has been strung through Prince Frederick.

Construction of the access roads from the Sollers Wharf Substation south past Dowell Elementary School has begun.

The project is a 30-mile upgrade to the system that will enable SMECO to meet the region's rapidly growing population and electricity demand and ensure continued system reliability.

