

# Fuel adjustment drops to 0 mills

South Alabama Electric Cooperative members have something extra to be thankful for in 2010 — your fuel adjustment is dropping from 4 mills to 0 mills. This reduction will mean an approximate savings of \$4.80 a month on your monthly power bills if you use an average of 1,200 kWh.

South Alabama Electric imple-

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mented this rate reduction that will be reflected on February’s bills.

“In 2009, SAEC adjusted our rates due to a dramatic rise in fuel prices and purchased power costs, among other increased costs of doing business,” said Max Davis, general manager of SAEC. “However, costs have since stabilized, and South Alabama Electric is passing this savings along to our members.”

“We are in the business for public good rather than for the financial benefit of an individual owner or stockholders,” Davis said. “We don’t profit from our

members, rather, we sell electricity to our members at the lowest price possible.”

“South Alabama Electric Cooperative works to keep costs as low as possible, but some things are out of our control,” Davis said. “We will continue to strive to keep electricity a great value, and work to operate efficiently while sticking to our mission of providing reliable and economical energy.”

SAEC encourages members to further reduce the energy costs by using energy efficiently in their homes. Electric bills are based on how much power is used, and each member has ultimate control over their usage.

For ways you can conserve electricity, visit [www.myconserve101.com](http://www.myconserve101.com).

South Alabama Electric Cooperative offers a number of options to help members manage their power bills, including energy efficiency programs and leveled billing. To learn more about reducing energy usage, call 800-556-2060 or visit [www.southaec.com](http://www.southaec.com).



**Max Davis** is General Manager of South Alabama Electric Cooperative

## South Alabama Electric Monthly Operating Report

KWH Sold . . . . .	22,055,894
Avg. Utility Bill . . . . .	\$176.51
Average Use . . . . .	1,355
Total Accounts Billed . . . . .	16,274
Total Miles of Line . . . . .	2,602
Consumers per mile of line . . . . .	6.25

Information from November 2009



## South Alabama Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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TOLL-FREE  
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Visit our web site at [www.southaec.com](http://www.southaec.com)

# Heat up energy savings this winter

The average American family spends \$1,900 a year on energy bills. With winter here, it is important to understand that approximately half of your monthly power bill goes directly to heating your home.

The good news is that you are in control of the amount of energy you consume, giving you the ultimate power to lower your monthly electric bill.

*Here are some simple, low-cost ways to lower your power bill this winter:*

- **Lower your thermostat.** Each degree you reduce your thermostat in the winter lowers your total bill by about 4 percent. A five-degree reduction could save you as much as 20 percent. We recommend that your thermostat be set at 68 degrees during the winter.

- **Lower the temperature when you aren't home** or when sleeping. Extra covers on the bed will keep you warm. Helpful hint: hand your keys near your thermostat. That way when you get ready to leave the house, you'll remember to lower your thermostat.

- **Close window shades and drapes at night** to conserve heat and keep cold air out. Open them during the day to let sunshine help heat your home. You can use blinds to block out the cold while still letting light in. Try tilting slats at a 45 degree angle.

- **Keep doors and vents closed** in rooms you're not using. Why heat an empty room?

- **Reverse the spin on your ceiling fans** and set it on the slowest speed to help send warm air down into the living area.

- **Close your fireplace's damper** when not in use. Keeping it open is like having a full sized window open all winter long, letting valuable warm air out. Also keep in mind that a fireplace is not an efficient source of heat for your home because heat escapes through the chimney with the smoke. You can minimize this by closing the doors to the room with the fireplace and lowering the thermostat.

- **Keep filters clean.** A dirty or clogged filter can make your heating unit work harder, costing you more money.

There are also several low-cost investments that

can make your home more energy efficient.

- **Caulk around windows and doors.** By sealing all the gaps around doors and window, you can keep out cold drafts. Be sure to caulk around your foundation and anywhere pipes pass through the wall.

- **Close attic vents and fans during the winter** and check insulation. Much of the heat escaping your home is lost through the attic. Weather strip and insulate your attic hatch or door.

- **Install a programmable thermostats** with temperature and time settings to save approximately \$100 a year on energy costs.



Remember that you don't have to spend money to save money. There are many easy, inexpensive things you can do this winter to reduce your energy consumption, and in turn, your power bill. You are the only one who can control how much energy you use.

Visit [www.myconserve101.com](http://www.myconserve101.com) for more energy saving ideas.



# 2010 Residential Member Satisfaction Survey Underway

At South Alabama Electric Cooperative, our mission is to meet your needs while providing you reliable energy services at the lowest possible cost. But, in order for us to better serve you, we need a little feedback.

That's why we're conducting the 2010 Residential Member Satisfaction Survey commencing in the first quarter of 2010, to find out more about our members and how to better serve you in the future.

South Alabama Electric has partnered with Inside Information of Kansas City, Mo., to conduct the survey via telephone. The telephone interview should take approximately twelve minutes to complete, and will consist of questions regarding member attitude and perceptions toward their cooperative, the four core American Consumer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) questions and demographic questions, such as:

- Length of service with the cooperative,
- Most recent contact with the cooperative,
- Cooperative satisfaction level,
- Loyalty,
- Value added products and services interest,
- Perception on energy efficiency, renewable energy and environmental issues
- Awareness of Touchstone

Energy,

- View on electric costs, and
- Other demographic information such as occupation, home ownership, etc.

During the course of the survey, 250 of our members will answer questions that will allow us to determine ways we can enhance our customer service to better suit your needs.

Rest assured that all information we gather during the interviews will be kept strictly confidential and will be used only for internal purposes.

By participating in this short survey, you'll help us learn more about you while assisting us in making important decisions about providing you reliable power and exceptional customer service. After all, at South Alabama Electric our members are the owners, and we are here to serve you.

For questions about the 2010 Residential Member Satisfaction Survey, contact Chellie Phillips at 1-800-556-2060 or [chelliep@southaec.com](mailto:chelliep@southaec.com).



## SAVE Energy the Easy Way...

- ▶ **Keep your heating system's thermostat at 68°F.** For each degree you raise the thermostat above the recommended setting, you add 3%-4% to your monthly electric bill.
- ▶ **If your home is drafty, find the sources.** Caulk around all windows and weather strip around each door.
- ▶ **If you have a fireplace but do not use it, keep the damper closed.**
- ▶ **Consider buying a programmable thermostat.** A programmable thermostat allows you to easily lower your home's temperature and reduce the run time of your heating system.



Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>  
Cooperatives

Visit **myconserve101.com** for more energy saving ideas.

*Conserve101... Conserving today means saving tomorrow.*

# Scholarship Opportunity for Graduating Seniors!

Are you a high school senior who is  
graduating this spring?

Are you a dependent of a member  
of our local cooperative?

If so, you are eligible to apply for a scholarship from the Electric Cooperative Foundation. Your local cooperative has joined other cooperatives throughout the state of Alabama to create the Electric Cooperative Foundation. This spring the foundation will be awarding scholarships across Alabama for students to continue their education at post-secondary and vocational schools.

For more details about these scholarships, obtain a copy of an Electric Cooperative scholarship application from your high school guidance counselor or call:

**Chellie Phillips**  
**South Alabama Electric Cooperative**  
**chelliep@southaec.com**  
**800-556-2060**



**Don't wait; applications with  
all required attachments  
must be received no later  
than March 12, 2010.**

Application forms available in local high school guidance  
offices and in our office located on Hwy 231 Troy.



