

# Wise Investments in Energy Efficiency

The economic uncertainty we're facing these days has many of us putting money into something we feel comfortable with: our homes. Making a few upgrades around the house generally pays big dividends. And when boosting energy efficiency is one of them, the decision becomes a no-brainer.

For any energy efficiency work made at your residence during the coming year, Uncle Sam will foot 30 percent of the bill - not a bad deal! Through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act—better known as the stimulus bill—the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) offers a personal tax credit of up to \$1,500 for energy efficiency improvements made to existing homes during 2009 and 2010.

The credit covers 30 percent of the cost of adding insulation materials and exterior doors, windows, and roofs designed to help reduce a home's heat loss or gain. It also includes efficient central air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, hot water boilers and biomass stoves.

For weatherization-related work the credit covers only the cost of materials. With heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, as well as biomass stoves, installation costs also count toward the credit.

So how does the math work out? If you spend \$1,000 on new insulation, you would get \$300 back in the form of a tax credit. If you spend \$3,000 to purchase a new HVAC system and have it installed, you'd have a \$900 tax credit to show for it.

To take advantage of the program, a home improvement must have taken place after Feb. 17,

2009 (the day the stimulus bill was signed into law), and products must meet specific energy efficiency criteria. A few rules of thumb will help you determine those criteria.

For exterior windows and skylights, rely on the Energy Star label. For other efficiency upgrades, request what's called a "Manufacturer Certification Statement" that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit. Many manufacturers post these on their Web sites, but be sure to verify that the product does qualify before making a purchase. You can also visit [www.irs.gov/recovery](http://www.irs.gov/recovery) to review guidelines for eligible purchases.

Energy tax credits reduce taxes owed, dollar for dollar, and can be carried forward to following years. While they can help boost any refund you receive, you won't receive a check directly for the credit amount. You can file for energy tax credits using IRS Form 5695, with a total maximum value of \$1,500 for improvements made in 2009 and 2010.

For suggestions on how you may make your home more energy efficient while taking advantage of these tax credits, please visit our Web site - [www.southaec.com](http://www.southaec.com) - or call our office.



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

## South Alabama Electric Monthly Operating Report

KWH Sold . . . . .	22,470,828
Avg. Utility Bill . . . . .	\$179.13
Average Use . . . . .	1,379
Total Accounts Billed . . . . .	16,289
Total Miles of Line . . . . .	2,601
Consumers per mile of line . . . . .	6.26

*Information from October 2009*



## South Alabama Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative 

### Board of Trustees

- Bill Hixon . . . . . District 1
- James Shaver . . . . . District 2
- Leo Williams . . . . . District 3
- Ben Norman . . . . . District 4
- DeLaney Kervin . . . District 5
- Norman D. Green . . District 6
- Glenn Reeder . . . . . District 7
- James May . . . . . At Large

**Use Our  
TOLL-FREE  
Outage Hotline  
1-800-556-2060**



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

# 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**

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

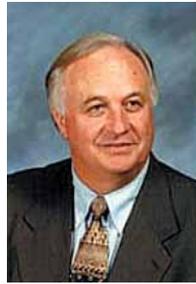
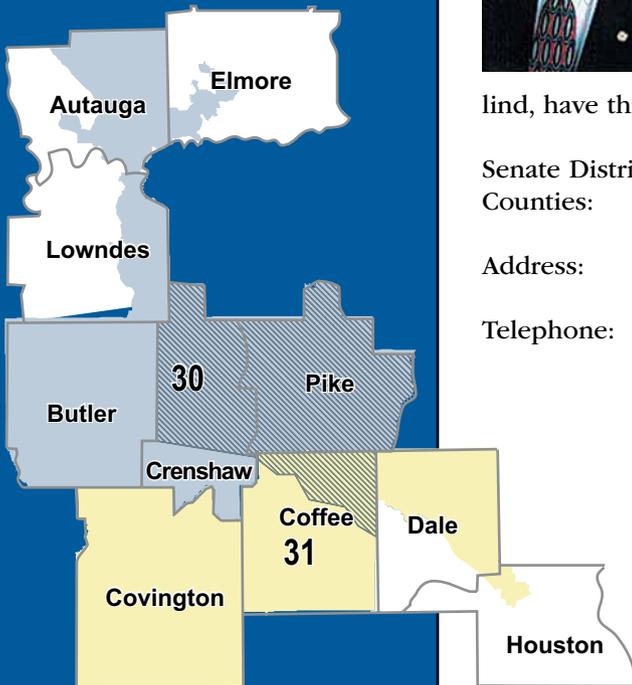


**Don't wait; applications with  
all required attachments  
must be received no later  
than March 12, 2010.**



# Your Senators

## South Alabama Electric Cooperative Senate Districts



### Senator Jimmy Holley

Sen. Holley has served in the Alabama House of Representatives for 20 years and is now serving his second term in the Senate. He holds a master's degree from East Tennessee State in School Administration and a bachelor's degree from the same school in political science. He and his wife, Mary, have been married for 33 years and have two sons.

#### Senate District 31

Counties: Coffee, Covington, Dale and Houston  
Address: RR 2 Box 254-E  
Elba, AL 36323  
Telephone: 334-242-7845 (Senate office)  
334-897-5181 (Residence)



### Senator Wendell Mitchell

Sen. Mitchell is a native of Luverne with more than 30 years of political experience. He holds a bachelor's degree from Auburn University and a law degree from the University of Alabama. He is currently the Dean of the Jones School of Law in Montgomery. He is a member of the Luverne Rotary Club, the Alabama Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He attends the Church of Christ, where he has been an adult Sunday School teacher for more than 25 years. He and his wife, Rosalind, have three children and one grandchild.

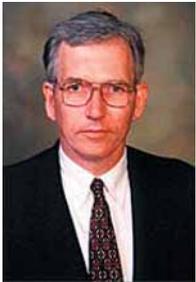
#### Senate District 30

Counties: Butler, Crenshaw, Pike, Autauga, Elmore and Lowndes  
Address: P.O. Box 225  
Luverne, AL 36049  
Telephone: 334-244-1877  
334-242-7883 (Senate office)

# Your Representatives



## South Alabama Electric Cooperative Congressional Districts



### Representative Charles Newton

Rep. Newton is a resident of Greenville and a graduate of the University of Alabama. He is the owner and operator of the Newton Oil Company. He and his wife, Jan, have three children.

House District 90

Counties: Butler, Crenshaw, Conecuh  
Address: 1216 South Conecuh St.  
Greenville, AL 36037

Telephone: 334-382-8700  
334-242-4460 (House office)



### Representative Alan Boothe

Rep. Boothe has served as director of government relations for Troy State University and has been chief of the University Police. He has served three terms on the Troy City Council and attends First Baptist Church. Rep. Boothe and his wife, Anne, have two children.

House District 89

Counties: Pike and Dale  
Address: P.O. Box 561, 209 Monticello Drive  
Troy, AL 36081  
Telephone: 334-670-3203  
334-242-7710 (House office)

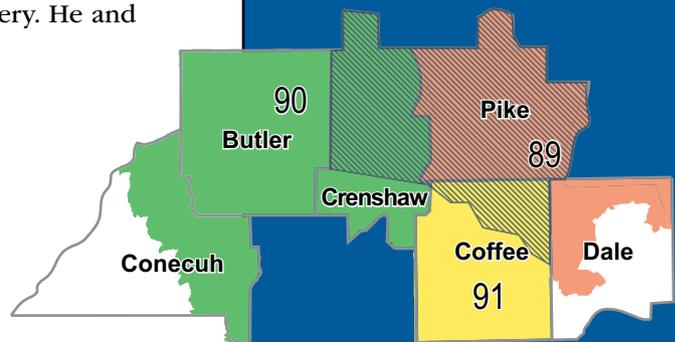


### Representative Terry Spicer

Rep. Spicer graduated from Elba High School and McArthur Technical College. He received a bachelor's degree in technical education from Athens State. He received his master's in public administration from Auburn University at Montgomery. He and his wife, Ciena, have two sons.

House District 91

Counties: Coffee  
Address: 2665 Taylor Mills Road  
Elba, AL 36323  
Telephone: 334-897-3862  
334-242-7773 (House office)





# The Only Thing Missing From This Picture is You!

Do you know a high school junior who loves to make new friends and travel? If so, tell them about our Montgomery and Washington Youth Tours.

This once in a lifetime experience provides opportunities for students to learn about the history of Alabama and the United States. They also learn about the cooperative form of business and the legislative process, not to mention they make lifelong friends! The best thing of all is that all the trips are FREE!

In order to be eligible, students must live in one of the counties served by South Alabama Electric Cooperative - or have parents who are members of the cooperative.

To see the fun and excitement of the Youth Tour for yourself, check out our youth tour section on our Web site - [www.southaec.com](http://www.southaec.com)!

The 2010 Montgomery Youth Tour will be held March 2-4, 2010. At this event, more than 150 students and chaperones

will tour many sites around Montgomery and will participate in a variety of leadership programs.

The 2010 Washington Youth Tour is sponsored in conjunction with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour that is held every June. This week long, annual event will bring more than 1,500 high school students across the nation to Washington, DC to tour various sites and meet members of the legislature. The Washington Youth Tour will be held June 11-17, 2010.

Applications are available on our Web site and at area guidance counselor offices. The application deadline is January 18, 2010 at 5 p.m.

If you would like more information about this program, please contact Chellie Phillips, by e-mail at [chelliep@southaec.com](mailto:chelliep@southaec.com), or give her a call at 800-556-2060.



