In April, SMECO installed smart meters at accounts in the Golden Beach area. During installation, a SMECO meter technician or qualified contractor removes the meter from its base and installs a new digital electronic meter. The installation process takes less than 10 minutes.

The new digital electronic meter is capable of two-way communications between SMECO and the meter, which enables SMECO to offer a number of key benefits, including more detailed billing information and the ability to respond to outages more quickly and effectively.

Can smart meters control my appliances?

No, smart meters can only measure electricity usage, just like the existing meters do. Smart meters tell SMECO how much energy you use, when your power goes out and when it comes back on, when voltage is too high, and when voltage is too low.

Smart meters cannot control your appliances and cannot measure the consumption patterns of specific appliances.
To learn more about smart meters and the progress of installation, please visit smeco.coop/gettingsmarter.

**CoolSentry**

SMECO has a load management program that helps save energy and money during the summer months. CoolSentry is an opt-in program where customer-members receive a credit on their electric bills from June through September to allow SMECO to schedule conservation events during times of peak demand. Peak demand times occur when everyone uses a lot of electricity at the same time, usually on the hottest days.

When members sign up for CoolSentry, they will either receive a free programmable thermostat, professionally installed, or a Digital Cycling Unit (DCU) installed on the outdoor central A/C unit.

When SMECO holds a conservation event, a wireless signal is sent to the participant’s CoolSentry thermostat or DCU. The signal places the central air conditioning units and heat pumps into conservation mode. The signal will coordinate your A/C or heat pump with others in the neighborhood to reduce electricity use. The temperature in the home may rise slightly, but will stay comfortable.

**Customers can choose their level of participation**

One level is 50 percent cycling, which means the compressor operates half the time it did prior to the conservation event. Members who choose 50 percent cycling will receive $50 in bill credits.

The second level is 75 percent cycling, which means the compressor operates 25 percent of the time it did prior to the conservation event. Participants who choose 75 percent cycling will receive $75 in bill credits.

Regardless of which level you choose, the A/C fan operates continuously throughout the conservation event, circulating air throughout your home.

Want to learn more about CoolSentry? Visit smecocoolsentry.com.
The following environmental information is for Standard Offer Service. The data are published at the request of the Maryland Public Service Commission. The data are based on a combination of regional averages and SMECO’s Purchase Power Agreements (PPAs) in place. Since the data includes PJM Interconnection (the regional transmission organization) wholesale market averages, the SMECO-specific emissions and energy source (fuel mix) data may vary from these averages.

Electricity can be generated in a number of ways with different costs and impacts on the environment. The standardized environmental information shown below allows you to compare this electricity product with electricity products offered by other electricity suppliers. For additional information, contact SMECO at 1-888-440-3311, extension 4458.

**Energy Source (Fuel Mix)** values represent 2015 averages for this region and SMECO’s PPAs in place: 55.59% natural gas, 18.35% coal, 17.94% nuclear, and 0.14% oil. Renewable energy: 0.53% hydroelectric, 0.51% solar, 0.0006% solid waste, 6.38% wind, and 0.122% wood/other biomass.

**Air Emissions** are air pollution associated with the generation of electricity production for this region. They are reported in pounds emitted per megawatt-hour of electricity generated, as follows: Nitrogen Oxides (NOx): 0.78, Sulfur Dioxide (SO2): 1.61, and Carbon Dioxide (CO2): 1,014.29.

CO2 is a greenhouse gas, which may contribute to global climate change. SO2 and NOx released into the atmosphere react to form acid rain. NOx also reacts to form ground level ozone, an unhealthful component of smog.
SMECO and the school systems of Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary’s counties recently honored 17 local educators for their accomplishments in the fields of mathematics and science. Nine math teachers and eight science teachers from schools in the three counties received awards.

### Outstanding Mathematics Teachers

- **Michelle Bell**, Patuxent High School
- **Jennifer Murphy**, Mill Creek Middle School
- **Wenique Brooks**, St. Leonard Elementary School
- **David Wood**, Milton Somers Middle School
- **Adam Frisbee**, Thomas Stone High School
- **Linda Tavares**, Arthur Middleton Elementary School
- **Brian Weisner**, Great Mills High School
- **Jodi Tenney**, Leonardtown Middle School
- **Melissa Bean**, Benjamin Banneker Elementary School
Over the past 25 years, SMECO has recognized more than 330 local math and science teachers.

“Our gifted honorees understand that their job is about more than teaching mathematics and science. It’s about teaching things like character, imagination, and resilience. They display a commitment to classroom excellence and are helping to ensure that Southern Maryland schools prepare the next generation,” said Austin J. Slater, Jr., SMECO president and CEO.

**Outstanding Science Teachers**

Deborah Heyes, Huntingtown High School
Kelli Short, Barstow Elementary School
Lorraine Dunigan, Patuxent High School

Amy Arnold, Milton Somers Middle School
Margo Barbone, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School
Michelle Schoenbauer, La Plata High School

Rebecca Wait, Chopticon High School
Christi Wenk, Benjamin Banneker Elementary School
College scholarships awarded to four local high school seniors

SMECO awarded four scholarships to high school seniors for 2016. Each year, SMECO awards four college scholarships to students who live in the Co-op’s service area. Scholarships are based on the applicants’ scholastic achievement, financial need, and school and community involvement. SMECO has awarded scholarships to 96 students in the 24 years since beginning the program in 1993.

The following students each received a $1,500 college scholarship this year.

Alexandra Bryant, daughter of Jeff and Dara Bryant of Charlotte Hall, graduated from La Plata High School. Bryant consistently received Principal’s Honor Roll awards throughout high school. Bryant plans to study biology at the University of Maryland, and she plans to attend medical school to become a doctor.

Simran Kaur, daughter of Barinder Singh of La Plata, is a graduate of La Plata High School. Kaur speaks five languages, and she loves to dance and to read. Kaur plans to attend the University of Maryland to study biology, and she plans to attend medical school to become a doctor.

Maria Karisma Magsakay, daughter of Bernard Magsakay of La Plata, graduated from La Plata High School. Magsakay plans to attend the University of Maryland to become a Nurse Practitioner specializing in family care. She wants to be able to organize medical missions in third-world countries, to provide not only help, but hope.

De’ja McCleary, daughter of Cynthia Lawrence of Prince Frederick, is a graduate of Huntingtown High School. To gain skills and learn about the health care industry, McCleary participated in a summer internship program and served as a Patient Observation Attendant at Calvert Memorial Hospital. McCleary plans to attend La Salle University in Philadelphia, PA, to study nursing and become a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner.

SMECO provides scholarships to local students who excel in their endeavors and who show promise in their chosen field of study.
July 4
4th of July
Watermelon Bash
Sponsor: Town of La Plata
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. La Plata Town Hall. Come out for hot dogs, games, wet fun, and plenty of watermelon.
301-934-8421
townoflaplata.org

July 09
“Adults Only” at the Plantation
Sponsor: Historic St. Mary’s City
5 to 7:30 p.m. 47621 Old Cove Road. Take an after-hours tour of the Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation, and learn about subjects of a more “adult” nature. For adults age 18 and older.
$ Admission. Two tours: 5 to 6 p.m. or 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Reservations are required.
240-895-4990
HSMCdigshistory.org

July 13
Little Pirates
Sponsor: Historic St. Mary’s City
10 to 11 a.m. 47414 State House Road. Become a pirate for the day, and storm the Maryland Dove. There might be hidden treasure along the way. Designed for children 3 to 6 and an accompanying adult. $ Admission; one accompanying adult free. Registration is required.
240-895-4990
HSMCdigshistory.org

July 23
Live Auction and More
Sponsor: Mt. Zion United Methodist Church and The United Methodist Men
2 to 6 p.m. 27108 Mt. Zion Church Road (by the Apple Basket), Mechanicsville. Doors open at 11 a.m. to view auction items.
Auction begins at 2 p.m. with Rodney Thompson of Homestead Auctions. Music at noon by the Flea Bops. Mechanicsville Optimist Club will offer food. Car wash from 9 a.m. to noon, proceeds benefit the Mt. Zion Youth Pinch, Mascot of the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs, arrives at 2:30 p.m. Rada Cutlery Sale to benefit Sarah Circle. Bake sale to benefit Circle of Friends. Mt. Zion Youth will also offer sodas and water. Donations to the auction are tax deductible—call to arrange donations.
301-481-6388
mtzionmech.org

July 28
Loffler Luau
Sponsor: St. Mary’s Department of Aging and Human Services
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Loffler Senior Activity Center, 21905 Chancellors Run Road, Great Mills. Help uncover the past at one of the best-preserved colonial sites in the nation. Take a guided tour of excavations, and don’t miss a once-a-year opportunity to explore the archaeology laboratory (sign up at the Visitor Center when you arrive). $ Admission. Free for children age 5 and younger and for Friends members.
240-895-4990
HSMCdigshistory.org

July 30
Tidewater Archaeology Days
Sponsor: Historic St. Mary’s City
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 18751 Hogaboom Lane, St. Mary’s City. Help uncover the past at one of the best-preserved colonial sites in the nation. Take a guided tour of excavations, and don’t miss a once-a-year opportunity to explore the archaeology laboratory (sign up at the Visitor Center when you arrive). $ Admission. Free for children age 5 and younger and for Friends members.
240-895-4990
HSMCdigshistory.org
Help is available for your energy bill

If you are having trouble paying your electric bill, you may be eligible to participate in payment programs offered by the State of Maryland.

If you qualify for the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) or the Electric Universal Service Program (EUSP), you may receive payment assistance. EUSP participants are required to be enrolled in a monthly budget payment plan. MEAP customers have the option to participate in a special budget payment plan offered through the Utility Service Protection Program (USPP) that is designed to safeguard MEAP customers from termination of service.

To find out if you qualify, apply at your local Office of Home Energy Programs or attend the Energy Assistance Fair at SMECO Headquarters in Hughesville on July 13, 2016.

If you cannot attend the Energy Assistance Fair, or if your service has been turned off, please visit the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee’s Office of Home Energy Programs during the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday at 8371 Old Leonardtown Road in Hughesville. Southern Maryland’s Office of Home Energy Programs will not accept any Energy Assistance Applications until after July 1, 2016.

If your electricity has been turned off, you may be able to be reconnected and placed on a MEAP or EUSP budget payment plan. If you fail to make your monthly payments after being placed on a payment plan, you can be dropped from the program and your service can be turned off.