


# NEWS RELEASE

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## South Central Indiana REMC

300 Morton Ave., Martinsville, IN 46151

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

### SCI REMC Reminds Members “Watts” in their Wallet

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Martinsville- As utilities, through various types of promotions, try to head off bill shock to their customers that their heating bills may be 10 to 20 percent higher than last year, South Central Indiana REMC reminds their customers “watts” in their wallets.

While SCI REMC encourages their more than 33,000 members to help lower their electric bills through energy efficiencies, they also recognize that the REMC provides many benefits and tools to their members such as discounts, rebates, low interest loans and return of excess revenues in the form of capital credits. “Putting money back in our member’s wallets is a great way to remind them that they are part owners of the business and our goal is to keep our costs low while still providing reliable electricity,” stated Kevin Sump, President and CEO of SCI REMC.

Like other utilities, the cooperative offers energy consulting, energy saving tips and calculators to help the homeowner effectively lower their electric bills. However, they also provide a Co-op Connections Card that gives the members discounts at both local and national businesses. “These discounts alone can equate to quite a savings,” declared Sump. “Whether you’re buying a new set of tires at our local Big-O-Tires or eating at one of our local restaurants, a 10-20% discount can make a big difference for our member families. Whether you buy a book at Barnes & Noble, or paint at Sherwin Williams or pick up an Arby’s or go to Six Flags or even take a cruise, our members will save money. The prescription discount alone saved our members over 29%; a savings of more than \$38,000, so far this year.

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SCI REMC also launched a new low interest rate loan program for members who are purchasing energy efficient heating and cooling systems, whole house emergency back-up generators, insulation upgrades or new thermal windows or doors. "Members can make their homes efficient now, and start taking advantage of the lower electric bills they should have from making their homes more energy efficient while they pay back the loan over 12 to 72 months." They receive energy saving rebates and free energy audits that also assist in money back in the member's wallets.

When new members sign up for service at SCI REMC they receive a wallet that includes a Co-op Connections card, a Our Energy, Our Future wallet card reminding them to keep in touch with their elected officials regarding energy issues, a benefit card listing all the benefits of being a member-owner and a welcome to their cooperative message. The wallet is used as a promotional reminder that by initiating energy efficiencies, using the discounts and programs provided by their electric utility and by using the energy efficiency tools available to them on the website, they can save money. "We know rates are going to continue to increase," stated Sump, especially as Congress focuses more on new energy policies. As all of us paying electric bills every month can attest to, the two go hand-in-hand. It is crucial that any energy policy discussed in Washington comes with a price tag that won't leave consumers in the dark.

Members also know when they raise their voice they'll be heard. Over 1.5 million cooperative members across the nation have participated in the grassroots campaign *Our Energy, Our Future* raising their voices to Congress through their elected officials asking what are they doing to keep our electricity reliable and affordable. SCI REMC leads the state of Indiana in their "last push" efforts to contact elected officials with over 14,000 responses responding in less than a 30-day timeframe.

So while other utilities may be trying to head off bill shock to their customers, SCI REMC will continue to remind their members that they are owners of their utilities and that their utility will continue to provide the highest reliability in electric power at the lowest possible rates and put money back in their wallets!

South Central Indiana REMC is the largest distribution cooperative in the state of Indiana serving more than 33,000 members in a seven county area including: Morgan, Monroe, Brown, Owen, and parts of Putnam, Clay and Johnson counties. For more information on the member-owned cooperative, visit [www.sciremc.coop](http://www.sciremc.coop).

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