



SECO NEWS

WYNN'S WIRE

SECO ENERGY'S 85TH ANNUAL MEETING

DEAR MEMBERS,

DID YOU WATCH SECO ENERGY'S 85TH ANNUAL MEETING ON MARCH 23? Were you one of our 100 prize winners? Watch our Annual Meeting video on SECOEnergy.com to see the list of 100 prize winners to find out if you are a winner. The video is also available on Facebook and YouTube.

Learn more about the Strategy Map, new Mission, Vision and Core Values that take SECO into the future. The energy industry is changing, and SECO has developed an approach to remain focused on our core business, manage the fast-paced changes and rising costs in our industry, operate more efficiently, increase member engagement and overcome labor and supply chain shortages.

We are investing in operational technologies that help us reduce costs by lowering our need to purchase more energy to serve growing demand. A foundational technology investment is the systemwide implementation of an advanced meter infrastructure or AMI. This technology will offer updated SmartHub features, insight into your energy costs and actionable data that will help you manage your usage.

Own an electric vehicle (EV)? Pre-enroll in an EV \$7 monthly incentive effective May 1 for members who agree to charge their EVs during Super Off-Peak hours (midnight - 6 a.m.). Learn more about the EV Fast Charger lease or purchase program, I again encourage you to watch the Annual Meeting video and visit SECOEnergy.com for details.

In my 40 years of utility experience, I have never seen the supply chain issues, rising costs and labor constraints that we are experiencing in the current economy. Unfortunately, even as a not-for-profit

utility, we are not immune to the economic downturn that started in 2020 with COVID and developed into runaway inflation these past two years. Costs have risen dramatically on nearly everything we purchase to maintain our existing electric system and construct new services. An increase to members' bills is simply unavoidable. Read more about the customer charge change on page 4 and learn more about the reasons for it in the Annual Meeting video.

Thank you, members, for participating in the governance process of your cooperative! We received a total of 14,375 votes on Annual Meeting business this year. Members voted to approve the Bylaws revision and the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes.

WATCH OUR ANNUAL MEETING VIDEO FOR THE FULL UPDATE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SECO ENERGY MEMBERSHIP.

Best regards,

Curtis Wynn
Chief Executive Officer



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RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE

A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT 7 TRUSTEE JOSEPH KUSIAK



TREES PLANTED IN THE RIGHT PLACE CAN HELP YOU REDUCE YOUR ENERGY CONSUMPTION. ACCORDING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) (WWW.ENERGY.GOV), TREES PLANTED AROUND HOMES AND BUILDINGS CAN REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION FOR HVAC BY 25%.

The DOE's computer models predict planting only three trees in the right place can reduce a household's energy costs by as much as \$250 annually. Trees planted to the south, southwest or west side of structures lowers cooling costs in the summer. Plant trees to the north and west to block fall and winter winds.

When planting trees, maintain a clear zone of 15 feet on each side of an overhead power line. Trees growing too close to power lines can cause sparks, fires, power outages and shock hazards. Consider the tree's mature height before planting. Trees that grow to a mature height of 40 feet or higher should be planted at least 50 feet away from power lines. Small trees or shrubs that will not exceed 25 feet are best planted closer to lines but outside the clear zone.

Practice safe digging – call 811 before you dig. 811 is a free service that locates underground utility lines. In Florida, call 811 – it's the law.

ANNUAL MEETING PRIZE WINNERS

SECO Energy's 85th Annual Meeting of the Membership was held on March 23. All members who voted on Annual Meeting business were eligible to win 1 of 100 great prizes. Winners were announced at the end of the Meeting. To view the list of winners, visit SECOEnergy.com > Your Co-Op > Annual Member Meeting.

If you were unable to tune in to the Annual Meeting live, the video is posted on our website and YouTube channel.

SPRING ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

A MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT 1 BOARD OF TRUSTEE AND VICE PRESIDENT SCOTT BOYATT



THE SUN IS OUT, AND TEMPERATURES ARE ON THE RISE. ADD ENERGY-EFFICIENCY ITEMS TO YOUR TO-DO LIST. USE THESE SPRING ENERGY-EFFICIENCY TIPS AND IDEAS TO REDUCE YOUR ENERGY CONSUMPTION AND LOWER YOUR BILL.

1. Invest in a programmable thermostat. Per the Department of Energy, use the thermostat's pre-programmed settings to save as much as 10% on cooling and heating costs yearly.
2. During the warmer months, set the thermostat no lower than 78 degrees.
3. Use cold water when possible.
4. Fans cool people, not rooms.
5. Turn off lights that are not in use.
6. Replace older lightbulbs with LEDs.
7. Make the most of natural light.
8. Wash a whole load of laundry - a half load uses the same amount of energy - and wash in cold water.
9. Unplug items such as TVs, computers, printers and phone chargers - these all use small amounts of energy when not in use. Invest in power strips.
10. Grill outside or use small appliances such as crock pots, air fryers or toaster ovens.

Complete SECO Energy's Home Energy Assessment for an online home energy audit and Energy Estimator for energy-efficiency solutions tailored to your home and lifestyle. Visit [SECOEnergy.com](https://secoenergy.com) > Energy Solutions.



**SCAN QR
CODE**

secoenergy.com

SECO ENERGY FOUNDATION

Helping people in need and reducing costs are critical in today's economic environment. Our ability to help disadvantaged members, reduce our carbon footprint and lower costs for all members will be impacted by the new Foundation's mission which is to fund grants for bill payment assistance, energy-related projects, educational STEM projects, scholarships, Veterans initiatives, public safety programs, environmental projects, and health and human services initiatives.

Local United Ways and social service agencies that receive grant dollars approved by the Foundation Board of Directors manage the funds for bill payment assistance. These agencies assess need and decide which members receive bill payment assistance.

The SECO Energy Foundation is a nonprofit 501c3 entity funded largely through SECO's electric bill round-up program. It can be supplemented by grants the Foundation applies for through other private and federal funding programs that align with the Foundation's goals. Participating members' extra pennies are donated to the Foundation to make a difference in members' lives across the communities served by SECO Energy.

To learn more about the Foundation or update your enrollment status, visit SECOEnergy.com/Foundation.

WINNING ACCOUNT NUMBERS!

Are the last six digits of your account number below? Email customerservice@secoenergy.com if your number appears. Winners receive a \$25 gift card.

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195904	033801	156903

BOARD MEETING DATES

The Board of Trustees will meet on **Monday, April 24, 2023**, at 2:30 p.m. in the Corporate Offices at 330 South US HWY 301 in Sumterville. A Trustees' meeting will also be held on **Monday, May 22, 2023**.

Report an Outage:
stormcenter.secoenergy.com

24/7 Job Hotline:
secoenergyjobs.com



CUSTOMER CHARGE INCREASE EFFECTIVE MAY 1

The economic downturn that began in 2020 with COVID has developed into runaway inflation. SECO Energy is not immune to the economic downturn, even as a not-for-profit utility. We continue to battle supply and labor shortages, and the price for every item we stock to build new infrastructure and maintain our over one-billion-dollar electric system has increased dramatically.

In a recent cost-of-service study presented to the Board of Trustees in the February meeting, these rising fixed costs were formalized, and a customer charge increase is needed.

Effective on bills calculated after May 1, the monthly customer charge increases from \$1 per day (roughly \$30 per month) to \$34.50 per billing cycle. SECO's rates remain very competitive compared to investor-owned and municipal utilities in our area, across the state and nationwide.

SECO Energy's 2022 Capital Budget was \$76,520,000 but necessarily increased to \$119,795,800 to cover these rising costs in 2023. Costs to members must increase accordingly.

The customer charge is the line-item fee on monthly billing statements that collects for the fixed costs of providing service.

Learn more about the customer charge increase from our CEO in the Annual Meeting video at SECOEnergy.com or YouTube.