



SECO NEWS

WYNN'S WIRE

Your Cooperative of the Future

DEAR MEMBERS,

SECO Energy has been your local, trusted electric service provider for 85 years. We are an award-winning, not-for-profit electric cooperative that is growing, changing, and striving to be your cooperative of the future.

In January 2023, I unveiled our updated Mission, Vision and Core Values and a clear, focused strategic direction through our Strategy Map. Throughout the past year, we have focused on the fundamental objectives in our Strategy Map to build a solid foundation for success.

One foundational technology currently underway is our systemwide automated metering infrastructure (AMI) project. Members with an AMI meter installed already see the benefit of this cutting-edge technology. AMI meters collect usage data in 15-minute intervals and break down the patterns recorded by common appliances and electronics to provide a comprehensive snapshot of your household's usage. With AMI meters, SECO can assist you with more innovative and energy-efficient services that reduce costs in the long run.

With the adoption of AMI, we can expand demand response programs that will provide wholesale power cost reductions and lower your bills. Demand response programs put you in control of the amount of energy you use and when you use it. We are exploring several bring-your-own-device programs for smart thermostats, smart water heaters, electric vehicles and chargers, and whole-home generators.

Many of these are already owned by you, and programs featuring these devices are the key to reducing your energy bill.

Another project of note is transitioning older, high-pressure sodium area lighting (HPS) fixtures to LED (light-emitting diode) area and street lighting. LED area lighting is a newer technology that is more energy efficient. LEDs use less energy, are more reliable, use less heat, and many fixture types are DarkSky friendly. The SECO team is devising a plan to fully transition to LED lighting in the future as the availability of HPS fixtures is scarce.

Our focus remains on our core business and meeting the increasing demand for reliable, affordable, and safe energy in our area. These proposed innovative energy services will enable SECO to maintain competitive rates and member satisfaction.

Review our Strategy Map online at SECOEnergy.com > Your Co-op > Strategy Map. Happy New Year from the SECO family to yours.

Best regards,

CURTIS WYNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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SUPERCHARGE YOUR EV

WITH OUR LEVEL 2 FAST CHARGER AND EV CHARGING INCENTIVE



SECO Energy is excited to offer members an exclusive opportunity to enhance the electric vehicle (EV) charging experience! Upgrade from a Level 1 Charger to our top-of-the-line ChargePoint Home Flex Level 2 Fast Charger and unlock a world of convenience and efficiency for your EV.

WHY UPGRADE TO A LEVEL 2 FAST CHARGER?

- **SPEED AND EFFICIENCY:** The ChargePoint Level 2 Fast Charger is designed to significantly reduce charging time compared to Level 1 Chargers. With its 240-volt power supply, charging is faster, ensuring your EV is ready to hit the road quickly.
- **CONVENIENT HOME CHARGING:** Imagine the convenience of charging your EV overnight in the comfort of your home. No trips to public charging stations – plug in and wake up to a fully charged vehicle. Plus, you can take advantage of SECO's Super Off-Peak EV Charging Incentive!
- **AFFORDABLE LEASING OPTIONS:** Make a sustainable choice without breaking the bank. Lease the ChargePoint Level 2 Fast Charger for just \$14.50 monthly plus tax.
- **OWNERSHIP BENEFITS:** If you prefer to own your charging solution, you can purchase the ChargePoint Level 2 Fast Charger for only \$699 plus tax. It's a one-time investment that pays off in the long run, offering you the convenience of home charging for years to come.



FAST CHARGER

WE'RE WAIVING THE \$50 INSTALLATION FEE FOR A LIMITED TIME. Contact a licensed electrician to assess your breaker panel capacity and installation of the 240-volt outlet and NEMA 14 50-amp receptacle. We'll install the charger and offer technical assistance.

SUPER OFF-PEAK CHARGING INCENTIVE

DO YOU ALREADY OWN AN EV? Sign up for SECO's Super Off-Peak Charging Incentive. Charge your all-electric EV during Super Off-Peak hours (12 a.m. to 6 a.m.) and be rewarded with a \$7 monthly incentive.

Take advantage of the chance to elevate your EV charging experience with a Level 2 EV Charger and Super Off-Peak Incentive from SECO Energy. Scan the QR codes and complete the web form to get started today!



INCENTIVE

GOOD AS GOLD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT GERALD ANDERSON

DEAR MEMBERS,

SECO Energy's Board of Trustees is a nine-member board comprised of your fellow SECO members. As Trustees, it is our responsibility to establish, review, and revise corporate policies that preserve the foundations of our not-for-profit electric cooperative. We work to ensure that SECO continues to maintain reliable, affordable service for all members.

What sets SECO apart is that the cooperative is owned by the members it serves; there are no shareholders or outside investors. Established as Sumter Electric Cooperative, Inc. in 1938, we are now d/b/a SECO Energy with a Mission to provide reliable and innovative energy services to our almost 240,000 homes and businesses in our service area.

SECO Energy's Board of Trustees has invested extensive time and resources to complete continuing education programs offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) that help Trustees better understand the energy industry. NRECA's programs are tailored specifically for cooperative Trustees, providing a comprehensive curriculum to enhance their expertise.

Each member of SECO Energy's Board of Trustees has participated in the NRECA's continuing education program and earned the prestigious Director Gold Credential (DGC). A Director Gold Credential signifies the highest level of commitment to continuing education, requiring participants to complete 19 credits earned through courses that mirror college-level rigor. Each credit requires a minimum of eight hours of coursework.

Our Trustees' commitment is further highlighted by the exclusivity of their accomplishments.

Among the over 832 electric distribution cooperatives in the U.S., SECO stands out as one of the select few, with 100% of its Board achieving Director Gold status. This accolade places SECO's Trustees in a truly elite category, showcasing their dedication to advancing their knowledge and skills.

Once earned, Trustees must re-certify as Director Gold every two years. This re-certification includes completing three study credits that ensure participants maintain their industry knowledge. This commitment to ongoing education underscores SECO's dedication to having a Board equipped with the latest insights in the ever-evolving electric utility landscape.

The electric utility industry is complex; it faces challenges, threats, and opportunities. Your Board of Trustees is well-equipped to steer the cooperative through these complexities, ensuring a bright outlook for SECO Energy, its members, and communities.

As president of SECO's Board of Trustees, I am extremely proud of the accomplishment of the entire Board in achieving the highest level of education - Director Gold.

Sincerely,



GERALD ANDERSON
BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT



AVOIDING ENERGY SCAMS



As your trusted electric cooperative, we prioritize your safety and well-being. Recently, there has been a rise in energy fraud targeting consumers, and we want to ensure that you are well informed and protected. Keep these crucial warnings in mind:

1. BEWARE OF UNSOLICITED CALLS: Scammers may pose as utility workers, making unsolicited calls claiming your account is overdue and threatening immediate disconnection if payment is not made. SECO will never demand immediate payment over the phone or threaten disconnection without prior written notice.

2. PHISHING EMAILS AND TEXTS: Be cautious of emails or text messages requesting personal or financial information. Always verify the sender's authenticity before clicking on any links. SECO communicates official information through our account management platform, SmartHub, and will never ask for sensitive information via email or text.

3. DOOR-TO-DOOR SCAMS: Scammers may appear at your doorstep, claiming to be SECO employees and requesting payment. Authentic SECO representatives carry proper identification and will not demand on-the-spot payments. If in doubt, call our Member Services team to verify the person's identity.

4. FAKE UTILITY APPS: SmartHub is SECO Energy's approved online account manager. Scammers may create fake apps to gain access to your personal information. Enroll in SmartHub to check your balance, pay your monthly bill, enroll in bank draft, and more; visit SECOEnergy.com > My Account > 12 Ways to Pay.

5. WAYS TO PAY: SECO does not accept PayPal, Zelle, Cash App, Venmo or gift cards for payment. Enrolling in bank draft, with a paperless bill, is the safest payment and bill delivery option.

If you encounter suspicious activity or feel threatened, it is best to contact local law enforcement. We are committed to providing reliable and innovative energy services while ensuring the safety and security of our members. Stay informed and vigilant.

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.

951201	929902	739202
370021	248601	792511

BOARD MEETING DATES

The Board of Trustees will meet on **Monday, January 22, 2024**, 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, February 26, 2024**.

Report an Outage:
stormcenter.secoenergy.com

24/7 Job Hotline:
secoenergyjobs.com

