



# Singing River Electric Power Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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## Please be sure to read article "Mississippians Stand to Lose" on page 2



Lee Hedegaard, General Manager and CEO Singing River Electric

Drastic changes are being proposed for the electric industry. Congressional leaders and the Obama Administration have been making a hard push to quickly pass energy, climate change and appropriations bills - all aimed at creating a new "green economy."

The President told Congress in his February address that "cap-and-trade" legislation will be a key element to transforming the nation's energy and electricity systems and consumers' energy habits. In reality, a cap and trade system will be the same as a tax on carbon, designed to reduce the use of fossil fuels like coal and natural gas. Even though such a plan has not yet been formally adopted, the Administration's proposed 2010 budget includes revenues from such a program - \$80 billion a year beginning in 2012 that will come straight out of electric customers' pockets. And the cost could conceivably be much higher.

Any legislation based on such proposals will have significant effects for us in the Southeast, because our region primarily uses fossil fuels to generate electricity. Our electric costs are lower than most of the country, which is good because we consume more kilowatts throughout the year because of our climate. If these plans go through, consumers in other areas of the country, such as California, the


Northwest and the Northeast, will feel much smaller overall cost impacts. Congress has also announced plans that call for mandatory development of renewable resources nationwide. While that is a worthy pursuit in general, large-scale use of renewables in our part of the country is not realistic. We simply do not have the levels of wind and sun necessary to meet the needs of hundreds of thousands of consumers. In order to maintain reliable and economical electric service for our members, we must have a diversified mix of fuels that includes coal and nuclear. It does not make sense to artificially add costs to our current generating resources to make renewables more cost competitive.

We strongly believe that it is our responsibility to be advocates for our members and keep your electric costs as low as possible. Energy policies that result in higher costs for our region will damage economic development in our state and lead to higher prices for other products and services. We have asked our leaders in Washington to speak up for Mississippi's consumers and help craft a wide-ranging, sensible energy plan that protects the environment as well as our economy.

Visit our Web site at [www.singingriver.com/climate.html](http://www.singingriver.com/climate.html) to download a copy of the "Mississippians Stand to Lose" document that was distributed to your Mississippi legislators in Washington, D.C., recently on your behalf.

We will continue to update you as this process moves forward. For additional information, log on to [www.findabalancedsolution.com](http://www.findabalancedsolution.com).






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Students represent Singing River Electric at the

# Youth Leadership Workshop



Gus Maples, Glenn Ferrell, Michael Hedegaard and Tiffany Wilson represented Singing River Electric at the youth leadership workshop in Jackson.



Students visited with local legislators during the workshop. Pictured above (from left to right) are Maples, Wilson, Rep. Deryk Parker, Hedegaard, Sen. Michael Watson, Ferrell and Rep. Frank Hamilton.

by Abby Berry

Singing River Electric Power Association sponsored four high school juniors for the 23rd annual Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson. Glenn Ferrell, Michael Hedegaard, Gus Maples and Tiffany Wilson were selected by SREPA to attend the event. The three-day workshop is intended to bring young minds together and strengthen their leadership abilities for the future.

This year 63 students attended the Youth Leadership Workshop, which is coordinated by the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi. The students travel from different areas of the state and are given the opportunity to take a closer look at our state government as well as participate in activities that greatly enhance their leadership skills.

These students have shown a natural

ability to set good examples and a desire to further their skills in becoming future leaders. The workshop greatly emphasizes teamwork, good communication and lots of fun.

The workshop took place March 4-6 and included events such as team-building activities, a visit to the Capitol, a meeting with legislators, and several inspiring motivational speakers. Students were asked to put their critical thinking skills to work during a town



Students participate in a town hall meeting with speaker Eddie Tanner where they discussed pressing issues facing their generation.

*"Singing River Electric is proud to be involved in the development of our future leaders. This outstanding program encourages young people to take an active leadership role in their school and community."*

Lee Hedegaard  
 General Manager and CEO

hall meeting where they were faced with weighing the pros and cons of pressing issues their generation faces. Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant spoke with the

students Thursday afternoon and emphasized the importance of setting good examples as leaders. Ferrell is the son of Bobby and Jana Ferrell. He is a junior at Ocean Springs High School. Hedegaard is the son of Lee and Beverly Hedegaard. He is a junior at George County High School. Maples is the son of Mark and Nancy Jo Maples. He is a junior at George County High School. Wilson is the daughter of Ron and Christine Wilson. She is a junior at George County High School. In addition to the workshop, Ferrell, Hedegaard and Wilson will make a seven-day journey to the nation's capital in June. This event features visits to the popular monuments and memorials as well as meetings with Mississippi's senators and representatives.