



Meet Your SEC Employee

Scott Wallace
Energy Management Advisor
22 years of service
Headquarters Office

Scott Wallace says Southside Electric Cooperative (SEC) gave him more than a job. “Southside has taught me a lot of things,” says Wallace, who has worked for SEC 22 years. “The Cooperative has educated me.”

Wallace, who lives in Nottoway County outside of Burkeville, notes that the Cooperative has taught him about having a work ethic and how to properly and safely do things. He’s also learned how to relate to people, whether they are other employees or members. He says the key to that is “being able to talk to them, being honest and straight to the point.”

Wallace, 43, feels fortunate to be working at SEC. He enjoys coming to the Crewe office every morning.

The energy management advisor the last two years, Wallace came to SEC as a meter reader, a couple of years after graduating from high school. Much of his time with the Cooperative, 17 years, was spent working in buildings and grounds, a job in which he helped maintain all of SEC's buildings and Hooper Park, cleared rights-of-way, installed new equipment at substations and did "anything that needed to be done." He even had the opportunity to work on several storm-restoration efforts.

In buildings and grounds, Wallace spent time working in SEC's four district offices in Altavista, Crewe, Dinwiddie and Powhatan. He had a hand in several building projects across the Cooperative. "Got to know most of the employees through working in buildings and grounds," he adds.

Wallace's current job takes him across the Cooperative's 18-county service territory doing energy audits for members. He expects to do more than 100 this year. He says there have been more this year because of the summer heat.

His job, he notes, is to help members understand how much electricity they're using and for what things. If a member thinks his or her bill is high, Wallace tries to explain the charge and offers programs and options to help save money. Wallace likes his work because he enjoys helping people.

In doing an energy audit, Wallace first looks at the meter information, finding out how much electricity the member has used. When he arrives at the member's home or business, he thinks about the type of structure, the location and condition, and the heating and air systems. He checks to see if there is standing water that could indicate a leak. He looks for cracks in the foundation, open vents, and broken windows and doors. He wants to know whether the building has insulation and how many structures are on one meter. Wallace, who has an associate degree in heating, air and electricity from Southside Virginia Community College, asks a lot of questions and carefully listens to the answers.

The energy audits and Wallace's advice are free services the Cooperative provides for members. To reach Wallace with an energy question or to schedule an audit, call him at 434-645-2513.

Away from work, you're likely to find Wallace spending time with wife Michelle and daughters Kelsey and Marlee. Often, that's going to be outdoors. Wallace says he and Michelle enjoy heading to the beach with family and friends. He adds they've traveled the East Coast to various beaches; the Outer Banks is their favorite. They enjoy checking out the local seafood restaurants and just relaxing.

Wallace and Kelsey, who's 15, enjoy hunting and target shooting together. He's also coached her travel softball team for several years. With his youngest daughter, 13-year-old Marlee, Wallace helps get her to dance practice and recitals. Wallace is also a member of Crewe Baptist Church.

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