

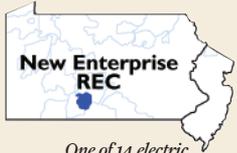
FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER / CEO

Loyal connections

Co-ops change lives in communities they serve

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

814/766-3221
1-800-270-3177



Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

LOYALTY IS a prized virtue — to country, family, even the schools we attend. We keep those ties strong throughout our lives.

We at New Enterprise Rural Electric also have loyalties — to the members and communities we serve. We have deep connections here because south-central Pennsylvania is our home, and you are our neighbor.

When you signed up for service with New Enterprise Rural Electric, you became a member, not a customer — because each of our 3,300 consumer-members owns a portion of the utility.

That means we care about improving the quality of life in the areas we serve. From sponsoring banners at the high school soccer or Little League fields to coordinating loans to local ambulance groups for equipment, New Enterprise Rural Electric invests in the places where you live and work.

New Enterprise Rural Electric doesn't exist to make profits for distant investors on Wall Street. We exist to provide you with safe, reliable and affordable electric service — and we are doing so in a way that makes things better for future generations. Because electric co-ops operate on a not-for-profit basis, we have no need to increase revenues above what it takes to run our business in a financially sound manner. This structure helps keep your electric bills affordable.

We take our jobs seriously, but we also take our community roles seriously, too. That's why we offer scholarships to college-bound students, and send several high school juniors to Washington, D.C., every summer to learn about history and government.

We don't participate in these activities simply because it's nice to do, or even the right thing to do. We do it because we remain loyal to our members, our neighbors, our home — and a mission to make life better in the areas we serve.

Want to work with us? Tell me what would make life better in your community. Send your ideas to info@newenterpriserec.com 

Co-op calendar

August 27 - Disconnect accounts with past due balances (last day to make payment arrangements with Brawna at extension 224 is Aug. 23)

August 28 - Regular payment due date

Sept. 2 - Closed in observance of Labor Day

Installing a flagpole? Keep it safely away from power lines

SHE'S A grand ole' flag, and there are many who fly the Stars and Stripes every day from a flag holder attached to the house. Some, however, want her to be a high-flying flag, too, and they go the extra step to install a flagpole in the yard. While showing your patriotism, don't let safety take a back seat. Look up and look



around you to keep yourself and your helpers safe from electrocution while installing the flagpole.

In southern Illinois last September, a man and his stepson were both electrocuted while relocating a flagpole in the father's yard. The flagpole fell across power lines and they became the path to ground for the electricity. In another tragic accident, a 23-year-old Iraqi war veteran and Louisiana police officer was killed as he and his brothers were erecting a homemade flagpole. The youngest brother tried to warn him that the pole was coming close to the electric wires, but it was too late. The pole touched the lines, and he was electrocuted.

If you are planning to install or relocate a flagpole, keep these safety tips from the Consumer Product Safety Commission in mind:

- ▶ Before moving the pole, carefully check the location of all overhead wires, especially where they connect to the house.

- ▶ Power lines and phone lines often appear similar. Assume all overhead wires carry electricity.
- ▶ Since the pole may be heavy or unwieldy, have help carrying and installing the flagpole.
- ▶ Never work on a windy day — a gust of wind can cause a pole to shift and touch an overhead wire.
- ▶ Never place a pole where it could slide into an overhead line.
- ▶ If the pole should start to fall into an overhead line, let it go. Never try to move it. Stay away and warn others to stay back, but do not leave the area unattended. Have someone call the power company to ensure the electric line is de-energized before moving the flagpole.
- ▶ If someone is holding the pole when it contacts the overhead line, never try to pull them away with your hands. Use something that does not conduct electricity, such as a long piece of dry wood or rope, to push or pull them loose.
- ▶ Before digging a hole for the footing for the flagpole, you will need to contact Pennsylvania One Call at 811 or 1-800-242-1776 to allow all underground utility lines to be marked. Digging a hole through an underground electric cable can be just as deadly as allowing a flagpole to contact an overhead electric wire.

Of course, flagpoles aren't the only piece of tall or long equipment that can be dangerous around electric wires. These same rules apply when working with ladders, skimmer handles for cleaning swimming pools, concrete-finishing float handles, tree-trimming equipment and similar long-handled tools. Always use caution and look up for overhead power lines before moving or using them.

Whichever flag you will be flying from your flagpole, ensure that you stay safe during the installation project. Fly your flags proudly — and safely. For more information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org. 



Invest in Efficiency

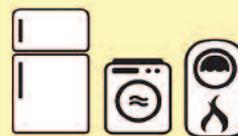
The benefits of some home efficiency investments aren't seen as quickly as others. Here's how a few upgrades compare over time:



Set Water Heater to 120°
No Cost; Save \$73/yr

Open Window Blinds in Winter; Close in Summer
No Cost; Save \$35/yr

Adjust Thermostat 1° Down in Winter, 1° Up in Summer
No Cost; Save \$82/yr



ENERGY STAR Clothes Washer
Costs \$194 extra; Save \$140/yr

ENERGY STAR Refrigerator
Costs \$97 extra; Save \$100/yr

Wrap Hot Water Tank
Costs \$85; Save \$23/yr

Upgrade to ENERGY STAR Heat Pump (From 10 to 15 SEER)
Costs \$5,700; Save \$408/yr

Instant Benefit

1-5 Year Payback

Long Term Investment

Find more ways to save at **TogetherWeSave.com**.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Home Energy Saver, Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives. Based on national average savings; actual savings will vary by climate.

Auditing energy: small measures, real savings

BY MAGEN HOWARD

NO MATTER the age of your home, it could benefit from an energy audit. You can get started on your own in finding low-cost solutions that could save money on your monthly electric bill.

First, ask yourself a simple question: Does my home feel drafty and cold in the winter, or stuffy and hot in the summer? If yes, then it probably experiences air leakage.

To track down where those spots are, start with the usual suspects — like damaged seals around doors and windows. If you see daylight or feel air, then apply caulk and weather stripping to keep outdoor air where it's supposed to be.

But don't forget spots you might not immediately think of, like recessed canister lights and electrical outlets. Outlet insulation kits can be purchased for as little as \$2, and you can fix up your canister lights with some caulk around the edges.

Also look where walls meet the ceil-

ing. Cobwebs mean you've got drafts.

Next, peek into the attic and inspect the crawl space or basement for sufficient insulation — how much you need depends on your climate. Check out the insulation calculator from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory at www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html. Keep in mind insulation won't do its job well if you don't have a proper air barrier working in tandem. That means all joints and cracks must be sealed between your living space and insulation.

Finally, look to your light fixtures. Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) are up to 75 percent more efficient than traditional incandescent bulbs, and they've come a long way in light quality, design, and affordability. You can purchase CFLs in a variety of shapes and hues. They cost more upfront, but you'll make your money back in less than nine months and, after that, they start saving

money. Make sure to purchase a CFL that's rated by Energy Star, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's program that denotes products meeting specific energy efficiency criteria. Energy Star-rated CFLs will typically last 10 times longer than a traditional incandescent bulb producing the same amount of light.

LEDs — light-emitting diodes — are in the next wave of residential lighting. An Energy Star-rated model is estimated to use only a quarter of the electricity consumed by traditional bulbs and can last for 25 years. As with many new technologies, the up-front cost for an LED bulb is still much more than even a CFL, but prices are expected to drop as new products are developed.

To learn more about ways to reduce your electric bill, visit EnergySavers.gov or TogetherWeSave.com 

Sources: EnergySavers.gov, *Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative*, EnergyStar.gov

Family-in-Need Fund

The Family-in-Need Fund is a program that helps families in need of hardship assistance. The Center for Community Action determines eligibility for these funds. Your contribution to this worthy program assists **ONLY** New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative consumers. Members volunteering for this round-up program agree to have their monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the extra few cents going to the Family-in-Need Fund. This tax-deductible donation will amount to less than \$1 a month. The billing statement you receive in January will have the total amount of contributions for the previous year. This can be used when filing your federal income tax return.

To join the Family-in-Need Fund, just complete the form below and then mail it to our office, or sign up online at www.newenterpriserec.com.

If you would not want to have your monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, but would like to contribute a lump sum, you can mail a check to New Enterprise REC and in the memo, write Family-in-Need Fund.

Should you need more information, please call our office at 814/766-3221 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Should you need help paying your electric bill, please call Brawna Sell at extension 224.

Authorization form for FAMILY-IN-NEED FUND

YES, I wish to contribute to the **FAMILY-IN-NEED FUND**. I understand my electric bills will be rounded up to the nearest dollar. I also understand this will be effective with my next billing. Should I wish to stop contributing to this fund, I simply need to inform New Enterprise REC.

No, I do not wish to contribute to the **FAMILY-IN-NEED FUND**, but I would like to make a lump-sum contribution. Lump-sum amounts may be contributed at any time. When making a lump-sum donation, mark it as "**FAMILY-IN-NEED FUND.**"

Name: _____ Date: _____

KIDZCORNER Youth Tour 2013

Lauren Morris was New Enterprise REC's 2013 Youth Tour representative. She provided a summary of her trip and pictures to share.

"When I was boarding the bus in Everett, I was skeptical that I was going to have fun, make any friends, or even have a "normal" roommate. After getting on the bus, I quickly realized that making friends, having fun, and hopefully rooming with one of the girls I just met, was going to be easy. We had a packed itinerary for the week, which seemed to be interesting. I quickly made friends with all



the other students who boarded the bus in Everett.



They were from the Somerset and Bedford co-ops. We were able to travel during the week to see the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, Capitol Hill, the Newseum, Pentagon City Mall, Holocaust Museum, Madame Tussauds Wax Museum and the Kennedy Center. We also took a cruise on the Potomac River. Throughout this week, I was given the opportunity to look back on the American history that gave America its footsteps for the future. I enjoyed creating new friendships, traveling across D.C., and, of course, the amazing food!

"We had an All-States Dinner/Dance, where the Texas boys showed us how to line dance and two-step! We also got to finish up with a quick trip to the Washington, D.C., Zoo and go shopping at the Hagerstown outlets! When we were all getting off the bus to go home, it was a bittersweet moment. I just made friends with a group of 12 other students and I felt like I knew them all my life. This was a trip of a lifetime; if I could go back with those 12 people, we'd all be there in a heartbeat."

