

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

# Keeping warm without going broke

## 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

**THIS WINTER**, it seems almost everyone has been thinking about how to best heat our homes. Should our existing heating system be totally abandoned? Should an upgrade to a more efficient furnace be made? Should a wood furnace be installed? How about a geothermal or air source heat pump? What about the electric baseboard heaters

we abandoned a decade ago that are still wired for use?

So where do we start? Maybe more importantly, when do we start? The answer to this question is perhaps the easiest of all questions. Start now! If you haven't already, evaluate your existing heating system and how you have been using it. It could be that changing some of our heating methods and habits could save as much as installing a completely new heating system.

Do you need to heat every room in your house at the maximum temperature all day long? The answer for most of us is no. We go through the thought process of what to do with our heating systems because of costs. It costs to operate our heating source and it costs to change out our existing heat source in an attempt to lower the operating costs. Any investment must see a payback within a reasonable amount of years.

### A popular solution

New "advanced quartz infrared portable heaters" or "portable rolling fireplaces" have been advertised heavily this

year with sales being high. Comments indicate they save dollars, they are not an inconvenience and they work. They work when used the way they were meant to be used — by being a supplement to your existing heat. The idea is to turn back your main source of heat to about 50 degrees and move your portable heater to the area you want warmer. Your savings is from setting back your main source of heat.

The cost to operate the portable heater is tied directly to the "hours" it is turned on. Example: a 1,000-watt (1KW) heater operating for one hour = 1 kilowatt-hour (kWh). A kWh costs about a dime. So every hour your 1,000-watt heater operates will cost a dime and, if operated 10 hours each day, would cost you about \$1/day. Be careful though! If your heater is 2,000 watts (2KW), it costs 20 cents each hour. If it operates 20 hours a day, your cost quickly goes to \$4 a day. Buy two of these and you can see how the costs can multiply quickly.

The solution I just described will work for many people but may not be the best for others. You must evaluate your situation. Building a new house? Perhaps a \$20,000 geothermal system is the solution. Have an abundance of wood on your property (and a healthy back)? An outdoor wood furnace is a choice. If you already have ductwork in your home, you might want to think twice about abandoning it.

The important thing is we all seem to be taking seriously how we can heat our homes in a cost-effective manner. This is a giant step in doing everything we can to be more energy efficient in our homes. Good luck with your choices. 

### Correction

We inadvertently omitted two names in our November *Penn Lines* article about rights-of-way. We would like to give a special thank you to John and Joanne Batzel, who graciously gave permission to our trucks and K.W. Reese trucks to gain access through their property in the Hipple Cave Road area and parking on their property.

## Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (also known as LIHEAP) is a grant program that helps low-income families pay their heating and utility bills. This program opened on Nov. 1, 2012, for cash grants. Crisis grants begin Jan. 2, 2013. You may apply for cash or crisis grants, or both. Listed below are the details of the grants.

- ▶ **Cash Grants:** This grant will be sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider. You do not have to be out of fuel or have a disconnection notice to apply for the cash grant.
- ▶ **Regular Crisis Grant:** This grant will also be sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider. However, you have to have an *emergency situation*, and in jeopardy of losing your heat. Emergency situations include: broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced, lack of fuel, termination of utility service, danger of being without fuel. Please note that the regular crisis grant does not open until Jan. 2, 2013.

You must meet the income guidelines in the chart at right to qualify for LIHEAP.

To apply, you will need:

- ▶ Names of people in your household
- ▶ Dates of birth for all household members
- ▶ Social Security numbers for all household members
- ▶ Proof of income for all household members

- ▶ A recent heating bill
- Please contact your local assistance office for an application.

The Bedford County Assistance Office can be reached at 814/623-6127 or toll-free at 800/542-8584.

The Fulton County Assistance Office can be reached at 717/485-3151 or toll-free at 800/222-8563.

The Huntingdon County Assistance Office can be reached at 814/643-1170 or toll-free at 800/237-7674 ☀

INCOME GUIDELINES 2012- 2013 LIHEAP (For Homeowners and Renters)	
Household Size	Maximum Income
1	\$16,335
2	\$22,065
3	\$27,795
4	\$33,525
5	\$39,255
6	\$44,985
7	\$50,715
8	\$56,445
9	\$62,175
10	\$67,905
Each additional person \$5,730.	



# It's that time of year again!



Trying to find that perfect gift? Wanting to avoid last-minute shopping, the crowds of people, the chance the person will return your gift for something different? Then call New Enterprise REC for a gift certificate. They come in all different values, and any person would greatly appreciate the gift. You may either clip the coupon and mail it in with your payment, or call us and pay over the phone with a check, Visa, or MasterCard.

### New Enterprise REC Gift Certificate

Recipient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Gift: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchaser's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

How should the certificate(s) be signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Mom & Dad, The Smith Family, Joe & Betty, etc.)

I wish to remain anonymous

Mail letter to recipient

Mail letter to purchaser

Please circle one of the above

# Co-op Connections website takes on new look

IF YOU'VE logged on to the Co-op Connections website recently, you've probably noticed that it has taken on a new look.

The new website will make it a friendlier and more positive user experience that will make you want to keep coming back. Here are features on the tabs listed:

- ▶ My Local Deals to get discounts at businesses in and around your zip code.
- ▶ On the Healthy Savings tab, you will be able to access a list of providers for

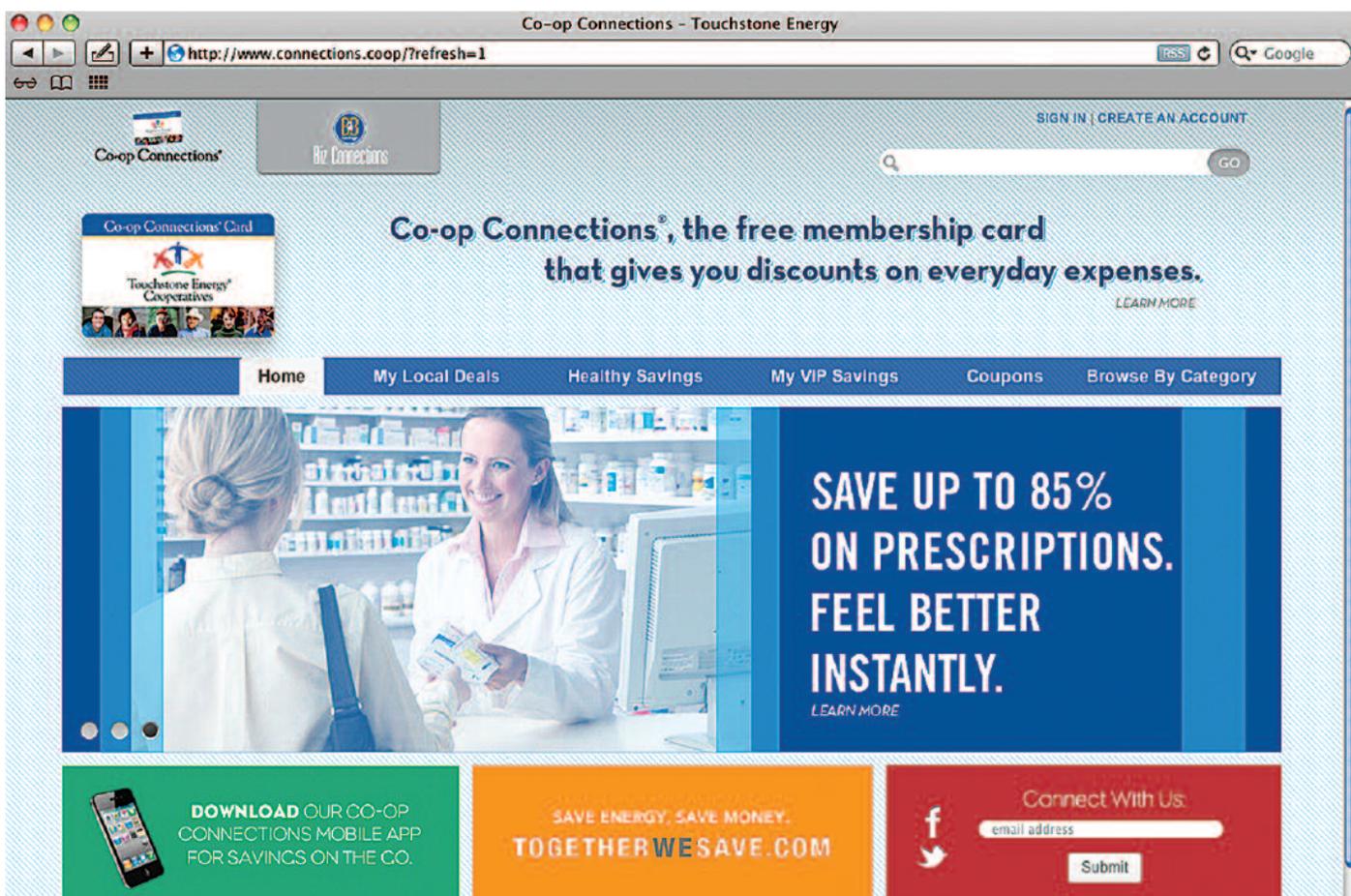
chiropractic, vision, dental, lab services and imaging, hearing aid services, and prescriptions. You will receive discounts from these providers if you do not have health insurance coverage.

- ▶ My VIP Savings will list savings for online purchases at major retail stores, and you receive Cashback Dollars on every qualifying purchase! You will need to register to access this site.
- ▶ Coupons — print hundreds of grocery and household coupons for instant savings on your next trip to the super-

market or retail store.

- ▶ Browse by Category — gives you easier access to look for deals and savings by category.

You can also download the Co-op Connections app to your mobile phone so you always have it with you. For more energy savings, check out [www.togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com). If you have questions registering, or need a Co-op Connections card, please call Wendy at the office for assistance. You can reach her at 814-766-3221 or 1-800-270-3177, ext 230. ☀



## Tip of the Month

Did you know a computer can draw as much electricity as a new refrigerator? Turn it off when not in use or switch on its energy-saving mode. Also, cell phone and mp3 player chargers, as well as plasma TVs and entertainment centers pull power even when they're off. Unplug these and other appliances to save on your electric bill. Find more ways to save at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

## KIDZCORNER

### Christmas gifts made by the kids

Here is a recipe that is simple and easy for the kids to make and give out as Christmas gifts.

#### Goopy Caramel Corn

- ➡ 1/2 cup butter (1 stick)
- ➡ 2 cups packed brown sugar
- ➡ 1 cup corn syrup
- ➡ 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- ➡ 2 poppers full of popcorn from an air popper (1 cup unpopped total)

Pop 2 full batches of popcorn in an air popper. Remove any unpopped kernels. Set aside.

Bring butter, brown sugar and corn syrup to a boil over medium high heat, stirring constantly. Slowly stir in 1 can of sweetened condensed milk. Continue stirring until mixture returns to a full boil. Start timer for 5 minutes and continue to stir until timer goes off. Remove from heat. Pour over popped corn and stir until well combined.

Spread onto foil that has been sprayed with baking/cooking spray and let cool. Then put the popcorn into cellophane bags and tie with ribbon.



### Happy Holidays

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative employees and directors wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to providing you the best service in 2013!

Rick Eichelberger, Brawna Sell, Bobbi McIlroy, Wendy Conley, Ron Houck, Rodney Decker, John Colyer, Randy Walker, Mark Repogle, John Simington Jr., Zachary Conley, Leroy Walls, David Bequeath, Timothy Newman, Ellis Sollenberger, John Dively, Dean Brant and Robert Guyer

#### December Co-op Calendar:

- 24th - The office will be closing at 1 p.m. for the Christmas holiday
- 25th - The office will be closed for Christmas
- 28th - Regular payment and meter reading due date
- 31st - The office will be closing at 1 p.m. for New Year's Eve
- January 1st - The office will be closed for New Year's Day