

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER / CEO

Why I'm thankful for my co-op

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

814/766-3221
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Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

AS YOUR cooperative's CEO, I want to take time to list some of the things I am thankful for during this Thanksgiving season. My list is usually about the same — good health, wonderful family and friends, and a job serving the great people of our Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon county service area.

I'm thankful to be a part of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative. Our employees are some of the hardest workers I know. Our mission is to provide affordable, reliable, safe electric power, but we also aim to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. It's a mission we all take seriously.

I'm thankful for New Enterprise Rural Electric because it allows employees to live alongside those we serve. The beauty of a cooperative is that it's locally owned and operated; there are no distant shareholders pulling the strings behind the scenes. Members elect members to serve on the board of directors and govern the co-op. We are your neighbors, your friends and your family.

By living in our communities, our employees are a real face for members when questions arise about the cooperative or about a members needs. In today's world, it is almost impossible to speak to someone you know when you have a question about your electric, your telephone, your cable TV or your internet

service. But that is not true for the nearly 1,000 rural electric cooperatives across the country. Chances are, our members know some or all of the employees that work at New Enterprise Rural Electric.

I'm thankful for my co-op because it serves as a vibrant force in the local economy — partly because we are local. That means New Enterprise Rural Electric is invested in the future of its communities. Donations are made to a wide variety of groups needing support in our communities. We circulate throughout the school districts educating our children about electrical safety and conservation. We even give guidance to our neighbors who are not on cooperative power lines when they stop or call with questions about electrical needs with their power supplier.

I'm thankful for my co-op because we care. We know the inconvenience it is to be without power and when it does go off, it is our top priority to restore it. The same goes for questions we receive about providing service at a new location. We care about the members and the towns we serve. We understand you are contacting us to get an answer. We will take care of your questions and help you come up with solutions. We are "People You Can Count On."

Finally, I'm thankful for you, our members and faithful readers, because without you, there'd be no New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative.

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us here at your electric co-op. 

November calendar

Nov. 11 - Office closed in observance of Veterans Day

Nov. 26 - Disconnect accounts with past due balances (last day to make arrangements with Wendy to avoid disconnect is Nov. 22, please contact her at extension 230)

Nov. 27 - Regular payment due date

Nov. 28 - Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Nellie's story: cleaning with no electricity

BY WENDY CONLEY
Penn Lines Coordinator

DESPITE moving a number of times as she was growing up, Nellie Morrison did not have the luxury of electricity until she was in her early 20s.

Nellie grew up with six sisters and two brothers. Her father worked at saw mills, helped build barns and did other carpentry jobs. He also worked as a paperhanger. Her mother was a midwife, and worked for other people doing cleaning, washing and ironing, as well as taking care of ill neighbors. Nellie's mother was also a seamstress who specialized in taking larger-size clothing and cutting it down to fit children. She would sew the material back together using a treadle sewing machine powered by her feet.

A native of the Jacks Corner area of Bedford County, Nellie still lives there. She remembers living in four homes in Jacks Corner and three in the Yellow Creek area, none of which had electricity. Growing up, her family used kerosene lamps and lanterns for lighting. They cooked and heated water for bathing and washing clothes on a wood cook stove. To keep their food cool, they placed it in crocks and set the crocks into water troughs filled with cold water from the mountain springs.

Even though she didn't grow up on a farm, Nellie still had plenty of chores. She would heat water on the wood stove and carry the heated water outside to the wash tubs. From there, she would wash the soiled clothes on a washboard using a bar of soap. They would also heat two heavy irons on the wood stove to iron clothes; one iron was heating while the other was being used. Nellie was also responsible for sweeping the rugs in the home with a broom.

Since they did not have indoor plumbing, the family would heat water on the wood stove to put in the basin that was in the kitchen for bathing. As for using a toilet, they would have to go outside to the outhouse during daylight hours. At night, they would use chamber pots that were stored under the bed.

Nellie attended two, one-room schoolhouses through seventh grade, neither of



Nellie Morrison

which had electricity. In 1929, she began attending a two-story school that did have electricity, as well as an inside bathroom.

When asked what she thought of the convenience of electricity at school, Nellie responded by saying, "Fascinating!"

The school did not have a kitchen so she had to take a lunch that she had packed.

During her summer breaks, Nellie would clean for people. These people had electricity and Nellie would live with them during the summer. However, she never had any ill feelings about having to return home when school started to a home without electricity.

Nellie graduated from high school in 1939, and took various jobs cleaning homes that did have electricity. She

reports she thought the electric sweeper was "neat" to use, and notes that having electricity made it a lot easier to get things done around the house.

Nellie was married at the age of 21 and she and her husband, Mike, rented a home in New Enterprise that had electricity and a gas stove for cooking. When the young couple bought a house in Yellow Creek, she once again had a wood-burning stove. In the 1950s, Nellie had the choice of an electric stove or a gas stove for cooking. She opted for an electric stove as she was afraid of cooking with gas. She also got her first hot water heater and indoor plumbing.

As for today, Nellie admits that she could not go back living without electricity. ☀

Take the chill out of winter bills

BY AMBER BENTLEY

Between holiday houseguests and shorter, colder days, electric bills tend to climb in the winter. Read on for ways to save energy when the temperature drops.

Lower your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower): If you decrease the temperature by just 1 degree, you can save up to 5 percent on heating costs. Consider a programmable thermostat that you can set to lower the temperature when away from home and increase before you come back.

Adjust blinds and curtains: Keep them open to let in sunlight during the day, and close them night to keep heat inside and reduce drafts.

Reduce hot water temperatures: Heating water accounts for 12 percent of the average home's energy use. Set your water heater's thermostat to 120 degrees or lower – that's usually sufficient for a household's hot-water needs. Also, if you've had your water heater for more than 12 years, you might want to consider replacing it with a more energy-efficient model.

Seal and insulate: This is the best way to keep heat in and air out. Areas that may need sealing include corners, cracks, door frames and windows.

Consider replacing old appliances, doors, and windows with Energy Star-rated models: You can save about 15 percent of your normal energy use with these appliances and get better insulation on doors and windows for the price you pay. Energy Star-rated items meet special efficiency standards set by the federal government.

Free your vents: HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems will have to work twice as hard if vents are blocked by rugs, furniture, or doors. Keep vents clear for proper air flow.

Keep food cool: Don't make your fridge work too hard. A temperature set between 34 and 37 degrees Fahrenheit is usually sufficient.

A special holiday tip: Use LED lights to decorate. They're up to 75 percent more energy efficient than traditional incandescent lights and last much longer – but check for an Energy Star rating before you buy. Cheaper LEDs tend not to last as long or be as durable.



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.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

If you're expecting guests for holiday festivities, consider giving your heating unit a break. With the oven cranked up and the house packed with people, the temperature will rise on its own. Also make sure it has a clean filter so it can work as efficiently as possible all winter long. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: TogetherWeSave.com

KIDZcorner

Thanksgiving

N Z F T E H E I N I K P M U P
J U E N F A I E S H A R I N G
K S A L O R C N B K G B T Y A
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AMERICA

FEAST

HOLIDAY

NOVEMBER

PILGRIMS

SHARING

TURKEY

CORN

FOOTBALL

INDIANS

PARADE

PLYMOUTH

THANKSGIVING

VIRGINIA

CORNUCOPIA

HARVEST

LINCOLN

PIE

PUMPKIN

THURSDAY

WISHBONE