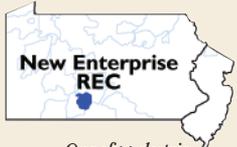


FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER / CEO

Harnessing renewable energy

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

3596 Brumbaugh Road
P.O. Box 75
New Enterprise, PA 16664-0075
814/766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177
FAX 814/766-3319
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www.newenterpriserec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

MEMBER-OWNED, not-for-profit electric cooperatives like New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative study and adopt innovative technologies to help us provide safe, reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible electricity.

Battery power is one of these promising technologies, but on a much larger scale than batteries

found in a flashlight or electric car, of course. The ability to store large amounts of energy could transform power produced intermittently by wind turbines and solar panels into a more reliable resource.

Even with good location and plenty of breezes, wind generation averages only about a 30 to 40 percent capacity factor and seldom operates at full output (due to a lack of wind) when power is needed most — during hot, humid summer weekday afternoons or cold winter mornings below minus 22 degrees Fahrenheit. Solar power systems suffer brief but dramatic drops in power generation when clouds pass over the sun.

That's where battery energy storage comes in. Thanks to chemistry advancements, a new wave of better, low-cost, long-life batteries for "stockpiling" pow-

er are being tested by a network of electric co-ops, public power districts and public utility districts across the country.

What does this mean for you? Large-scale batteries could allow utilities to store the excess energy produced overnight by a wind farm and release it the next day when folks head home from work, flip on lights, fire up stovetops, and turn on washing machines. Even better, this power would flow onto the grid during times of peak demand, when power costs skyrocket. We wouldn't have to purchase as much expensive supplemental power on the open market.

Energy storage makes renewable energy more economically viable, which will be crucial as our nation works to diversify its electricity supply. It may also reduce wear and tear on traditional power plants, make electric distribution systems like New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative more efficient, and avoid or delay the need to build expensive transmission lines.

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative and Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., our wholesale power provider, are tracking and testing energy storage programs in an ongoing effort to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable energy to our members. Find more ways we're looking out for you at www.newenterpriserec.com. 

April co-op calendar

APRIL 24 - Disconnect accounts with past due balances (to avoid disconnection, please contact Brawna before April 22 to make payment arrangements)

APRIL 26 - Regular payment due date

Five ways to spring into energy efficiency

SPRING marks a perfect time of year to make your home more energy efficient. Here are five quick tips that will save both energy and money:

1. Seal cracks and gaps around your home. As you put away your storm windows, consider adding weather stripping around leaky doors and caulking around window frames. TogetherWeSave.com, a website sponsored by Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, the branding program of the nation's not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric co-ops, shows how easy it is to use a caulking gun to seal leaks around vents, ductwork and windows. A typical member at New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative can save more than \$200 annually by taking this simple step.
2. Change filters regularly. Change furnace and air conditioner filters monthly. Dirty filters restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your heating and cooling system by making it work harder on hot summer days.
3. Clean the refrigerator inside and out. Now's a good time to not only throw out that leftover fruitcake from the holidays, but check the temperature settings on your refrigerator. Ideally, a

refrigerator's temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum operating efficiency. When it's time to replace that old refrigerator, be sure to buy one that's Energy Star-rated. These energy-efficient appliances can save New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative members as much as \$100 a year based on calculations from TogetherWeSave.com.

4. Think sun block. TogetherWeSave.com points out that by pulling down the shades on your windows this spring and summer, you could save about \$35 a year. Your local hardware store likely carries lots of inexpensive window coverings. Best of all, by blocking the sun, your house will stay cool and comfortable year-round.
5. Enjoy spring breezes. Use a clothesline during warmer months and let sunlight and breezes dry clothes naturally. This will reduce your electric bill by not running a dryer, and add a genuine clean scent to your family's laundry.

You can learn more about ways to lower your monthly energy bill by visiting TogetherWeSave.com or at www.newenterpriserec.com by completing the HomeEnergySuite. ☀



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Keep energy efficiency in mind as the ground thaws and you plan spring landscaping. Properly selected and planted trees, shrubs, and bushes can create a wind break that lowers home heating bills in the winter and insulates your home year-round. Before you start, check on the right plants and techniques for your climate at EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



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.

Payment options



New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative offers many options for bill paying. Upon reviewing 2012 payments, here is a breakdown of how your payments were received in the office:

Night deposit box used after hours - 5 percent

Dropped off at the office during normal business hours - 11 percent

Auto Pay/Recurring Credit Card Payment - 12 percent

E-bill payments by internet or phone payments - 17 percent

Mail payments - 55 percent

AUTO PAY – Auto Pay is a program designed to automatically withdraw your electric payment from your checking or savings account on the 20th of each month. To start this program, a completed form is required, along with a voided check. Call or stop by the office to get one of these forms, or you can get the form on our website at www.newenterpriserec.com.

RECURRING CREDIT CARD PAYMENT – The Recurring Credit Card Payment program is very similar to Auto Pay. With this program, the cooperative will charge your monthly bill to your credit card on the 20th of every month. Call or stop by the office to get the required form.

PAYMENT BY PHONE – Members who wish to pay over the phone can call our office between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and one of our member service representatives can take your payment by check or credit/debit card.

PAYMENT THROUGH THE WEBSITE – Internet users can now pay online. Go to www.newenterpriserec.com and click on “Bill Pay.” First-time users will need to register. With our new E-bill program, you can enter your meter reading, pay your bill, and view past bills and/or past account history.

MAIL VIA U.S. POSTAL SERVICE – You may also send payment via the U.S. Postal Service. However, please allow five to seven business days for delivery. We are not responsible for delays. If your payment is received after the due date, you will need to pay the penalty.

Call 8-1-1 before you dig

With the upcoming spring season also comes the “honey-do” list of home improvements and landscaping. Whether it is adding a new deck, planting trees, adding a garden or excavating a driveway, you first must think what is beneath the dirt. Some people may think they know where their utility lines are located. However, you also need to know how deep the lines are. Whether you are a do-it-yourself person or you are hiring a professional, call 8-1-1 a few days before starting any digging or excavation work.

Without calling 8-1-1 first, you risk harming yourself, others around you, or even disrupting service to you and your neighborhood. Once you make the call to 8-1-1, they will dispatch the proper utility companies out to locate and mark their lines. After the utility companies mark the ground, you may proceed to dig in the dirt.

Wonder what the color of paint or flags represent?

- ▶ Red - electric
- ▶ Orange - communications, telephone/CATV
- ▶ Blue - potable water
- ▶ Green - sewer/drainage
- ▶ Yellow - gas/petroleum pipeline
- ▶ Purple - reclaimed water
- ▶ White - premarked site of intended excavation



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

KIDZCORNER

Spring is here

N I T C F G R Y B Q C L U D E
E M G K R P X C G B O C E R R
E A N R A I N B O W S W A H J
R X I N O U S K U A Y I J O O
G B H U X Y X P O D N W L P T
W D S G R A S S M Y D Z G N T
A E E G M C L D X G S I A T T
R Y R H M L L O R Q E S N U A
M F F Z X I H U Q I A Q Z G G
A L E Y K B S G A E B U X F D
U C R B N R I G L U J P R L S
I H G A I I W P D P Q X F O U
D E E Y R G G K M K E I W B N
K L L F J H Q B U Q A M B I N
C V H E U T J E E E N B S K Y

BIRDS

BRIGHT

BUDDING

CLEAN

CRISP

DEWY

GRASS

GREEN

PLEASANT

RAINBOWS

RAINY

REFRESHING

SKY

SUNNY

WARM