

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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OFFICE HOURS

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

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

Continuing the New Enterprise Legacy



MARK
MORRISON

OVER THE PAST EIGHT DECADES, the board and management of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) have strived to improve the quality of life within the cooperative service territory. Each of those years were building blocks that steered us to where we are today. Recently, much focus has been on power supply and its increasing costs for all of us.

In the coming year, we will build on the previous successes of the cooperative. Our right-of-way maintenance plan that was put into place years ago has our system in a great position to handle the adverse weather conditions we experience as seasons change. While we cannot guarantee our system will always be stronger than all weather-related events, our six-year right-of-way cycle has placed us in a position to preserve the integrity of the distribution system and provide a reliable flow of electricity.

I want to thank all our cooperative members and landowners who have lines crossing their property who are always on alert for trees that may pose a threat to our equipment. As always, feel free to give us a call if you have a tree that you think may pose a threat to a line and we will be more than happy to come out and take a look.

In 2025, the cooperative completed construction of Waterside substation. This project began in 2023 with planning, engineering, design and permitting. Crews worked on upgrading poles, insulators, conductors and distribution transformers in preparation for the new station. Substation site work and concrete foundations were sourced locally, and the work was completed ahead of schedule.

New Enterprise REC lineworkers were eager to construct the station structure and connect the electrical components. They completed construction in the fourth quarter of 2025, and their attention to detail and pride in building our own station saved the cooperative a great deal of money.

The new station boasts a steel structure with three distribution circuits. A new station transformer upgrades system voltage from 12 to 24 kilovolts, allowing future electric load growth and more efficient delivery of power to our current and future members.

In the coming year, we'll be working to convert the Waterside service territory to the new voltage. We'll also be changing distribution transformers in preparation for full conversion to the station.

You may have noticed the capital credits applied to member electric bills in December. One of the benefits of cooperative membership is the return of margins back to the membership. The board is focused on continuing the capital credits program and, to date, has returned more than \$2 million to our members.

Our current board and management continue to meet the outstanding standard of service and reliability set by those who came before us. We will continue to do our part to maintain the level of service the cooperative has always provided through thoughtful, meaningful, and efficient use of time and resources. This ensures our decisions are making the cooperative better than it was before.

I hope all of you have a happy and blessed new year. Stop into our office or give us a call and let us know how we are doing. ☺

MARK MORRISON
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Portable Power Stations for Power Outages

How to stay safe and keep your devices running

IF THE POWER GOES OUT, you don't want to be left in the dark. While a gas-powered generator may not be suitable because it can be heavy and cumbersome, you might consider a portable power station. These compact, rechargeable battery systems keep essential devices running during an outage.

They're easy to use, safe to operate indoors and can be recharged through a wall outlet, your car or solar panels. Here's what you need to know to choose the best one for you.

Portable power station basics

Think of a portable power station as a high-capacity, rechargeable battery designed for emergencies, travel or off-grid use. Unlike traditional generators, they produce zero emissions, operate silently, need very little maintenance and don't require gasoline.

Most models have three main components

- ▶ **Battery:** Stores energy.
- ▶ **Inverter:** Converts stored energy to usable household power.
- ▶ **Ports and outlets:** USB, AC and DC connections for your devices.

Features to look for

- ▶ **Pass-through charging:** Allows you to power devices while the unit is charging.
- ▶ **Battery management system:** Provides built-in safety features to prevent overcharging, overheating and shorting out circuits.

To maintain your system, store it in a cool, dry place and keep it clean to ensure maximum lifespan and performance.

How to choose the right power station system

The system that's right for you depends on three things:

- ▶ What you want to power (lights, phone chargers, refrigerator, medical equipment, etc.)
- ▶ How long you need power (a few hours during an outage or days without electricity)
- ▶ Where you'll use it (at home, in an RV, camping or during travel)

When comparing battery systems, you'll see two key ratings:

▶ **Capacity: How long it can power your devices.**

This indicates how much total energy is stored in the battery. The higher the watt-hour (Wh) rating, the longer it can run your device.

▶ **Output: Which devices it can power.**

This is the maximum amount of power the system can deliver simultaneously. The output must meet or exceed the wattage (W) required by the device you want to run.



PORTABLE POWER: Portable power stations, like the one above, are like high-capacity rechargeable batteries designed for emergencies, travel or off-grid use. Unlike traditional generators, they produce zero emissions, operate silently, need very little maintenance and don't require gasoline. (Note: New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative does not promote or recommend a particular power station brand. The photo above is for example only.)

For example, a battery with 500-Wh capacity and 1,000-W output could run a 1,000-watt device, like a small space heater or microwave, for about 30 minutes.

If you need to power multiple devices at once — like your refrigerator and lights — make sure their combined wattage stays below the unit's output limit and the total running time fits within the capacity.

Be mindful that some appliances, especially those with motors, such as fridges or power tools, have a higher starting wattage than their running wattage. For safety, add a 20% buffer to your calculations and look for surge-output capability.

Power station categories

Power stations range from lightweight units to hefty systems that may require wheels or two people to move. Here's a quick breakdown:

- ▶ **Small capacity:** 100-500 Wh
 - ▶ Powers phones, laptops, Wi-Fi routers, small lights
 - ▶ Weighs less than 10 pounds
- ▶ **Medium capacity:** 500-1,500 Wh
 - ▶ Powers mini fridge, small appliances, fans
 - ▶ Weighs 30-50 pounds
- ▶ **High capacity:** 1,500-3,000-plus Wh
 - ▶ Powers a full-sized fridge, microwave, multiple devices
 - ▶ Weighs up to 135 pounds

Stay powered when it matters

Portable power stations are a safe, flexible way to keep essential devices running during an outage or emergency, and many are compact enough to take with you anywhere. When choosing a system, think about how much power you need, how long you need it to last, and whether portability or extra features are important to you. ☀

Winter Heating Bill Help is Now Available

THE PENNSYLVANIA LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY

Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which helps low-income families pay their heating bills, opened Nov. 3, 2025, and will close April 10, 2026.

The program offers cash grants, which are one-time payments that range from \$200 to \$1,000 and are based on household size, income, and fuel type. Applicants do not need to be late on payments to qualify for the cash grant. Crisis grants are available if you have an emergency, are in jeopardy of losing your heat, or face termination of

service. Families can receive more than one crisis grant during the season. The maximum benefit is \$1,000.

To learn more, see the information below or go to the state Department of Human Services website, dhs.pa.gov (choose "Services" and then type "LIHEAP" in the search box).

Those eligible can apply online at compass.state.pa.us or contact their county assistance office:

Bedford County — 800-542-8584 or 814-623-6127

Fulton County — 800-222-8563 or 717-485-3151

Huntingdon County — 800-237-7674 or 814-643-1170 

What is LIHEAP?

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps income eligible families pay their heating bills. LIHEAP is a grant. You do not have to repay it.

To receive help....

- Apply between Nov. 3, 2025 and Apr. 10, 2026.
- You don't have to be on public assistance
- You don't need to have an unpaid heating bill
- You can either rent or own your home

How does LIHEAP work?

LIHEAP offers both cash and crisis grants. Families may apply for:

Cash Grants

Cash grants help families pay their heating bills. The one-time payment is sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider, and it will be credited on your bill. (In some cases, the check may be mailed to you directly.) Cash grants range from \$200-\$1000 and are based on household size, income, and fuel type.

Crisis Grants

Crisis grants may be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your heat. You can receive more than one Crisis grant, as necessary, during the season until the maximum benefit of \$1000 is reached.

Crisis situations include:

- Broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced
- Lack of fuel
- Gas or electric service has been shut off
- Danger of being without fuel within 15 days or have received a shut off notice for gas or electric services

If you have a heating emergency please call your local county assistance office (CAO).

How do I apply?

- Apply online at: www.dhs.pa.gov/COMPASS
- Request an application by calling the Statewide LIHEAP Hotline at 1-866-857-7095 or call PA Relay at 711 for the hearing impaired.
- Applications are available at your local CAO

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

Who is eligible?

You may qualify for a LIHEAP grant if your household income meets the following income guidelines:

INCOME GUIDELINES 2025 - 2026 LIHEAP

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
1	\$ 23,475
2	\$ 31,725
3	\$ 39,975
4	\$ 48,225
5	\$ 56,475
6	\$ 64,725
7	\$ 72,975
8	\$ 81,225
9	\$ 89,475
10	\$ 97,725

Each Additional Person Add \$ 8,250

These guidelines will be updated in February 2026

After your application is processed, you will receive a written notice that will tell you if you qualify. If eligible, it will tell you the amount of your grant.

SALES TAX NOTICES

ARE YOU PAYING SALES TAX for your service? If so, call the New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative office, and we will see if you can be exempt from the tax. The Department of Revenue requires us to maintain a certificate, which members must sign for each metered service. If you received the form and did not return it to the office, we are required to charge you sales tax. Signed forms are valid for three years. The cooperative will be sending forms within the next few months to those whose certificate will expire this year.

Landlords who keep a rental account in their name as well as some businesses are required to pay sales tax. If you have a business and are exempt, please include your sales tax exemption number on the form.

You are exempt from the tax if the property is:

- A primary residence (whether you own or rent)
- A vacation home
- Used directly for manufacturing, mining, farming, dairy or ship-building operations that are performed as a business.

► Used for an organization or institutional activity by a religious organization, volunteer firefighters, non-profit educational organization, or charity holding a charitable exemption.

► Directly used by a purchaser in the production, delivery, or rendition of public utility service and/or construction, alteration, or maintenance of public utility facilities other than buildings. Purchaser presently has on file with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission the following Tariff of Rates:

Rates _____

Pa. PUC No. _____

Supplement _____

► Used for another purpose (personal garage, shed, barn – buildings must be on the primary residential property to be exempt).

Call the cooperative's office at 814-766-3221 if you have any questions or need a certificate to sign.

Added Benefits! More Savings!

Introducing **NEW** Healthy Savings Discounts!



As a member of **New Enterprise REC**, you received a Co-op Connections® Card and a list of participating local and national businesses. Now, the Co-op Connections Program is about to *save you even more!*

The same program that offers discounts at local merchants and has given **New Enterprise REC** members more than **60% in savings** on prescriptions now offers you significant savings on dental, vision, hearing, lab & imaging services, and chiropractic work.

How the Healthy Savings Program works:

Simply show your Co-op Connections Card at a participating provider and you will receive a discount. It's that easy!

Locating Program Providers

To locate providers that participate in the Healthy Savings program, call 800-800-7616 or visit www.healthysavings.coop. Be sure to have your Co-op Connections Card handy.

With the new Healthy Savings package, you receive no-cost access to the following discounted health benefits:

Prescriptions

By using your Co-op Connections Card, you will receive a 10% to 85% discount on prescription drugs at over 60,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores including CVS, Walgreens, Walmart, Target and many more.



Dental Care

Save 20% to 40% on most dental services including orthodontics, periodontics and endodontics.



Vision

Get 20% to 60% savings on eyewear.



Hearing Aids

Discount of 35% off hearing aid prices at 2,000+ Newport Audiology Center locations.



Lab Work and Imaging

Savings of 10% to 60% off usual charges for MRI, CT and other lab procedures.



Chiropractic

Take advantage of 30% to 50% savings on diagnostic services and treatments.

This is not insurance nor is it intended to replace insurance.

This discount card program contains a 30 day cancellation period. This plan provides discounts at certain healthcare providers for medical services. This plan does not make payments directly to the providers of medical services. The plan member is obligated to pay for all healthcare services but will receive a discount from those healthcare providers who have contracted with the discount plan organization. For a full list of disclosures, visit www.healthysavings.coop. Discount Medical Plan Organization: New Benefits, Ltd., Attn: Compliance Department, PO Box 671309, Dallas, TX 75367-1309.