

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

Happy National Cooperative Month



**MARK
MORRISON**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH, where we celebrate you, the consumer-members of this electric cooperative. That said, we are thankful to have you as a member of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC).

There are more than 800 electric cooperatives providing electric service to 42 million people and more than 21 million farms, businesses, homes, and schools in 48 states. These cooperatives electrify 56% of the nation's landmass. New Enterprise REC is part of that electric cooperative network. While electric cooperatives are independent business entities, we all

follow a similar business model.

New Enterprise REC was incorporated in 1938 and serves nearly 3,900 electric meters in Bedford, Huntingdon, and Fulton counties. Our 15 employees maintain nearly 400 miles of electric lines and rights of way to bring safe, reliable power to you.

Over the past few years, we have been undertaking projects to improve service and reliability. We have been upgrading substations, poles and conductors out on the line to help prevent outages.

I want to thank the landowners, township leaders and friends of the cooperative who help with the success of our right-of-way program. This initiative has improved reliability over the years, creating a robust foundation that can endure harsh weather conditions and protect the line. According to our records, tree-related outages are the leading cause of power disruptions and are often the costliest to repair.

This year, we were proud to send two local high school juniors on the NRECA Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Our students joined hundreds of other electric cooperative-sponsored students who spent the week meeting with legislators and government leaders, touring monuments, and embracing American history.

Once again, New Enterprise REC was also fortunate to have a staff member attend Youth Tour as a chaperone and help fellow Pennsylvania and New Jersey cooperatives on the trip.

The cooperative also offers the Family-In-Need program and partners with many other local organizations to assist our community's most vulnerable individuals, including members struggling to keep up with their energy bills.

New Enterprise REC is continuously seeking ways to operate more efficiently while we continue to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local cooperative. We were built by you, the members we serve.

Happy fall. Enjoy the local festivals, crafts, kettle corn and pumpkin spice everything and always feel free to call or stop by the office and let us know how we are doing. 🍂

MARK MORRISON
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Is Your HVAC System Ready for Winter?

WENDY CONLEY, MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

AS COLD WEATHER APPROACHES, fall is a good time to ensure your heating and cooling system is ready for winter. A few simple maintenance steps can improve comfort, reduce energy use and help prevent a breakdown when you need heat the most.

Schedule a professional inspection

- ▶ Have your heating system inspected by a qualified HVAC professional each year, preferably before winter weather arrives. A professional can check for worn parts, airflow and operation issues, and other problems that may not be obvious to a homeowner.
- ▶ Ensure the inspection includes checking for proper ventilation and signs of carbon monoxide risks if your home has a gas, propane, or oil furnace.

Change or clean air filters

- ▶ Check your air filter regularly and replace or clean it as needed — usually every one to three months. A dirty filter can block airflow, make your system work harder and affect indoor air quality.
- ▶ Consider filter changes more often for homes with pets, allergies, heavy system use or significant dust.

Check airflow throughout the home

- ▶ Ensure all registers and vents are clean and not blocked by furniture, rugs, curtains, or other items.
- ▶ Vacuum vents to remove dust and keep air moving freely. If you notice excessive dust around vents, uneven heating or weak airflow, it may be time to have your system and ductwork checked by a professional.



NOW IS THE TIME TO
SCHEDULE
MAINTENANCE FOR
YOUR HEATING
SYSTEM. HVAC TECHS
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NECESSARY
UPDATES OR
REPAIRS.

- Keep most of the registers open throughout your home. Closing vents in unused rooms may seem like a way to save energy, but it can disrupt airflow and make your system work harder.

Reduce heat loss

- Look for drafts around windows and doors and seal gaps with weatherstripping or caulk.
- Check insulation in attics, basements and crawl spaces. Proper insulation can help keep warm air inside and reduce strain on your heating system.

Prepare outdoor HVAC equipment

- Remove leaves, branches, grass clippings and other debris around outdoor HVAC equipment. Trim shrubs and vegetation to maintain at least 2 feet of clearance around the unit.
- Check gutters and downspouts to ensure water drains away from HVAC equipment.
- Check your furnace's outdoor air intake and exhaust pipes. Snow, ice, or debris can block airflow, keep your furnace from operating properly, and increase the risk of carbon monoxide buildup.
- Keep outdoor heat pumps clear of snow, ice and debris during the winter. Do not cover a heat pump while it is operating; it needs airflow to work properly.

Adjust your thermostat for energy savings

- Install or program a smart thermostat to match your household schedule. Lowering the temperature when you are asleep or away from home can help save energy without compromising comfort.
- Review the settings on your smart or programmable thermostat before winter begins. You could set the fan to "auto" during mild fall weather to circulate air efficiently without unnecessary energy use.

Know when it may be time for a replacement

Heating systems more than 10 years old may operate less efficiently than newer models. Planning ahead can help you avoid an emergency replacement during extreme cold. Some utilities may also offer rebates on energy-efficient replacements.

- Watch for signs of trouble, such as increasing energy bills, uneven heating, frequent repairs, unusual noises or a system that takes too long to heat your home.
- When it is time to replace your system, consider Energy Star®-labeled equipment for long-term energy savings and efficiency. These include high-efficiency furnaces, air-source heat pumps or geothermal heat

pumps, depending on your home, climate, and budget. 📌

TIPS TO AVOID

ENERGY SCAMS



October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, which is the perfect time to take a fresh look at your passwords. Forget the old advice about cramming passwords with symbols and random capitalization. Today's cybersecurity experts recommend using longer passphrases. A password made up of four or five unrelated words is easier to remember and much harder for criminals to crack than a short, complex password. Use a unique passphrase for every account and enable multi-factor authentication whenever available for added protection.

Source: NIST

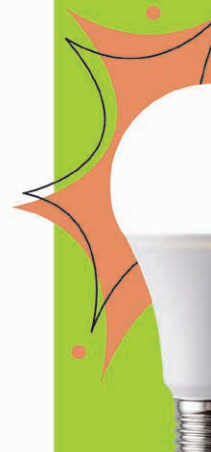


ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

Source: Dept. of Energy



The parts of a POWER POLE

Ever wonder what's on a power pole and how it delivers electricity to your home? Learning about each part can help you and your family stay informed — and safe.

Here are some common parts found on power poles. Equipment can vary depending on location and service needs.

