

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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From the General Manager/CEO



Electric cooperative communities

By Mark Morrison

OVER THE years you have probably heard, read about, or seen an example of New Enterprise REC's concern for community. This is one of the core principles and beliefs that sets electric cooperatives apart from other types of businesses and utilities.

With the holiday season fast approaching, we often pause and think about the blessings in our lives and consider blessing and helping others and contributing in ways to make our communities better. One of the programs sponsored by the cooperative is our Family in Need Fund. This program is funded through the generosity of gracious members that "round up" their electric bill each month. The rounded-up portions of the bills are used to help other members that are most vulnerable or have fallen on some hardship.

Another example is the cooperative Youth Tour program, which is organized through our national organization and open to our local youth, who spend a cooperative week in Washington, D.C. They share the experiences of our nation's capital with thousands of

other electric cooperative Youth Tour students from all over the country.

Over the past few years, New Enterprise has also donated LED light panels to several schools in our service territory, helping to conserve energy and providing some resources for schools to implement energy efficiencies.

Outside of work, our employees serve on local boards, coach youth sports, volunteer with charitable organizations, and serve as local emergency medical services and volunteer fire department members. When you work at an electric co-op, you understand how important our communities are.

Our core job is to provide the membership with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and keep the lights on, but we always try to make our communities better for all.

If you are so led, please stop in or give us a call and let us know how we are doing.

Happy Thanksgiving to all and hoping we are all thankful for our many blessings this year. ☀

Save money with a Co-op Connections Card

The Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections® Card helps you save more and live healthier every day by providing discounts on a variety of goods and services, including prescriptions, dental, vision, hearing, lab work and imaging, and chiropractor visits.

In addition, save an average of 20% at more than 400,000 hotel locations worldwide. Save money with competitive insurance products too.

Best of all, you get all these great benefits for FREE while enjoying a wide variety of discounts, locally and nationally.

Below are questions and answers that will help you know just what the Co-op Connections Card is.

Q: What is the Co-op Connections Card?

A: It is a membership discount card that provides New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) members with discounts at participating local and national businesses. The card is simply shown — not swiped — at the register. It does not contain any personal identification information other than to identify New Enterprise REC.

Q: How does it work?

A: When you show the Co-op Connections Card at any participating business, you receive a discount determined by the business owner. It's that easy.

Q: What types of discounts are available?

A: A wide variety of discounts are offered. To name a few: automotive, entertainment, florists, health care, home care, lodging, medical, photography, restaurants, pharmacy and retail services.

Q: Where can I use this card?

A: Anywhere Co-op Connections Cards are taken. You'll see a Co-op Connections sticker in the window or on the cash register of our participating businesses. Nearly 400 cooperatives across 45 states participate, and the list grows daily. Benefits are national so your card can also be used in other states while you're on vacation.

Q: How does the pharmacy discount work?

A: More than 60,000 locally owned pharmacies and national chains, including Walmart, Rite Aid, CVS,

Walgreens and Kroger, participate in the program. Show the Co-op Connections Card at the checkout and save 10% to 60% on prescription medications (includes short-term and acute-care medications, such as antibiotics and painkillers).

Note: Pharmacy discounts are not insurance and are not intended as a substitute for insurance.

Q: Does everyone in my family need an individual card?

A: No. One card may be used by the entire family. Members may also use the Co-op Connections app on their mobile phone.

Q: When does the card expire?

A: The card doesn't expire. As long as businesses opt to participate, your card will be effective. Businesses have the option to cancel their offer at any time. We make every effort to notify members of cancellations by updating our online list.

Q: I've lost my card. How can I get a replacement?

A: Contact us, and we will send you a replacement card in the mail. You can also stop by the office or download the free Co-op Connections app on your mobile devices.

Q: What is that account number on the back?

A: The member number listed on the card simply identifies you as a member of the New Enterprise REC Co-op Connections Card Pharmacy Discount Program. It is NOT your electric account number.

If you are interested in signing up for this great benefit, go to connections.coop and start saving money. Also, look for Co-op Connections in the Apple Store or Google Play.

Start your holiday shopping with your New Enterprise REC Co-op Connections Card. Here are just a few local businesses that are offering discounts: Prospector Jewelers, Martinsburg; Saxton Outdoor Supply, Saxton; and Rockhill Trolley Museum, Rockhill. 

Be prepared for winter storms

Before a winter storm, be sure to have supplies on hand and know how to stay warm:

- ▶ **Always keep a battery-powered radio or TV, flashlights, and a supply of fresh batteries. Also, have water, blankets and nonperishable food.**
- ▶ **When power goes out, it often comes back in spikes. This can damage electronics. Keep your electronics safe by unplugging them when the power goes out. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.**
- ▶ **To prevent water pipes from freezing, keep faucets turned on slightly so water drips from the tap. Know how to shut off water valves in case of a pipe burst.**
- ▶ **Never use a charcoal grill for cooking or heating inside the home. Burning charcoal gives off deadly carbon monoxide gas. Charcoal grills should only be used outdoors.**
- ▶ **If you live with a child or elderly person, you may need to take them somewhere that has power so they can stay warm. If you are healthy enough to stay home safely, there are ways to stay warm: stay inside and dress warmly in layered clothing.**
- ▶ **Close off rooms you're not using.**
- ▶ **When using an alternate heat source, follow operating instructions, use fire safeguards and be sure to ventilate properly.**

New Enterprise REC urges safe hunting

As hunting season approaches, please remember that electrical insulators, conductors and other equipment are not on the Pennsylvania hunting season list.

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) encourages hunters to be aware of electrical equipment while enjoying the great outdoors this season. Equipment repairs and outages can be costly to our members.

New Enterprise REC recognizes the majority of hunters practice safe hunting and understand the potential risks when discharging a firearm. We encourage experienced hunters who are familiar with the area to identify the locations of utility properties and equipment to young or new hunters in their group and remind them to avoid shooting toward these facilities.

Here are some tips to enjoy the great outdoors while being safe:

- ▶ Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.
- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the location of power lines and equipment on land where you hunt.
- ▶ Damage to the conductor can happen, possibly dropping a phase on the ground. If it's dry and the



electricity goes to ground, there is the possibility of electrocution and wildfires.

- ▶ Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.
 - ▶ Do not use power-line wooden poles or towers to support equipment used in your shooting activity.
 - ▶ Take notice of warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.
 - ▶ Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment on the poles can
- conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.
 - ▶ Do not shoot at or near birds perching on utility lines. That goes for any firearms, including pistols, rifles or shotguns.
 - ▶ Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Anything attached to a pole other than utility equipment can pose an obstruction — and a serious hazard — to electric cooperative employees as they perform utility operations. ⚡

Need help paying your electric or heating fuel bill?

THE LOW INCOME Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low-income families pay their heating bills. Both the cash and crisis programs opened on Oct. 18. The program is scheduled to end on May 6, 2022.

To receive help through a cash grant:

- ▶ You don't have to be on public assistance.
- ▶ You don't need to have an unpaid bill.
- ▶ You don't have to own your home.

Cash grants help families pay their heating bills. This one-time payment, which is sent directly to the utility or fuel provider, ranges from \$500 to \$1,200. The grants are based on household size, income and type of heating. **Your bill does not have to be past due to qualify for this program.**

Crisis grants are for emergency situations, where you are in danger of losing your heat or receiving a disconnect notice. The maximum benefit amount is \$1,200, and all money is sent directly to the co-op or your heating fuel company.

Emergency situations are:

- ▶ Broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced
- ▶ Lack of fuel
- ▶ Termination of electric service
- ▶ Danger of being without fuel or of having utility service terminated

To apply for LIHEAP, go to compass.state.pa.us or call your 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

When you apply, you will need the following information:

- ▶ 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



Buy American-made this Christmas

Why not purchase a Christmas gift for a family member or friend that is American-made? Unfortunately, American-made items are becoming harder and harder to find. New Enterprise REC, however, has a gift that isn't hard to find and makes shopping easy: electric gift certificates. Our gift certificates make a great gift for Christmas or any time during the year. New Enterprise REC has gift certificates available year-round, but Christmas is the most popular time to buy them.

If you would like to purchase one, please complete the certificate below. Should you like more than one, you can write the additional information on a piece of paper. Then mail this information with your check for the full amount to: New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, 3596 Brumbaugh Road, New Enterprise, PA 16664-8814.

Gift certificates can also be found on our website, newenterpriserec.com, or purchased at the office. Amounts on internet-purchased gift certificates will not be posted to an account until payment has been made.

New Enterprise REC Gift Certificate

Recipient's Name: _____

Purchaser's Name: _____

Purchaser's Address: _____

Purchaser's Phone Number: _____ Amount of Gift: _____

How the certificate should be signed: _____

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

(Please circle one)

I wish to remain anonymous

Mail letter to recipient

Mail letter to purchaser