

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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814-766-3221
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From the General Manager/CEO



Staying the course in 2019

By Mark Morrison

THIS PAST year was one for the record books for sure. While attending an event at Keystone Raceway one fall afternoon, I heard a quote coming over the PA system. The announcer was thankful for those who took the time to attend the event. He joked and said that it was a challenging summer for the racetrack. He asked the crowd if they knew what followed three days of rain in 2018. After a brief pause, he solved the riddle simply by saying “Monday.”

Our operation here at the cooperative had much the same sentiment about all of 2018. The normalcy of construction was certainly slowed a bit by the seemingly never-ending rain. We would often chat about what others in the community were going through as well. The lawn service folks logged hours on the mower, builders and construction crews waited for a dry stretch, and without question, the local farmers fought many emotions watching tender crops start their growth in the spring and then endure the same battles in the fall, hoping the ground was just dry enough to permit the fall harvest.

Despite the adversity, we persevered. Our goal is to maintain a six-year cycle for tree trimming. In 2018, we were able to maintain about 56 miles of line, keeping us on track as we roll into 2019. This work seems to get more challenging every year. The ash trees in the area are really suffering with disease and complications from the spread of the emerald ash borer. Ash trees affected by the borer become brittle and weak, making them susceptible to high winds, heavy snow and ice accumula-

tion. Our crews patrol the distribution system often, keeping a close lookout for trees that are not healthy and are a danger to the line. As always, your help is an integral part of the success of our right-of-way program and our system reliability. Feel free to contact the office at any time with any concerns regarding dangerous or unhealthy trees.

We will continue our normal maintenance of the system, replacing poles and wire to maintain our standard of reliability. A friend asked me how it was going since starting as general manager. My reply was simple. I said, “It is kind of like home. There are a million things you want to accomplish, and you can’t do them all at one time.” The goal for 2019 is to continue replacing old poles and wire that are aged and have served us over the years. We try to maintain the system by replacing aged infrastructure before an outage occurs. It is much easier on us all if we complete the necessary work on our terms instead of when Mother Nature thinks it should be done.

Finally, a note to mention about rates. I do not expect any change in electric rates for 2019. Our goal is always to keep rates steady and live within our means by getting the most value for the membership. Our right-of-way, construction, and administrative plans are improving efficiencies for the cooperative, helping us provide you with safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

I would like to wish all of you a safe, healthy and prosperous new year. Please stop in or call if you have any questions about your electric cooperative. ☀

Small changes can add up to big savings on your bills

Saving money on your electric bill can happen when you make small changes. The following changes could save you a few hundred dollars over a year's time:

- ▶ **Turn off unnecessary lights**
Turning two 100-watt incandescent bulbs off an extra two hours per day reduces electric use. Better yet, switch to LED bulbs.
- ▶ **Use natural light**
A single south-facing window can illuminate 20 to 100 times its area. Let the sunlight in to save.
- ▶ **Use task lighting**
Turn off ceiling lights and use table lamps, track lighting, and under-counter lights in work and hobby areas, as well as in kitchens.
- ▶ **Take shorter showers**
Hot water is expensive. Reduce your bill by taking shorter showers.
- ▶ **Turn water off when shaving, washing hands and brushing teeth**
This can reduce your hot water use by up to 5 percent.
- ▶ **Fix that leaky faucet**
Fixing a hot water leak in your faucet can save energy costs.
- ▶ **Unplug unused electronics**
Standby power can account for 10 percent of an average household's annual electricity use. Unplug unused electronics.
- ▶ **Recycle or donate that old TV**
Recycle or donate your old TV. Even if you're just using it an hour a day, that old 42-inch LCD is costing you money to operate.
- ▶ **Manage your thermostat**
If you have electric heat, lower your thermostat by 2 degrees to save 5 percent on your heating bill. Lowering it 5 degrees could save 10 percent.
- ▶ **Be strategic with window coverings**
Promote air flow through your home and block the afternoon summer sun with smart use of window coverings.
- ▶ **Reduce heat in the kitchen**
Avoid using the oven in the summer – try salads, smoothies or barbecue. During the winter, don't close your oven door after turning it off. Open your oven door to let out heat.
- ▶ **Run full loads of laundry**
Cut one load of wash per week, even if you're already using cold water only.
- ▶ **Wash laundry in cold water**
By switching from hot water to cold water for an average of three loads per week, you will save on your energy bill.
- ▶ **Hang dry your laundry**
If you do eight loads of laundry a week and use your clothesline, you could save 50 percent of the energy you use to do laundry.
- ▶ **Toss a towel in the dryer**
A dry towel added to your dryer load can significantly reduce drying times.
- ▶ **Be efficient with refrigeration**
Keep your refrigerator and freezer at their ideal temperature. For your refrigerator, this is between 2°C and 3°C, while your freezer should be at -18°C.
- ▶ **Unplug your second refrigerator**
Unplug that second refrigerator and save. Freeze plastic jugs of water and use them in a cooler when you need them.
- ▶ **Skip the heat-dry setting for the dishwasher**
That heat-dry setting is expensive. De-select it and save.
- ▶ **Use the microwave, crock pot or toaster oven**
A microwave takes about 15 minutes to do the same job as the oven does in 1 hour.

There are many ways to pay your electric bill

New Enterprise Rural Electric Co-op has many options for you to pay your monthly electric bill. Here are the ways you can pay:

- \$ At the office** – Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Payments can be made in person at our office during normal business hours. After-hours night deposit is also available. A new drive-up, night deposit is located in the driveway. You don't need to get out of your vehicle.
- \$ By mail** – Mail your payment and the bottom portion of your bill. Allow time for payments to be received on or before the due date.
- \$ Over the phone** – Call our office during regular business hours to make your payment with check, debit or credit cards.
- \$ With Auto Pay** – Your payment is drafted from your checking or savings account on the 20th of each month. A form needs to be completed before starting Auto Pay. You will still receive a monthly statement.
- \$ By Recurring Debit/Credit Card** – Your payment is charged to a debit or credit card on the 20th of each month. A form needs to be completed before starting Recurring Debit/Credit Card. You will still receive a monthly statement.
- \$ At our website** – You can make your payment with check, debit or credit card at newenterpriserec.com.
- \$ On your smartphone or tablet** – Pay with our free SmartHub app. This app can be downloaded for Apple and Android mobile devices. Just go to the Apple Store® or the Google Play® store and search for SmartHub. 📱

Winter storm preparedness

HEAVY accumulations of ice and snow coupled with fluctuating winter temperatures can bring down utility poles, trees, and limbs. This can disrupt power for days on end. With this, comes a threat to property and also to life itself.

In a winter storm emergency, restoring power and heat to members is the highest priority, and New Enterprise REC crews work around the clock to restore service. Even so, it can take days to repair the devastating damage of a winter storm. If you are in the middle of storm recovery, avoid going outside if possible. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice and be difficult to identify. When outside, treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized electric lines. Stay away from them, warn others to stay away and immediately contact New Enterprise REC. Remember that downed power lines do NOT have to be arcing, sparking, or moving to be live and deadly.

Safe Electricity stresses the importance of being prepared for dangerous winter storms and the power outages they may cause. You need the right emergency items and knowledge to stay warm and safe in a winter storm. Safe Electricity offers the following tips to prepare your home:

- ▶ Before winter sets in, update your insulation, caulk and install weather strips.
- ▶ Call your utility company or professional tree trimmers to cut branches away from your home and power lines.

It is a good idea to have an emergency kit on hand. Storms can happen any time of the year. An extended outage isn't quite as bad when you are prepared. Prepare an emergency kit with the following items:

- ▶ Battery-powered radio and flashlights with fresh batteries
- ▶ Extra blankets
- ▶ Water for drinking and washing
- ▶ Non-perishable food and a can opener
- ▶ First aid kit and prescription medicines

When a storm hits, your preparation should include knowledge. The following tips from Safe Electricity can help you stay safe and warm:

- ▶ Switch off lights and appliances to prevent damaging appliances and overloading circuits when power is restored. Leave one lamp or light 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 just in case a pipe bursts.
- ▶ Do not use charcoal grills or gas ovens to heat your home. This could lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. Stay inside and dress in warm, layered clothing.
- ▶ Close off unneeded rooms.
- ▶ When using an alternative heat source, follow operating instructions,

use fire safeguards and be sure to properly ventilate. Always keep a multipurpose, dry-chemical fire extinguisher nearby and know how to use it.

- ▶ Stuff towels and rags underneath doors to keep the heat in.
- ▶ Cover windows at night.
- ▶ Maintain a regular diet. Food provides the body with energy for creating its own energy.
- ▶ Drink plenty of fluids to stay hydrated.
- ▶ Move around to keep warm, but not enough to perspire. Perspiring causes the body to lose fluids, which could potentially lead to dehydration.
- ▶ Keep a close eye on the temperature in your home. Infants or persons over age 65 are more susceptible to the cold. You may want to stay with friends or relatives if you can't keep your home warm. ☀

Be Prepared Before the Storm

Here are some basic items you should store in your home in case of emergency:

- ▶ **Water:** Three day supply, one gallon per person per day
- ▶ **Food:** Three day supply, non-perishable, high-energy
- ▶ **Clothing, bedding, and sanitation supplies**
- ▶ **Tools:** Can opener, plates, utensils, flashlight, batteries, cash, bleach, hand sanitizer
- ▶ **First aid supplies, medicine**
- ▶ **Important documents**



KIDZcorner



New Enterprise Rural Electric Co-op looking for next generation of leaders

By Brawna L. Sell



WHAT do 1,800 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course!

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind — to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative.

It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C., for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Contest rules

- ▶ Student needs to be a high school junior from Northern Bedford, Tussey Mountain, Forbes Road, Southern Huntingdon, private school or home school whose parent(s) or legal guardian are members of the co-op.
- ▶ Students need to write a brief essay or produce a short video entitled “Why I would be a great candidate to

attend the 2019 Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.” or “What it would mean to me if I was selected to represent New Enterprise REC at the 2019 Youth Tour.”

- ▶ A completed application is required. These applications are available from your high school guidance counselor, at the co-op office, at newenterpriserec.com or New Enterprise Rural Electric's Facebook page.
- ▶ Essay or video and applications need to be in New Enterprise REC's office on or before Feb. 8, 2019.

Once essays or videos and applications are reviewed, students will be asked to come to New Enterprise REC's office for an interview. Within a week of the interview, students will be chosen to represent the co-op.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding of what it takes to be leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

If you aren't sure if Youth Tour is for you, look at PA/NJ Youth Tour on Facebook or go to youthtour.coop. Check with your guidance counselor to see who last year's student participants were. Tour participants are a good resource for learning about the tour. ☀

Disconnecting for non-payment

Disconnecting for non-payment is one job at the co-op that is not very popular. No employee enjoys shutting a meter off, leaving a family in the dark. Unfortunately, it is a job that must be done.

Our normal due date is now the 23rd of each month. The disconnect date is after the 23rd. Therefore, to prevent disconnection, you will need to pay the entire bill, not just the past due amount. The examples on the right show which amount is due. The money needs to be in our office before the disconnection date. In this example, the disconnect day was Nov. 28, 2018. The money would have needed to be in our office on or before Nov. 27.

If you are unable to pay the total amount that is due, please call our office to set up a payment agreement. Agreements can't be made the day before the disconnect day. In this example, a payment agreement could be made up to Nov. 26.

Once an agreement is made, the amount must be paid as stated in the agreement. Any change in the agreement amount or dates paid will void the agreement. Disconnection may occur after an agreement is broken.

Should agreements be broken twice, no further agreements will be allowed.

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Visit us at: www.newenterpriserec.com Contact us at: (814) 766-3221 or (800) 270-3177
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Account Number	
Statement Date	10/29/2018
Due Date	11/23/2018
Billing Summary	
Previous Balance	356.43
No Payments Received	0.00
Past Due Balance	336.43
Penalty	19.35
Current Charges	183.50
Total Due By 11/23/18	559.30
Total Due After 11/23/18	563.55

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A 1.5% interest and a \$5.00 late charge will be added to bills not paid by the Due Date.

Disconnect Notice
Your account will be subject to disconnection if the Past Due Balance shown on this bill is not paid before **11/28/2018**.

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FINAL DISCONNECT NOTICE

Account Number	
Date of Notice	11/05/2018
Total Due	559.30
Past Due Amount	\$366.89
Disconnection Date	11/28/2018