

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

Website: www.newenterpriserec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leroy D. Walls
President

David Bequeath
Vice President

Timothy Newman
Secretary

John R. Dively
Asst. Secretary

Robert Guyer
Treasurer

Curtis Brant
Merle Helsel

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

Emergency Outage Number
814-766-3221
1-800-270-3177

From the General Manager/CEO



Interested in a seat on your co-op board?

By Rick L. Eichelberger

NEARLY 80 years ago, local residents wanted the convenience of electricity. However, private power companies weren't interested in providing power to these rural residents because they didn't think their accounts would provide enough profits for stockholders. In 1938, area residents organized to provide the wonder of electricity themselves. New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (REC), a not-for-profit business, was established by consumer-members to serve consumer-members.

The membership selects the directors to serve in each of the seven nearly equal director areas. The board of directors acts as trustee on behalf of the cooperative's consumer-members with board members elected at the annual meeting each year.

When you become a consumer-member of New Enterprise REC, you share in the benefits and responsibilities of the cooperative for as long as you remain a consumer-member. Any margins are returned to consumer-members in the form of capital credits.

There are three director areas open for election at this year's annual meeting. If you are interested in a seat on your co-op board and meet the qualifications, you could be eligible for nomination in your area. A vote of the consumer-members attending the annual meeting on June 13 will determine who serves on the board for the three-year terms.

If you live full time in Area 3, 6, or 7, and are interested in becoming a director candidate, contact or stop by the cooperative office and we can discuss the process. Not sure which area you

are located in? A detailed map is available at the office for your review.

AREA 3 can be described as a portion of South Woodbury Township in Bedford County, including North Road, Mountain View Drive, Loysburg area, Texas Corner, Salemville, New Enterprise area, Guyer Corner, Muley Lane, Furry's Orchard Road and Replogle School Road up to Teeter School Road. (Served by Merle Helsel since 2014)

AREA 6 can be described as portions of Broad Top Township in Bedford County, including most of Wells Valley; Wells Township in Fulton County; and Wood Township in Huntingdon County including Route 915 through Wells Tannery to Enid to New Granada and continuing to Waterfall. (Served by Timothy Newman since 2003)

AREA 7 can be described as portions of Clay Township in Huntingdon County, along with Taylor and Licking Creek townships in Fulton County, including Route 655 from Saltillo through Waterfall and toward Hustontown, also southward past the turnpike toward Route 30. (Served by Curtis Brant since 2015)

The cooperative bylaws outline the qualifications and procedure for the selection of directors. The board of directors selects a Nominating Committee that prepares a list of nominations, which is posted at the cooperative office prior to April 29. Any 15 or more consumer-members acting together may make additional nominations after the list is posted until May 14. Consumer-members attending the annual meeting may make additional nominations from the floor. 

Easy steps to greater efficiency

By Anne Prince

DO YOU want to save money and electricity, but have limited time, money, and patience? According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a typical American family spends nearly \$2,000 per year on their home energy bills. Much of that money, however, is wasted through leaky windows or ducts, old appliances, or inefficient heating and cooling systems.

Luckily, there are several relatively easy ways to save energy without a substantial commitment of time and money. These efforts will help you save whether you own or rent an older or newly constructed home. And you won't have to hire a specialist or call in a favor from someone who is handy with tools to help you.

Where to start

According to *Money Magazine*, improving the envelope of your home is a good place to start. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind vibrations can loosen up even a tight home, increasing air leakage. Doors and windows may not close tightly, and duct work can spring leaks, wast-



Lighting Choices **SAVE YOU MONEY**

All of these lightbulbs meet the new energy standards that took effect from 2012-2014. The energy-saving incandescent bulbs use about 25% less energy than traditional varieties.

Source: energy.gov

ing cooled and heated air. By placing weather stripping and caulk around windows and doors, you can keep cool air inside during warm months and prevent chilly air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around pipes, dryer vents, fans, and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and creates greater efficiency. Apply weather stripping around over-

looked spaces like your attic hatch or pull-down stairs.

Replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency and is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bill. Known for their longevity and efficiency, LED bulbs have an estimated operational life span of 10,000 to 20,000 hours compared to 1,000 hours for a typical incandescent. According to the Department of Energy, replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the Energy Star rating can save you \$75 each year.

Wrapping up savings

Installing a blanket around your water heater could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 7 to 16 percent in water heating costs, according to the Department of Energy. For a small investment of about \$30, you can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets and install them in about one hour. On a safety note, the Department of Energy recommends you not set the thermostat above 130 degrees Fahrenheit on an electric water heater with an insulating jacket or blanket; the higher temperature setting



could cause the wiring to overheat.

Given that a large portion of your monthly energy bill goes toward heating and cooling your home, it makes sense to ensure your home's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system is performing at an optimal level. Checking, changing or cleaning your filter extends the life of your HVAC system, and saves you money.

Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Otherwise, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including: reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs; lowered system efficiency; and costly duct cleaning or replacement. Many HVAC professionals recommend cleaning the system filters monthly. A simple task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently, keeping your house

cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

Take control of your energy savings

Take a look at your programmable thermostat. When was the last time you checked to make sure it was programmed for the current season and family schedule? This is one of the best energy-saving tools at your fingertips. It enables you to fine tune the temperature during particular hours of the day. Many models allow you to differentiate between weekday and weekend schedules, and internet-connected thermostats can learn your schedule and make adjustments automatically. Most models come with an override option so, you can make manual adjustments without losing overall programming. You can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and ad-



justed periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

Remember, there are easy steps you can take now to improve the energy efficiency of your home. ☀

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

WHAT WILL I NEED TO WEATHER STRIP DOORS AND WINDOWS?

There are a variety of materials available to weather strip your home. Here are a few options to help you choose:

*Apply weather stripping around the door frame and stop. At the bottom of a door, install a door sweep, door shoe or threshold; or apply reinforced-foam weather stripping. Apply weather stripping at the top and bottom of window sash.

FELT

*Reinforced with a flexible metal strip.
Should be stapled, glued or tacked into place.*

Cost: Low

Advantages: Easy to install and inexpensive.

Disadvantages: Low durability. Do not use where exposed to a great deal of moisture. All-wool felt is more durable but very visible.

ROLLED OR REINFORCED VINYL

Pliable or rigid strip gasket (attached to wood or metal strips).

Cost: Low to moderate.

Advantages: Easy installation, various colors to help with visibility and some types of rigid strip gaskets provide slot holes for height adjustment.

Disadvantages: Very visible.

REINFORCED FOAM

Closed-cell foam attached to wood or metal strips.

Cost: Moderately low

Advantages: Effective sealer, rigid, proven to work well.

Disadvantages: Can be difficult to install and very visible.



Source: Department of Energy

*For more weather stripping options, visit <http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/weatherstripping>

Disconnection to resume

During the winter months, New Enterprise REC doesn't disconnect accounts for non-payment.

On April 4, 2017, disconnection will begin for any account that has a past-due balance of 60 days or greater. If your account is 60 days past due, you will receive a disconnect notice in March.

Should you not be able to pay your full past-due balance, call Brawna at extension 4602 immediately to set up payment arrangements. Once an arrangement is agreed upon, an agreement will be mailed to you. Please read your agreement carefully before signing it. This agreement must be back in our office before the disconnection date. A copy of the agreement will be mailed to you once a co-op employee has signed it.

DELINQUENT FEES

Collection Fee	\$125
Disconnect Fee	\$75
Reconnect Fee	\$75
Reconnect Fee between 3:30 and 7 p.m.	\$150

Payment agreements cannot be made the day prior to disconnection or the disconnect date. Should your agreement not be back in our office, disconnection will occur.

Disconnection will not occur as long as you have a signed agreement and payments are made as stated.

If you are having trouble paying your electric bill, you may wish to contact your county energy assistance office. The offices are scheduled to close on March 31, 2017. The phone numbers of the assistance offices are listed below:

Bedford County Energy Assistance – 814-623-6127 or 800-542-8584

Fulton County Energy Assistance – 717-485-3151 or 800-222-8563

Huntingdon County Energy Assistance – 814-643-1170 or 800-237-7674

Important information for past-due accounts

- ▶ When our employees come to your home or business to collect a past-due balance, the total past-due balance will need to be paid to prevent disconnection. Payment can be made with cash or debit/credit card. No checks will be accepted.
- ▶ **No** checks will be accepted in the night deposit on the night before the disconnect date. Should a check be put in the night deposit, your account will be subject to disconnection.
- ▶ Payment agreements cannot be made the business day prior to the disconnection date or the actual disconnection date.
- ▶ Payment agreements must be on the cooperative form and signed by all names listed on the membership papers.
- ▶ Payment arrangements can be made by calling Brawna at extension 4602 or by emailing her at bsell@newenterpriserec.com.
- ▶ You do not have to have a disconnection notice to make a payment agreement. If you are unable to make one month's payment, call Brawna right away and set up an agreement. It will be much easier for you to get your account paid in full.
- ▶ Once an agreement is made, the payments must be paid as stated or disconnection will occur.
- ▶ If you have two broken payment agreements, you will no longer be able to make an agreement. The full past-due balance will need to be paid before the disconnect date.
- ▶ Should your meter be disconnected, you will need to pay the total bill, including charges to the point of disconnection plus additional fees. Payment must be in cash or debit/credit card. From 3:30 to 7 p.m., we will reconnect, but the reconnect fee increases. Also during this time period, only cash can be accepted.
- ▶ All accounts disconnected for non-payment will be required to pay a security deposit of \$250. Should you already have a \$250 deposit, no deposit will be charged.

Look up, stay alert during outdoor work, play

As the weather begins warming up, kids and adults alike will soon head outside to play or perform winter clean-up tasks. Before the kids go outside, remind them to look up and be alert for power lines and other electrical hazards – the best way to stay safe from electrocution and even death.

At New Enterprise REC, using proper procedures and safety measures is a matter of life and death. We take safety seriously at home, too. Accidents happen, but if we educate ourselves and our children, we can keep them to a minimum.

For children

- ▶ Never fly a kite on a rainy day or anywhere but an open space. A high point in the sky makes a kite a grounding point for lightning, and kites could easily become tangled in power lines.
- ▶ Don't climb trees that are near power lines and poles – evergreens can disguise dangers this time of year, as can leaves during the spring and summer.
- ▶ Stay far away from power lines lying on the ground. You can't tell if electricity is still flowing through them. If there is water nearby, don't go in it. Water is the best conductor of electricity.
- ▶ Obey signs that say "danger" and "keep out" around large electrical equipment, like substations. These signs aren't warnings; they're commands to keep you safe.
- ▶ Never climb a power pole.

For adults

- ▶ If power lines run through your trees, call New Enterprise REC – professional tree trimmers with proper protective equipment can trim branches safely.
- ▶ Remember that power lines and other utilities run underground, too. Call 811 to have utility lines marked before you start digging.
- ▶ Starting that winter cleanup yard work? Sweep dried leaves and debris from outdoor receptacles.
- ▶ If they're not already upgraded, consider upgrading your outdoor receptacles – or any outlets that could come in contact with water – to ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). GFCIs immediately interrupt power flow when a plugged-in device comes in contact with water. Regardless, keep your outlets and cords dry and covered outside.
- ▶ Use only weather-resistant, heavy-duty extension cords marked for outdoor use.
- ▶ Don't leave outdoor power tools unattended for curious children or animals to find.

For more safety tips and information, visit SafeElectricity.org.