

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



Join us at the polls on November 6

By Mark Morrison

OUR CO-OP'S No. 1 priority is providing our consumer-members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. But doing this job requires a lot more than stringing and maintaining power lines throughout our service territory. It requires political engagement. That may seem far removed from our core mission, but it's absolutely essential to serving you, our consumer-members.

That's why we're participating in a national program of America's electric cooperatives called Co-ops Vote.

Co-ops Vote encourages all co-op members to participate in national, state and local elections while educating political candidates and elected officials about the important role played by electric cooperatives in their communities.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the service organization representing the nation's electric co-ops, launched Co-ops Vote in 2016. Co-ops Vote started as a national, non-partisan, get-out-the-vote initiative that helped drive rural voter turnout in the 2016 presidential election.

Through this program, electric

co-ops realized they had a unique advantage: as co-ops, the civic virtue of voting is in our DNA. We show concern for community — one of the seven cooperative principles — through participation in our democracy.

Co-ops have another advantage. Elected officials and decision-makers across the political spectrum trust us because of the work the electric cooperative family has put into political engagement. When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and in our local communities.

Our participation in Co-ops Vote helps to ensure that rural issues remain part of the national discussion — and are supported by our elected officials. But Co-ops Vote isn't just for co-ops. It's for co-op members just like you.

You can participate by registering to vote and committing to cast your ballot on Nov. 6. If you're interested in getting more involved, visit www.vote.coop to learn more about the upcoming elections and access online tools that can help you participate. We look forward to seeing you at the polls on Election Day! 



Due date change

Starting in October 2018, the due date will change to the 23rd of the month unless the 23rd falls on a weekend or holiday. When this happens, the due date is the first business day after the 23rd. Payments should be in our office on or before the due date each month to avoid a penalty charge. All payments will be credited the same day they are received.

Capital credits

New Enterprise REC isn't like other utilities — you are a consumer-member who owns a portion of the business. You may not have realized this when you signed up to be a consumer-member of the co-op and receive electric service from us. One benefit of your membership involves the allocation of excess revenue, called margins, in the form of capital credits.

New Enterprise REC operates at cost — collecting enough revenue to operate and expand the business, but with no need to generate profits for distant shareholders. When New Enterprise REC has money left over, it's allocated back to you and other consumer-members as capital credits. When the co-op's financial position permits, the co-op retires, or pays, the capital credits to active consumer-members as a bill credit. Inactive accounts are issued a check.

“Allocating and retiring excess revenue to members helps distinguish cooperatives,” points out Brawna L. Sell, office manager. “We're proud to support our communities by putting money back into the local economy — and into the pockets of those we serve. It makes our business model special.”

The retirement of capital credits — so-called because consumer-members provide capital to the cooperative for it to operate and expand — depends on the co-op's financial status. New Enterprise REC holds onto allocated capital credits to cover emergencies, such as a natural disaster, and other unexpected events, and to expand its electric system, all of which may require large-scale construction of poles and wires. This action decreases the need to raise rates or borrow money to pay for the infrastructure. After a number of years, if financial conditions permit, your board of directors will decide to retire a set amount of capital credits.

Consumer-members are annually allocated capital credits based on the amount of electricity they consumed during a year. Because of our business model and capital credits, in particular, it is important that accounts are in the name of the person paying for and using the electricity because capital credits will be allocated and retired accordingly. In addition, if a consumer-member leaves the area, they should be sure New Enterprise REC has a valid address so when capital credits are retired, the check is mailed to the proper address.

You will see a credit on your December 2018 bill for your portion of the capital credits. 🌟

Food drive

For the past two years, we have held a food drive from November to January. We have been able to help our three local food banks. Thank you for being so generous.

Once again, we will have our food drive through January 2019. All non-perishable food, hygiene products or paper products are welcome to fill our truck (below) many, many times. Some suggestions for items to donate include: canned meats and stews, soup, peanut butter, cereal, pasta, rice, baby products, toilet tissue, paper towels, or health and beauty products. 🌟



Family in Need Fund

What is the Family in Need Fund?

The Family in Need Fund is a program to generate and collect voluntary donations that are used to benefit consumer-members in New Enterprise REC's service area.

How does it work?

Each month, the electric bills of participating New Enterprise REC consumer-members are rounded up – increased to the next dollar amount. If a member's bill is \$124.50, it's rounded up to \$125 and 50 cents goes into the Family in Need Fund.

What will the Family in Need Fund cost the cooperative?

The co-op donates \$500 each year to

this fund. There is no other cost involved. The Family in Need Fund is just another program that demonstrates the cooperative difference in improving communities in our service area.

Do other cooperatives participate?

There are currently about 250 cooperatives participating in "round up" programs nationally.

Does New Enterprise REC automatically sign up all consumer-members?

No, this program is completely on a volunteer basis. Once signed up, consumer-members may leave the program at any time simply by calling New Enterprise REC.

If a member doesn't wish to participate now, can they join the Family in Need Fund in the future?

Yes, members may join or rejoin the Family in Need Fund.

Who qualifies for this program?

This program is only for New Enterprise REC consumer-members who are having a hardship. It is a one-time assistance payment to their electric bill.

Can I make a one-time donation?

Yes, if you do not want your bill rounded up each month, you can make a lump sum donation at any time. Be sure when making this donation, you mark that it is for the Family in Need Fund.

Are contributions tax-deductible?

Yes. Each January bill will have a summary of donations for tax purposes.

SIGN UP FOR THE FAMILY IN NEED FUND

The FAMILY IN NEED FUND is a program that helps families in need of hardship assistance. The Center for Community Action determines eligibility for the FAMILY IN NEED FUND money. Your contribution to this worthwhile program assists ONLY New Enterprise Rural Electric Co-op consumer-members. Consumer-members volunteering for this program agree to have their monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the extra few cents going to the FAMILY IN NEED FUND. This tax-deductible donation will amount to less than \$1 a month. The billing statement you receive in Janu-

ary will have the total amount of contributions for the previous year. This can be used when filing your income tax return.

To join the FAMILY IN NEED FUND, just complete and send in the coupon below and mark the appropriate box.

Should you not want to have your monthly bill rounded up to the nearest dollar, but would like to contribute a lump sum amount, complete all the areas listed below EXCEPT the Account Number(s) area. Also mark the appropriate box.

Please do not return the coupon if you do not wish to participate.

FAMILY IN NEED FUND NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC CO-OP

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Telephone 814-766-3221 or 800-270-3177 Fax 814-766-3319
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YES, I wish to participate in New Enterprise REC's FAMILY IN NEED FUND program. I understand my monthly electric bill will be rounded up to the nearest dollar with the extra cents going to the FAMILY IN NEED FUND. This will be effective with the next billing.

No, I do not wish to have my monthly electric bills rounded up, but enclosed is a lump-sum donation of \$ _____. This is a one-time donation. When making a lump-sum donation, please designate it for the FAMILY IN NEED FUND.

Account Name: _____ Account Number(s): _____
(as printed on bill) (list all accounts that are to be rounded up)

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Date: _____

Make checks payable to: NEW ENTERPRISE REC

Thank you for participating.

Ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)

SINCE the 1970s, ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) have saved thousands of lives and have helped cut the number of home electrocutions in half.

GFCIs are electrical safety devices that trip electrical circuits when they detect ground faults or leakage currents. A person who becomes part of a path for leakage current will be severely shocked or electrocuted. These outlets prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs by even a slight amount from that returning.

A GFCI should be used in any indoor or outdoor area where water may come into contact with electrical products. The National Electrical Code currently requires that GFCIs be used in all kitchens, bathrooms, garages and outdoors.

Even today's modern electrical devices are subject to the basic principles of electricity. One of the most important being — water and electricity don't mix! Luckily, there is a technology available to help protect you from this shocking hazard. In fact, ground fault circuit interrupters have been providing this type of protection to consumers since the early 1970s.

What is a ground fault?

A ground fault is an unintentional electrical path between a power source and a grounded surface.

These leakage currents usually occur when an electrical appliance is damaged or the electrical parts are wet, causing electrical current to flow outside of the circuit conductors.

If your body provides a path to the ground for this current, you could be burned, severely shocked or electrocuted.

What are ground fault circuit interrupters, or GFCIs?

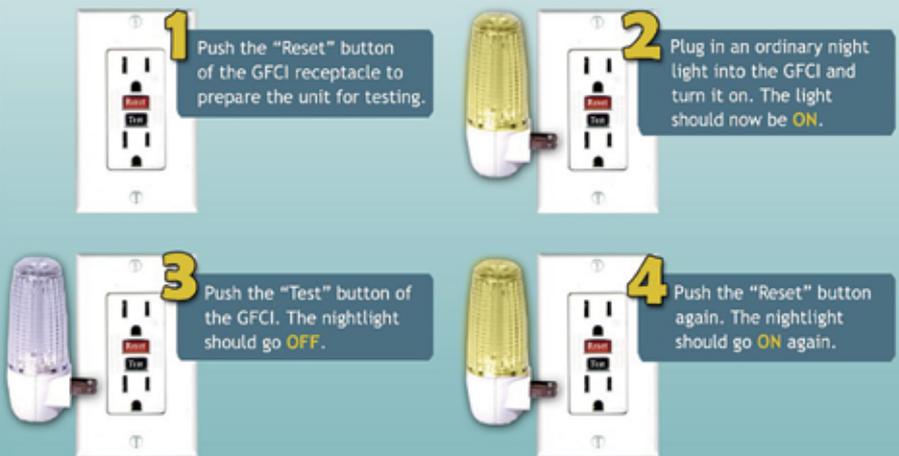
GFCIs are electrical safety devices that are designed to protect people from electric shock and electrocution.

Typically, GFCIs are installed in

How to test electrical outlets

Since the 1970s ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) have saved thousands of lives, helping cut the number of home electrocutions in half. The safety devices prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs from the amount returning. The safety devices should be used in any indoor or outdoor area where water may come into contact with electrical products.

GFCIs should be tested once a month to make sure they're working properly. To test a device, follow these four steps:



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

areas where water and electricity are in close proximity, such as the bathroom, kitchen, garage, basement, and outdoors.

They are especially useful for cord-connected appliances and equipment used outdoors or near water.

How do GFCIs work?

GFCIs prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs by even a slight amount from that returning, indicating a loss of current.

Are they effective?

Since the 1970s, GFCIs have saved thousands of lives and have helped cut the number of home electrocutions in half.

Since first including a home GFCI

requirement in 1971, the National Electrical Code (NEC) has continually expanded the requirements to include additional locations. The NEC currently requires that GFCIs be used in all kitchens, bathrooms, garages, basements, crawl spaces and outdoors.

Is it cost effective to switch to GFCIs?

GFCI outlets are generally fairly inexpensive, starting at under \$15.

Can I install them myself?

GFCIs should only be installed by a licensed, qualified electrician.

Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and provide flexibility in using receptacles that are not GFCI-protected. They are commonly used outdoors. ⚡