New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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Ellis Sollenberger

OFFICE HOURS

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

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

814/766-3221
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GUEST COLUMN

Have a low-budget holiday

by Wendy Conley
Penn Lines Coordinator

IT'S THE TIME of year that most people enjoy; they look forward to gatherings of family and friends, decorating the Christmas tree, the aroma of delicious cookies baking, giving gifts, and, for some, the hope of seeing a white Christmas!

But even as we are caught up in the spirit of the holidays, most of us still want to keep the extra costs related to the holiday season to a minimum.

New Enterprise Rural Electric is here to give you some ideas to help keep your holiday expenses low. When it comes time to put up the Christmas lights, try switching to the energy-efficient LED lights. They will last up to 10 times longer and are brighter than traditional lights. You can purchase LED lights for indoor and outdoor use, so outshine your neighbors this holiday season while keeping electricity costs down.

Did you ever go to bed and then realize the next morning that you forgot to turn off the holiday lights? You can eliminate this problem by purchasing a timer and setting it to come on at dark and to go off a few hours later.

If you travel during the holidays, turn your thermostat down a few degrees. Why heat your home at a comfortable setting when no one is home? Pull the plug on unnecessary items before you leave. That might include phone chargers, video game consoles, DVD players and computers, among other items.

Consider lighting your walkway with solar-powered lights instead of an outdoor porch light.

If your current artificial tree is 10-15 years old, consider updating the tree to a new pre-lighted, energy-efficient LED tree.

Don't let the warmth of your home go up the chimney. Make sure the flue is closed when you are not using your fireplace.

Unless you are baking your sweets or breads, you do not have to preheat your oven when roasting your holiday ham and/or turkey. Use the oven light that comes standard with your oven to keep track of cooking food. By opening the oven door, you decrease your cooking temperature about 25 degrees and also increase cooking time.

We hope these tips will help you have a less stressful holiday season. Happy Holidays from New Enterprise Rural Electric!

Happy Holidays

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative employees and directors wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to providing you the best service in 2012!

Rick Eichelberger, Brawna Sell, Bobbi McIlnay, Wendy Conley, Ron Houck, Rodney Decker, John Colyer, Randy Walker, Mark Replogle, John Simington Jr., Zachary Conley, Leroy Walls, David Bequeath, Timothy Newman, Ellis Sollenberger, John Dively, Dean Brant and Robert Guyer

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a grant that helps low-income families pay their heating and utility bills. This program opened Nov. 1, 2011. There are two types of grants that you may apply for: cash and crisis.

- Cash Grants: This grant can be sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider. You do not have to be out of fuel or have a disconnection notice to apply for the cash grant.
- Crisis Grant: This grant will also be sent directly to your utility company or fuel provider. However, you have to have an ***emergency situation*** and be in jeopardy of losing your heat. Emergency situations include: broken heating equipment or leaking lines that must be fixed or replaced, lack of fuel, termination of utility service, or danger of being without fuel.

You must meet the income guidelines in the chart at right to qualify for LIHEAP.

To apply, you will need:

- 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

Please contact your local assistance office for an application.

The Bedford County Assistance Office can be reached at 814/623-6127 or toll-free at 800/542-8584.

The Fulton County Assistance Office can be reached at 717/485-3151 or toll-free at 800/222-8563.

The Huntingdon County Assistance Office can be reached at 814/643-1170 or toll-free at 800/237-767

INCOME GUIDELINES 2011- 2012 LIHEAP
(For Homeowners and Renters)

Household Size	Maximum Income
1	$16,335
2	$22,065
3	$27,795
4	$33,525
5	$39,255
6	$44,985
7	$50,715
8	$56,445
9	$62,175
10	$67,905
Each additional person $5,730.	

It's that time of year again!

Trying to find that perfect gift? Want to avoid last-minute shopping, the crowds of people, and the chance the person will return your gift for a different size or color? Then call New Enterprise REC for a gift certificate. They come in all different values, and any person would greatly appreciate the gift. You may either clip the coupon and mail it in with your payment or call us and pay over the phone with a check, Visa or MasterCard.

New Enterprise REC Gift Certificate

Recipient's Name: _____

Amount of Gift: _____

Purchaser's Name: _____

Purchaser's Address: _____

Purchaser's Phone Number: _____

How should the certificate(s) be signed: _____

(Mom & Dad, The Smith Family, Joe & Betty, etc)

I wish to remain anonymous Mail letter to recipient Mail letter to purchaser

Please circle one of the above

Payment delivery

Your payment is due to us on or before the "payment due" date listed on your bill. The co-op is not responsible for delays in mailed payments. Please mail your payment at least one week before the payment is due. The co-op does not go by the postmark date when you mailed your payment, but by the date the payment was received in the office. Any payment received past the due date is considered late and a penalty will be imposed. If you wait too close to the due date to pay your bill, you may take advantage of our other payment methods at no additional charge:

- **Hand-deliver your payment to the co-op office.** If it is after hours, we have a convenient night deposit dropbox located at the front entrance doors.
- **Auto-Pay:** Have your payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 20th of each month. You will still receive a statement informing you of the amount to be deducted.
- **Recurring Credit Card:** Have your payment automatically charged to your credit/debit card on the 20th of each month. Only Visa and MasterCard are accepted. You will still receive a statement informing you of the amount to be charged.
- **E-Bill:** Access to the internet? Pay your bill on our website, www.newenterprise-erec.com, by check, or through Visa or MasterCard, and your payment will be posted immediately.
- **By Phone:** Call the office and pay your bill over the phone with either a check, Visa or MasterCard

December co-op calendar

The office will be closed on Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas and Jan. 2 in observance for New Year's Day.

Payment due date is Dec. 28.

Tip of the Month

During the holiday season, consider using Energy Star-qualified lights and strands to decorate. They use 70 percent less energy than regular lights and last up to 10 times longer. They also give off less heat, reducing the risk of fire.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Energy Star)

12 Days of Holiday Safety

It's easy to make safety a part of your holiday with these tips. Tackle one a day and you're well on your way to a safe New Year!

ESFi

Day 1 **What's that noise?** Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.

Day 2 **What a shocker!** Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations and extension cords for damage.

Day 3 **Two's company, three's a crowd.** Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

Day 4 **Is it working?** Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they're protecting you.

Day 5 **Ouch!** Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas.

Day 6 **Kids eat the darndest things!** Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children.

Day 7 **Thirsty?** Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

Day 8 **Make a wish!** Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

Day 9 **Nice and warm.** Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn — decorations, trees, gifts and curtains.

Day 10 **Can't touch this!** Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets/receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into the slots.

Day 11 **Escape Route:** Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.

Day 12 **Hot stuff!** Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.

There's no greater gift you can give your family than a safe and happy holiday! Learn more at *holidaysafety.org*.

KIDZcorner

Grandma Casper's Old-Fashioned Butter Cut-Out Cookies

Looking for a yummy holiday treat? This recipe can be used for any holiday cookie cutters. Here is a truly old-fashioned recipe, straight from Grandma's kitchen.

Yield: 6-7 dozen cut-out cookies

Old-Fashioned Butter Cookie Ingredients:

- 3 cups flour, sifted
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup margarine, softened
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 egg, unbeaten
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla

Old-Fashioned Butter Cookie Directions:

1. Mix together the flour, baking powder and salt. Set aside.
2. Cream together well, the margarine and sugar.
3. Add egg, milk and vanilla. Mix together well.
4. Gradually add in the flour mixture. Add 1/4 at a time and mix together with a big spoon.
5. Chill dough overnight.
6. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
7. Take chilled dough from the refrigerator and divide in two.
8. Roll out the dough to the thickness that you like for your cut-out cookies. Use your favorite cutouts.
9. Put cookies onto ungreased cookie sheets.
10. Bake for 5 to 8 minutes, depending on thickness of the cookies.
11. Allow to cool.
12. Use your favorite frosting recipe and decorate with colored sugars and candy balls.

Enjoy eating them with a delicious glass of milk or dunking them in your favorite warm beverage!