

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
Web site:
www.newenterpriserec.com

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OFFICE HOURS

**Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER

**814/766-3221
1-800-270-3177**

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

Saving energy is saving money



Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

WITH gas and heating fuel prices increasing daily, everyone is looking for ways to save money. A good place to start is in your home. One of the easiest ways to increase your home's comfort level, plus save money, is by adding insulation and sealing air leaks with caulking and weather stripping. Reducing the heat loss/heat gain

and infiltration levels of your home will reduce your heating and cooling costs. Money and time spent now to improve your home's energy efficiency will save you money year after year.

The type and thickness of exterior wall insulation and infiltration barrier should be given careful consideration during the planning stages when building a new home. While attic, basement and crawl space areas usually are accessible, once the exterior walls are finished, it is difficult and expensive to make any changes or add insulation.

Because energy costs continue to increase, the investment you make today can result in big savings in just a few years.

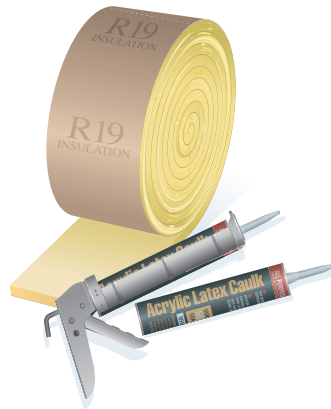
Attics are a prime source of heat loss

You can lose a lot of energy through your home's attic if you do not have sufficient insulation. You should have at least 14 to 16 inches of insulation to equal R-50 in cold climates. If your attic

insulation is 6 inches thick or less or rated at less than R-20, it is worthwhile to add insulation to your attic. Loose-fill fiberglass or cellulose insulation are the best materials for insulating attics. You may be able to install the insulation yourself. Seal any air leaks around chimneys or vent pipes in the attic before adding insulation. While you are in the attic, check for any roof leaks as they can damage your home and reduce the effectiveness of your insulation.

Seal and insulate your ductwork

Sealing and insulating your ductwork is especially important when you have air ducts in unheated areas such as crawl spaces and attic areas. Small cracks in the duct joints allow heated air in the winter and cooled air in the summer to be pumped into attic and crawl spaces, wasting your energy dollars. Up to 20 percent of your heating costs can be wasted if your ductwork is in poor condition. Seal the duct joints with a good grade of tape (regular duct tape can loosen as the ducts are heated and cooled) and then add insulation to any ductwork in unheated areas. The foil-bubble-foil insulation works well for insulating various shaped ducts.



Caulk, caulk, caulk

Infiltration can be one of the biggest heat wasters in your home, contributing to higher heating bills and increasing your cooling costs in the summer as well. Air leaks cause uncomfortable

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New payment options are here!

The e-bill option is now available through our website. E-billing gives you the ability to view payments, past billing statements and past billing history from your home, office or any place you have access to the internet. Not only can you view your bill, you can make your payment and submit your meter reading. It is simple to get started. First go to our website — www.newenterpriserec.com — and click on the link. Click on the link for new users. You will need: your New Enterprise REC account number, the last name on your account, an email address and a password. After this information is entered, you can decide if

you would like to stop your paper bills. You must check the appropriate box to start to receive your bill by email. If you want to continue receiving paper bills, DO NOT check the box. Press “Submit” and you are ready to start looking at your bill online.

The e-bill is the only way to submit your meter reading through the website. Readings are automatically entered into our billing software every five minutes. We no longer need to hand key your reading.

Along with the e-bill also comes more ways to pay your monthly electric bill, including:

- ▶ MasterCard or Visa credit card
- ▶ Debit/bank card
- ▶ Check by phone

Credit and debit cards can be used at the office, over the phone or on the website. You can pay by check over the phone or through the website.

Credit card payments can be recurring payments. The amount of your bill is charged to your credit card the 20th of every month. Should the 20th fall on a weekend or holiday, the amount will be charged the next business day.

You don't have to complete any forms unless you would like to use the recurring credit card option. The form is below.

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Phone: 814/766-3221
800/270-3177

P.O. Box 75

New Enterprise, PA 16664
Fax: 814/766-3319

New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative will electronically charge your credit card each month for payment of your electric bill. Your credit card payment will be processed on the 20th of each month. Should the 20th fall on a weekend or holiday, your card will be charged on the next business day. **ONLY MASTERCARD OR VISA ARE ACCEPTED.** Please complete the form below:

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY ELECTRIC BILL

Return this form to New Enterprise Rural Electric Co-op
P.O. Box 75, New Enterprise, PA 16664

Name: _____

Credit Card Account # _____

Address: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Type of Credit Card: _____

New Enterprise REC Acct. #: _____

Daytime Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Check the box if you would like to receive your monthly billing statement by email.

Account Name Signature

Date

Joint Name Signature

Date

Important Safety Tips

Unfortunately, at times we have to disconnect a meter or install a service load limiter because of non-payment. This is a job that no one at the cooperative enjoys doing, but it is a job that needs to be done.

Should your power be disconnected or limited, remember to follow these important safety tips:

- ▶ Be aware that using candles, portable heaters, gas appliances and gasoline-



or diesel-powered generators to light or heat your home may be dangerous. Portable heaters and burning candles that are left unattended, especially

around children or pets, can create a fire hazard. In addition, portable heaters can produce deadly carbon monoxide.

- ▶ Gasoline- or diesel-powered generators can also produce carbon monoxide. Protect the generator from exposure to rain or snow, but under no circumstance should generators be used indoors. Do not operate the generator near any open windows or doorways.
- ▶ For heating purposes, use only equipment that is made for home heating. Use all types of heaters carefully and follow all directions for safe



use. NEVER use a gas or charcoal grill to heat a building. This could cause a fire or dangerous

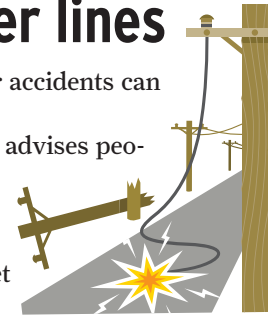
carbon monoxide gas.

- ▶ Use only seasoned hardwood in wood stoves used to heat your home. Do not use trash or cardboard boxes because these items burn unevenly and may contain toxins increasing the risk of uncontrolled fires. ⚠

Steer clear of downed power lines

Lightning storms, heavy snowfall, high winds and car accidents can all bring power lines crashing to the ground.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) advises people to use extreme caution any time they encounter a downed line, and offers these tips:



- ▶ Move away from any downed line you see and anything touching it. Shuffle away with small steps, feet close together and on the ground at all times.
- ▶ Do not touch anyone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line. Call 911.
- ▶ Do not use another object to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line. Even wood can conduct electricity.
- ▶ If you are in a car that is in contact with a downed line, stay inside the car until the electric utility moves the line and indicates it is safe to exit. Honk your horn for help and to keep others away. If you have a cellular telephone, it is safe to use it to report your situation.
- ▶ If you must leave the car — and the only time you should do so is if you smell gasoline or a fire is present — jump clear of the vehicle, keeping both feet together and being sure to avoid contact with the car and the ground at the same time. With both feet remaining together, hop away from the danger site.
- ▶ Assume that any downed wire you see is an energized power line, and report it immediately to the police, fire department and local electric utility.

These and other electrical safety tips are available at ESFI's website at www.electrical-safety.org or by phone at 703/841-3229.

Co-op News

- ▶ Community State Bank - Waterfall Branch is the only branch that will be accepting payments. At times, payments made at other branches do not reach our office in time. These payments are sent to Waterfall by the branches. If it is close to the due date or the disconnection or service load limiter date, we don't know a payment has been made. Therefore, New Enterprise REC has asked Community State Bank to not accept payments at any branch but Waterfall. If you pay at another branch, you may wish to use one of our new payment options.
- ▶ February's due date is Feb. 28, 2008.
- ▶ New Enterprise REC will be installing service load limiters on past due accounts on Feb. 27, 2008. All payments or signed agreements need to be in the office before Feb. 27.

KIDZCORNER

Electricity and You

Electricity is used all around the body ... special nerves made up of cells called neurons carry electrical signals to the brain from every part of the body. When your brain is stimulated, brain cells send millions of fast-moving electrical signals along the pathways of your central nervous system. These paths are nerves that branch out into all your muscles. Whenever you move a muscle, it is powered by electricity running through your nerves.



Move your fingers. Blink your eyes. These actions happen so fast you don't even think about them. The acts of moving your fingers or blinking your eyes are powered by electricity. When we touch something hot, like a stove, the nerves send an electrical signal to the part of our brain that controls how we feel. The brain then sends another signal to another part that controls our movements. That part says, "Move your hand!" Finally another part of our brain that controls movement sends – you guessed it – an electric signal through a nerve connected to a muscle that

moves your hand. The amazing thing about this is, it only takes a second!

Your brain is not the only part of your body that uses electricity. A normal heartbeat is started by a small pulse of electric current. This tiny electric "shock" spreads rapidly in the heart and makes the heart muscle start. The heart doesn't start all at the same time. If it did, there would be no pumping effect. Therefore, the electric activity starts at the top of the heart and spreads down, and then back up again. This causes the heart muscle to start pumping blood in the best possible way.

In the heart, there are cells specialized in producing electricity. These are called pacemaker cells. They produce electricity by quickly changing their electrical charge from positive to negative and back.

A 30-year-old person who weighs 140 pounds and is 5'5" with a resting heartbeat of 75 generates 251 watts of electricity. This is enough electricity to light up three light bulbs, power 63 iPods and one Xbox 360. Four people with the same wattage could keep a refrigerator running.

If you are interested in seeing how many watts your body is producing, go to: www.justsayhi.com/bb/body_battery.

Just because your body produces its own electricity doesn't mean that power lines are electricity in your home and school are safe. Electricity not generated in your body is very dangerous and deadly. If you contact the electricity in an appliance, power cord or power line, you could be seriously injured or killed.

To stay safe, here are a few tips to follow:

- ➡ Do not touch electrical cords that are broken or have wire showing.
- ➡ Do not play with or bite electrical cords.
- ➡ Do not stick your fingers or other objects into electric outlets.
- ➡ Do not touch anything electrical while you are wet or standing in or near water.
- ➡ If you ever find that a power line has fallen, STAY AWAY FROM IT. Let an adult know about this problem. Have them call New Enterprise REC.
- ➡ Do not go near or in a substation or other electric equipment. Stay away from anything marked "Danger," "High Voltage" or "Keep Out."

Protect yourself. Stay out of the path of electricity. Electricity can be our best friend or our worst enemy.

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

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drafts and move high-moisture outside air into the walls and attic, causing condensation. While the small air leaks around windows, doors and moldings are the most noticeable, the large unnoticed air leaks usually are the biggest energy wasters. They allow air to travel into the home's attic, walls and basement. The most common are openings around plumbing systems, electrical wiring and conduit, recessed light fixtures, and the lines connecting your outside central air unit to your furnace. Chimneys and vent pipes that extend through the ceilings and roof areas should be checked annually to be sure flashing and caulking are in place to prevent air infiltration and water leakage. Seal smaller leaks with caulk or expanding foam. Seal the larger gaps with foam insulating board or metal and add caulk or expanding foam to seal. Ask a heating contractor about sealing around metal chimneys where the metal gets hot to the touch.

Older-style recessed lighting fixtures require ventilation and can cause a large amount of air leakage. They may not be able to be sealed properly with normal methods. About the only safe way to seal these leaks is to build an airtight box of sheetrock and cover the fixtures from above with the boxes. The boxes should allow at least six inches of clearance on the sides and top of the fixture, depending on the size and heat output of the bulb. When in doubt, consult the manufacturer for instructions, or consider replacing the older fixtures with the newer sealed fixtures.

Routine checkup and any necessary maintenance

To make sure your heating system (boiler, furnace or heat pump) is operating at its most efficient level, it is a good idea to have a contractor perform a routine checkup and any required maintenance on the equipment before freezing weather drives up your energy bill.

These are just a few ways to save money by saving energy. If you would like more recommendations, please call or stop by our office. ☀