


# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

## What the UL label means to you



**Rick L. Eichelberger**  
General Manager & CEO

**MOST OF US** do our homework when it comes to purchasing high-ticket items like plasma TVs and automobiles. We read performance reviews and familiarize ourselves with safety and operating features. But many of us don't put the same thought and care into purchasing simple electrical products that could have a huge impact on our family's safety and health.

With so many electrical wiring devices to choose from, how can you be assured that the items you purchase will provide years of safe, problem-free performance?

### What is Underwriters Laboratory?

When shopping for items such as light switches, receptacles, dimmers or surge protectors, the Leviton Institute advises you to look for the UL (Underwriters Laboratories Inc.) label. Underwriters Laboratories Inc. is an independent, not-for-profit product safety testing and certification organization. The UL label indicates that an electrical product satisfies the safety requirements of one of the nation's oldest and most trusted product testing organizations.

### What does the UL label mean?

This label is also your assurance that the electrical products you purchase are tested and retested so they comply with UL safety standards. UL inspectors frequently visit facilities that manufacture electrical components. Typically, inspectors walk into a plant unannounced and conduct random checks of products coming off the assembly line.

### Where to find the label on household products?


If you're unsure of what the UL label looks like, check your toaster or hair dryer. You'll see the encircled letters "UL" some-

where on the device. According to UL, you should make sure its label appears on every electrical product, fire extinguisher and fuel-burning appliance in your home. UL also tests heating, air conditioning and refrigeration products.

### Do manufacturers test their own products for safety?

Even though UL has developed more than 800 different safety standards, product manufacturers also subject their products to rigorous safety and durability checks before they introduce them to the marketplace. Often a manufacturer's standard may exceed UL's requirements and those of other industry associations. For these companies, the safety of their products is serious business, so they typically design and manufacture products that exceed industry standards. The Leviton Test Laboratory in Little Neck, N.Y., for example, continually tests new products to ensure they meet the highest safety standards. In testing a light switch, the switch is turned on and off 30,000 times in succession. It would take nearly a lifetime to duplicate this frequency in a typical home. In another test, an electrical plug is inserted and withdrawn from a receptacle 200 times in rapid succession. The resulting electrical arc places more stress on the receptacle than it would be subjected to in a typical residence.

### Classifying electrical devices

Electrical devices fall into one of five specification categories according to their use: residential, commercial, industrial, federal specification and hospital grade. Homeowners and new homebuyers need not look beyond residential grade to find a safe, high-quality product, advises the Leviton Institute. As long as a product carries the UL listing, consumers can be assured that it has undergone a rigorous regimen of testing and when used properly, will function effectively throughout its service life. 

*Source: Leviton Institute*

## Flip the switch on lighting savings

**EVEN THOUGH** lighting represents just 10 to 15 percent of the typical electric bill, it still offers an opportunity for fast, easy energy dollar savings.

Consider this: If you use 10 100-watt incandescent lightbulbs for five hours each daily, you could save \$146 a year just by switching to compact fluorescent lightbulbs.



### New Lighting Calculator on website

See how much you can save with the new Lighting Calculator posted on our website. It's "on" 24/7 in our HomeEnergySuite.

Here's how to access this helpful tool:

1. Go to: <http://newenterpriserec.apogee.net/homeesuited/calcs/lightcalc/>.
2. Enter the number of incandescent lightbulbs you use now and their wattage.
3. Enter the number of lightbulbs you

could switch to compact fluorescent lightbulbs.

4. Hit calculate.

### Easy help at your fingertips

Don't miss this opportunity to take action in your home.

In addition to the Lighting Calculator, we also offer an Appliance Calculator and Home Energy Calculator. Both of these can identify ways you can save, too.

So let your fingers do the work! Go to our website and check out our HomeEnergySuite today. ☀

## Update on payment options

Last year at this time, we announced new payment options in *Penn Lines*. These payment options included: paying online, paying over the phone or recurring credit card charges. The most popular of these three methods are the online payments and phone payments. Each month, the number of people using these two options increases. As of the end of December 2008, 199 people have paid online or over the phone.

These methods were especially popular when gas prices were close to \$4 in 2008. Many people decided to pay online or over the phone instead of driving to the office.

For those of you who aren't familiar with your payment options, they are listed below:

- ▶ **Pay 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.



- ▶ **Pay in person** — Payments can be made in person at our office during normal business hours. After office hours, a night deposit is available.
- ▶ **Auto pay** — Your payment is drafted from your checking or saving account on the 20th of each month. You will still receive a monthly statement.
- ▶ **Recurring credit card** — Your payment is charged to your MasterCard or Visa card on the 20th of each month. A monthly statement will still be mailed.
- ▶ **On our website** — You can make your payment with check, debit or credit card at [www.newenterpriserec.com](http://www.newenterpriserec.com).
- ▶ **Over the phone** — Call our office during regular business hours to make your payment with check, debit or credit cards.

If you are tired of getting a paper bill, you can eliminate the paper bill by going to our website and following the instructions.

## Are you energy savvy?

### TAKE THE QUIZ TO TEST YOUR ENERGY KNOWLEDGE

1. Which of these uses the most electricity in one minute's time?

- A. Floodlight
- B. Hair dryer
- C. Big screen TV
- D. Microwave

**Answer:** B, Hair dryer. Although it's not typically kept on as long as the other appliances in the list, the common hand-held hair dryer uses 1,500 watts. So minute for minute, it's the largest energy consumer. That's as much power as a 1.5 horsepower electric motor!

2. Refrigerators come equipped with an internal heater.

- True
- False

**Answer:** True. If you switch the moisture control on, heat strips warm the outer surface to eliminate sweating. Keep this switched off unless absolutely necessary (on some models it's called power saver; in that case, switch it on unless the outside sweats). Heaters are also used for the frost-free feature.

3. Besides protecting electronics and appliances from spikes, surge protectors also save energy.

- True
- False

**Answer:** False.

4. Computers will last longer and use less energy if left on all the time.

- True
- False

**Answer:** False. Turn your computer off at the end of the day and make sure energy saving settings are chosen to put both the CPU and monitor to sleep between periods of use.

5. When leaving the room for a short time (five to 10 minutes), it's best to leave the lights switched on.

- True
- False

**Answer:** False. There's no debate if you're talking about old-fashioned incandescent bulbs. While it's true that switching fluorescent bulbs on and off frequently may shorten their life, the energy savings from switching them off probably outweighs any lifespan reduction.

6. How many compact fluorescent lightbulbs with a comparable light output does it take to use the same amount of energy as one old-fashioned incandescent bulb?

- A. One
- B. Two

- C. Four
- D. Ten

**Answer:** C, Four. Not only do compact fluorescent lightbulbs give the same amount of light for one-fourth the energy, they also last 10 times longer.

7. What aspect of water heating consumes the most energy?

- A. Tank loss
- B. Pipe loss
- C. Thermal siphoning
- D. Use habits

**Answer:** D, Use habits. The way you use hot water has the most effect on energy use and your bill. Ways to save include fixing leaky hot water faucets and pipes; installing low-flow showerheads and faucets; using the shower rather than the tub; and limiting the time of showers.

Tank loss is not the largest factor in energy use even in standard water tanks.

That's why on-demand water heaters really don't make sense.

8. What is the recommended temperature setting for a residential water heater?

- A. 100 degrees
- B. 120 degrees
- C. 140 degrees
- D. 160 degrees

**Answer:** B, 120 degrees. This setting provides plenty of hot water while saving energy and reducing the chance of burns.

9. If you only have enough money to upgrade an energy deficiency in one of the following places in your existing home, what is the most cost-effective choice?

- A. Add insulation to the attic
- B. Add insulation to the floor
- C. Add insulation to the walls
- D. Install replacement windows

**Answer:** A, Add insulation to the attic. Although all these areas are important, adding insulation to the attic will give the quickest return for the money.

10. How much can setting the indoor furnace fan to the "ON" position add to your monthly electric bill?

- A. \$5
- B. \$10
- C. \$25
- D. \$40

**Answer:** C, \$25. That's why it's recommended to leave the fan in the "AUTO" position so it runs only when the outside unit runs.

11. Which of these are signs of leaky ductwork?

- A. High heating/cooling bills
- B. Increased allergies and respiratory problems
- C. Children being sucked into heating system vents
- D. Both A and B

**Answer:** D, Both A and B. Leaky ductwork is a big problem. Besides wasting energy and increasing your bill, leaky ducts can draw mold, mildew, dust, fumes and other undesirable substances into the living spaces of your home.

12. How often should your heating system's filter(s) be changed?

- A. Monthly
- B. Quarterly
- C. When it makes a whistling sound
- D. What filter?

**Answer:** A, Monthly. If you have a high-efficiency or electrostatic air cleaner installed, follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

13. Running several small space heaters is more economical than running one central heating system.

- True
- False

**Answer:** False. If your central heating system is running properly, using it is much more efficient. If your heating system is ailing and you run space heaters on top of that, be prepared for a large energy bill.

14. Using the fireplace may actually increase your energy bill.

- True
- False

**Answer:** True. There are two reasons why using a fireplace can increase your energy bill. First, most of the heat goes up the chimney and not into the living space. Second, air needed for combustion can be drawn in from outdoors through cracks around doors and windows.

15. Having your programmable thermostat lower the temperature inside your home from 72 to 65 at least eight hours a day (when you're at work or sleeping, for example), may cut how much from your heating bill?

- A. 2 percent
- B. 5 percent
- C. 10 percent
- D. 14 percent

**Answer:** C, 10 percent. The key is to use a programmable thermostat to do the job. Don't try this with a regular thermostat; you'll probably end up using more energy.

### HOW DID YOU SCORE?

**11-15 correct:** You're energy savvy. Bet you have bragging rights to the lowest power bill in your neighborhood.

**6-10 correct:** You're on your way to being energy savvy, but keep studying.

**0-5 correct:** Don't give up! We all had to start somewhere.



## 2008 Writing Contest winner

This month, Kidz Korner is featuring the story written by Lily Zimmerman for our 2008 Writing Contest. Lily was the first-place winner of the 8-13 age group. Her story is entitled: "I Am the Wind."

### "I Am the Wind" by Lily Zimmerman

Well, hello! My name is Big Mr. Windy and I am going to tell you about my windy life. I like to blow up ripples on a pond in the summer and one thing I like to do is blow the fluffy snow into big drifts in the winter. In the fall, I can really make people mad by blowing their leaves that they are raking the way they don't want them to go! I already got people fuming that way! And one thing is completely priceless when it comes to blowing farmers' hats off their heads. It's no wonder I like to do that so much; it's the only time I get to play Frisbee!

But one thing I really don't like to do is pass over a long grassy field in the plains with a farmer combining it, because he gets seasick! Ugh!

I can get very mad and then, "Watch out!" Maybe you just built a new pole shed! Well, if I'd be mad in that time, you'd probably not have a standing shed in the morning!

I can be very gentle though. I can cool you off on a hot summer day, rustle the leaves of the tree you are sitting under and waft the fragrance of flowers up your nose.

And sometimes I like to make you work hard, too. When you are biking or something, I can give you a head wind, a side wind or a back wind. I suppose a back wind is the one you would like best but sometimes I don't feel like being nice and give you a fierce head wind that might make you a half hour late! I would like to share one of my sayings with you:

**Who has seen the wind?**

**Neither I nor you;**

**But when the leaves hang trembling**

**The wind is passing through.**

**Who has seen the wind?**

**Neither you nor I;**

**But when the trees bow down their heads,**

**The wind is passing by.**

*By Christina Rossetti*

I hope you like it! Yeah, well, I better get going fast. I see a farmer with his hat sitting lightly on his head.

Huff, puff, huff, I am back. It was the best Frisbee game ever. The famer ran after his hat faster than I think he ever ran! I often like to peek into a window and blow papers off people's school tables or else when a little girl is thinking to do math and she has her window open, I reach in a windy finger and use her hair to tickle her, but then my visit is cut short by her slamming down the window.

But out in the woods I do other deeds. I ruffle little birds' feathers and make a draft go up a little girl's dress when she is watching birds.

When I feel like playing with little boys and girls, I blow very hard and soon they come out of the house with blankets and I blow harder and they lift their blankets over their shoulders and run into my face. They can hardly go because I blow so hard! They pretend they are ships at sea. I like to play with them!

When someone is washing off the patio with a hose, I like to gather up a lot of puff and blow the water back in her face. I also make her dress wet. Ha! Ha! Maybe I should not be so mean, but to me it is just fun! I take advantage of closing doors when they are not supposed to close.

Well, now you know that a wind's life is really busy, so the next time I interfere with your work or play, look at the air and say "Hi" to me! Remember that I am over by the tropics, deserts, cities, the country and by YOU! Good-bye!