


# 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**  
**Harry Johnson, Vice President**  
**John R. Dively, Secretary**  
**Robert Guyer, Asst. Secretary**  
**Dean Brant, Treasurer**  
**David Bequeath**  
**Timothy Newman**  
**Ellis Sollenberger**

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

**EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBER**

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

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

## A quick look at 2010



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

**THE WORK** plans and operating budget are approved and ensure continued power line maintenance and upgrade projects for the year.

As we operate on a not-for-profit basis, we control spending and attempt to end the year breaking even. All money collected from member electric bills must cover the operating costs

(\$2 million annually) and the power costs (\$3 million annually).

### Another year of stable electric rates

The cost of power will remain stable in 2010 and probably well into 2011. The costs to operate your cooperative will be within the “break-even” budget for 2010. Simply stated, this means no rate increase for 2010.

A power cost increase in about two years from Allegheny Electric Cooperative is expected to be about \$20/month on an electric bill of \$100/month.

The distribution portion of your bill generates revenue for your cooperative to operate and any increases will be minimal. In a year or so, the “Customer Charge” portion of your bill may increase a couple of dollars per month, and may do the same a few years later. We expect the Customer Charge to be about \$25 per month in about five years. The board of directors will determine if and when any increases will occur.

Please remember, all of the talk about rate caps coming off related to huge rate increases has nothing to do with electric cooperatives. This only applies to the investor-owned utilities (Allegheny Power System and Penelec in our area). Electric cooperatives are not facing the huge

increases that the investor-owned utilities are facing.


Be assured your board will be looking closely at any proposed increases to your electric bill. When they occur, they will be gradual, enough to break even and only what is necessary to cover the costs of New Enterprise Rural Electric while keeping your system in sound financial condition.

### New technology is working and saving dollars

The new automatic meters that have been installed over the last year are working quite well. Accurate 30-day readings are received without a person having to go to the meter and write down the reading. Members also can find out why their bill fluctuates during a certain month. The exact hour of a day when use increases can be identified. This helps in remembering that a swimming pool pump, dehumidifier or space heater may have been plugged in. Understanding why something happens is the key for everyone.

### The next step for technology

Later this year, a program using a water heater control switch will be implemented. This delays a water heater from turning on during peak use times when the cooperative pays an extremely high price for the electricity. It will be controlled by Allegheny Electric Cooperative and will occur a few times a month for a few hours.

The water heater control program has been successful at electric cooperatives throughout Pennsylvania for 25 years. All that needs to be installed is a device next to a water heater — the system uses the same operating equipment as the automatic meters do. You will be hearing more in future months. 

# Compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) and mercury

**MERCURY IS** an essential element in the operation of fluorescent lighting; it allows the bulbs to be an efficient light source. Because CFLs contain trace amounts of mercury, it is important to educate yourself on proper use, recycling and disposal of these products.

Because CFLs use less electricity than traditional lightbulbs, they reduce demand for electricity; that reduction means less mercury is emitted from power plants.

## Why should people use CFLs?

Switching from traditional incandescent lightbulbs to CFLs is an effective, simple change everyone in America can make right now. Making this change will help to use less electricity at home and curb greenhouse gas emissions that lead to global climate change. Lighting accounts for close to 20 percent of the average home's electric bill. Energy Star-qualified CFLs use up to 75 percent less energy (electricity) than incandescent lightbulbs, last up to 10 times longer, cost little up front, and provide a quick return on investment.

If every home in America replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an Energy Star-qualified CFL, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes. That would prevent the release of greenhouse gas emissions equal to that of about 800,000 cars.

## Do CFLs contain mercury?

CFLs contain a very small amount of

mercury sealed within the glass tubing — an average of 4 milligrams. By comparison, older thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury — an amount equal to the mercury in 125 CFLs. Mercury is an essential part of CFLs; it allows the bulb to be an efficient light source. No mercury is released when the bulbs are intact (not broken) or in use.

Most makers of lightbulbs have reduced mercury in their fluorescent lighting products. Thanks to technology advances and a commitment from members of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association, the average mercury content in CFLs has dropped at least 20 percent in the past year. Some manufacturers have even made further reductions, dropping mercury content to 1.4-2.5 milligrams per lightbulb.

## What are mercury emissions caused by humans?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates the United States is responsible for the release of 104 metric tons of mercury emissions

each year. Most of these emissions come from coal-fired electrical power. Mercury released into the air is the main way that mercury gets into water and bio-accumulates in fish. (Eating fish contaminated with mercury is the main way for humans to be exposed.)

Most mercury vapor inside fluorescent lightbulbs becomes bound to the inside of the lightbulb as it is used. EPA estimates that the rest of the mercury within a CFL — about 14 percent — is released into air or water when it is sent to a landfill, assuming the lightbulb is broken. Therefore, if all 290 million CFLs sold in 2007 were sent to a landfill (versus recycled, as a worst case) —

they would add 0.16 metric tons, or 0.16 percent, to U.S. mercury emissions caused by humans.

## How do CFLs result in less mercury in the environment compared to traditional lightbulbs?

Electricity use is the main source of mercury emissions in the United States. CFLs use less electricity than incandescent lights, meaning CFLs reduce the amount of mercury into the environment. A 13-watt, 8,000-rated-hour-life CFL (60-watt equivalent; a common lightbulb type) will save 376 kilowatt-hours (kWhs) over its lifetime, thus avoiding 4.5 mg of mercury. If the bulb goes to a landfill, overall emissions savings would drop a little, to 4.0 mg. EPA recommends that CFLs are recycled where possible, to maximize mercury savings. New Enterprise REC has a CFL recycling program. Bring any CFL that is no longer working to the office and we will take care of disposing it for you. ♻️



## Life just got a little easier with E-Bill...

E-Bill is a free service that New Enterprise REC is proud to offer our consumers. It is an online resource that allows you to manage your electric account at your convenience, anytime, anywhere! Benefits include:

- ▶ 24/7 access to your account information.
- ▶ Sign-up for Auto Pay and have your payment automatically drafted through any bank, savings and loan, or credit union.
- ▶ View or print your statement.
- ▶ Automated email notification indicating that your monthly statement is available.
- ▶ Review your billing, payment and use history.
- ▶ GO GREEN and take advantage of paperless billing. As of Dec. 1, 2009, 58 people have decided to go green and go paperless. Why not join these people?

Register today by visiting [www.newenterpriserec.com](http://www.newenterpriserec.com).

## Attention high school juniors

**HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS** from Forbes Road, Northern Bedford, Southern Huntingdon and Tussey Mountain, homeschooled or private schools are needed to attend the 2010 Rural Electric



Youth Tour this summer. New Enterprise REC, along with other rural electric cooperatives from all across the country, sends students on this trip of a lifetime to our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. To qualify for this trip, your parents or legal guardians need to be consumer-members of New Enterprise REC. The dates for this all-expense-paid adventure are June 13-18, 2010.

If you are interested in this great trip, contact Brawna at the cooperative office at extension 224 or by email at [bsell@newenterpriserec.com](mailto:bsell@newenterpriserec.com). You can get the necessary paperwork from Brawna, online, or your high school guidance counselor. The forms will be sent to the guidance counselors in January.

### A little history

Over 50 years ago, then-U.S. Sen. Lyndon Baines Johnson (D-Texas) inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago. The future president declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the nation's capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

What started out as a few young people working during the summer in Sen.



Johnson's office is now an event that sees more than 1,400 high school students from across the United States in attendance.

The Youth Tour lets young people learn first-hand about politics, community development, and today's social issues while touring historic sites around Washington, D.C.

### Support of directors

New Enterprise REC directors believe it is important to teach students why electric cooperatives were created and how government works. Students come away from this outstanding trip with memories and friendships that last a lifetime.

Are you still not sure if this trip is for you? Why not check out the Youth Tour's website: [www.youthtour.com](http://www.youthtour.com)? There are student, parent, educator and alumni sections plus other sections to view on this website. ☀

## Together we can save!

We are always looking for ways to save money! New Enterprise REC along with Touchstone Energy Cooperatives encourage our consumer-members to check out a website showing you how to save your money and energy use. The website is [www.togetherwesave.com](http://www.togetherwesave.com).

It doesn't take much to make a difference and to start noticing the savings. Control what you can control and start taking matters into your own hands. Take

the Energy Savings Home Tour on the website to get a better idea of potential dollar savings.

If you do not have internet access, here are a few simple things you can do:

- ▶ Turn off lights when you're not in the room
- ▶ Unplug electronics (computers, TVs, video game systems and other electronics) when you are not using them
- ▶ Unplug appliances (coffee makers, toasters, lamps, microwave) when they are not in use
- ▶ Adjust window blinds and curtains — lower or close in the summer and raise or open them in the winter
- ▶ Adjust the thermostat — adjusting just two degrees on your heating and cooling will help with the savings
- ▶ Replace four incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs
- ▶ Turn down the temperature on the water heater — savings are noticeable when the temperature is turned down below 120 degrees
- ▶ Seal cracks around your windows and doors
- ▶ Check the insulation in your attic
- ▶ Annually clean heating and cooling systems and be sure to check their age — maybe it's time to upgrade
- ▶ Purchase energy-efficient "Energy Star" appliances

Keep in mind that you may not see the same dollar amount of savings as another member would for the same change. Each individual living status is different. For example: the number of individuals living in house, size of house, type of heating/cooling system, type of lifestyle, location of the house will be different for everyone. Every little thing can make a difference.

You may also check out our website, [www.newenterpriserec.com](http://www.newenterpriserec.com), and click on HomeEnergySuite. This interactive house is designed to help you understand where and how energy is used in the home and how to use it wisely.

# KIDZCORNER

## New Year customs and traditions

Many customs and traditions happen at the beginning of the New Year. One American tradition is watching the Tournament of Roses Parade. This tradition dates back to 1886. To celebrate the ripening of the orange crop in California, members of the Valley Hunt Club decorated their carriages with flowers. This was the start of the Tournament of Roses Parade.

The Rose Bowl football game was first played as a part of the Tournament of Roses in 1902. The following year it was replaced by Roman chariot races. Fourteen years later, the Rose Bowl returned as the sports event of the festival.

Around 600 B.C., the tradition of using a baby to signify the New Year began in Greece. The use of an image of a baby with a New Year's banner as a symbolic representation of the New Year was brought to early America by the Germans.

### GOOD LUCK

Traditionally, it was thought that what you did or ate on the first day of the year brought good luck. For that reason, it has become common for people to cel-

ebate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends. Parties often last into the middle of the night after the ringing in of a new year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good luck or bad luck the rest of the year. It was particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall, dark-haired man.

Traditional New Year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many cultures believe that anything in the shape of a ring is good luck, because it symbolizes "coming full circle," completing a year's cycle. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune.

Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the New Year by consuming black-eyed peas. This food is typically eaten with either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas have been considered good luck in many cultures. The hog, and thus its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes riches. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of wealth. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day.

## Happy New Year!



D X E V E W B J T D E S N V T  
 L F N V R T Y U L O L M W R N  
 H B R A E O A D Z O M G O O F  
 N W E I H A F R P F N X D S U  
 F Y S H E A T S B W I I T S N  
 V X I M M N I W C E N Q N Y G  
 S N O I T I D A R T L O U I S  
 K W L M K F H S V R O E O N E  
 G Y T R A P Q N V L J O C E T  
 U E Y J I R J V L T A G L M P  
 C U S T O M S A T G N K U K W  
 F Z K I B A B Y O I U D U Y T  
 M Z Q B O R G S P B A M F V K  
 J V F V T N A Y W B R E K W G  
 G K R Y J Y M M A G Y Z W F W

BABY  
 EVE  
 JANUARY

BALLOONS  
 FAMILY  
 NOISE

CELEBRATE  
 FOOD  
 PARTY

COUNTDOWN  
 FRIENDS  
 TRADITIONS