

FROM THE MANAGER/CEO

Winter is. . .

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



Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

“Winter is the time of promise because there is so little to do — or because you can now and then permit yourself the luxury of thinking so.”

— **Stanley Crawford.**

Winter can be a peaceful time of year. The beauty of the fluffy snow turns the grayness of winter into a beautiful winter wonderland. But this same snow can be an electric cooperative’s worst nightmare. The snow isn’t always fluffy and light; it can be heavy and wet. Then there are periods of snow, ice and howling winds.

Electric lines can be torn down with the weight of the snow or ice. Also, the wind can cause power outages.

Unfortunately this is just a part of living in rural Pennsylvania, but you can be prepared. Don’t enter the winter season without some thought of what might be helpful or necessary during an outage.

Go through your home and see what you use daily. Look for items you won’t be able to do without during a short or extended outage. What are the necessities?

Light is a very important part of each day. Have a dependable flashlight, some battery-powered lanterns and extra batteries. Avoid using candles, kerosene lanterns or anything with an open flame.

If you depend on a well for your water, you’ll want to fill bathtubs or other large containers for household use, like flushing toilets. Fill clean pitchers or jugs for drinking water. If you have animals, you may want to purchase a generator to run the well plus other electrical appliances. When installing a generator, contact the co-op to be sure it is installed properly.

Food is a must! Keep on hand non-perishable foods that don’t require cooking. Keep foods like canned fruit, powdered milk, peanut butter, bread and crackers. Keep a manual can opener. If you have

room, fill plastic containers (e.g., rinsed-out milk jugs) with water and put in your refrigerator and freezer to take the space of air that warms quickly and also to provide cooling.


What about heat? Have extra blankets, sleeping bags and extra clothes, including hats and gloves. If you have a fireplace or wood burner, make sure your wood pile is well supplied. Be extremely careful when using alternate heating sources. Some are not approved for indoor use and could be a fire or carbon monoxide hazard. Be sure your fire extinguisher is charged and ready to use in case of fire.

Information during an outage is very important. A portable AM/FM radio with extra batteries and a NOAA Weather Radio are great sources of information during winter.

Are you on life support or do you depend on medicines that require cooling? Have an emergency plan in place for electric outages. This may include backup power, extra medical supplies and prescription, or another place to stay until the outage is over. A first aid kit should be kept on hand for emergencies.

So what should you do during any outage?

- ▶ Check your fuses or breakers.
- ▶ Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
- ▶ Call New Enterprise REC at 814/766-3221 or 800/270-3177. During business hours, press 3 to report an outage. After hours, listen to the message for the phone number of the lineman who is on call.
- ▶ Have your account name, location, telephone number and time the power went out.
- ▶ Let the co-op know if you saw any problems such as a broken pole, lines down, trees or limbs on the electric lines, etc.

Our goal is to keep the lights on all the time. Unfortunately, Mother Nature doesn’t always see things our way, so be prepared for outages every now and then. 

Buyer beware

ADVERTISEMENTS are everywhere. Some of these advertisements are for good products while others aren't so good. For the past year or more, people have been bombarded by promotional campaigns promising savings on their heating bills. These ads claim a 50 percent savings on your heating bill and say you could pay only \$1 per day to heat your home during the cold winter months. These miracle heaters cost approximately \$400 and are advertised to save you much money. Wow, you think, these heaters could pay for themselves in a matter of weeks. Who wouldn't want to save money? Grab the credit card and purchase this miracle heater. Many people did just this last year.

The only problem was that most people didn't save the money they thought they would. The \$1-a-day claim wasn't true unless you used the heater in just one room or closed off most of your home and lived in only a very small portion of it.

Before you run out and purchase one of these \$400 electric space heaters, do some calculating to figure the cost of running one. For example, a 1,500-watt unit running for one hour at average of 10 cents (New Enterprise REC's average cost) per kilowatt-hour will cost 15 cents per hour. Well, this sounds like a good deal unless you run the unit for 24 hours a day. Then the amount rises to \$3.60 per day or \$108 per month.

The part of the advertisement for the infrared heaters that many people missed was how the heater was to be

used. To save money, you need to be willing to turn your furnace back to 50 degrees because their units use less energy to create heat than other electric space heaters. This is untrue. All heaters of the same wattage use the same amount of heat and consume the same amount of energy. Once your thermostat is lowered,

Safety tips for portable electric space heaters

- ▶ Put at least 36 inches of empty space between the heater and everything else, like furniture, curtains, papers and people.
- ▶ Unplug the heater and vacuum and clean the dust and lint. A buildup of dust and lint can cause a fire.
- ▶ Check the cord on the heater. If the cord gets hot, frayed or cracked, have the heater serviced or replaced.
- ▶ Never use extension cords with portable electric heaters. It is a common cause of fires.
- ▶ Turn off portable heaters when family members leave the house or are sleeping.
- ▶ An adult should always be present when a space heater is used around children.
- ▶ Make sure your portable electric heater is UL-approved and has a tip-over shut-off function.

a space heater is placed in the room you are occupying although you need to take some things into consideration. How is your home designed? Is it an open floor plan that is difficult to close off? Are you willing to carry the heater with you from room to room? Carrying a space heater around may not sound so bad at first,

but who wants to do this day in and day out? When your furnace is turned down, your rooms are going to be cold except where the space heater is. So when you move from room to room carrying your heater, you will need to be patient until the heater warms the room to a comfortable temperature. Most people aren't going to stick with this unhandy way of life, especially after receiving their first electric bill. All this work and the savings aren't there.

For a short period of time, a space heater will make a small area comfortable, but be careful how much they are used and where they are located. When a space heater is placed in an open floor plan, the heater will run and run trying to keep the entire area warm. This is where the problem comes in. This \$400 heater heats your home the same way a \$50 electric space heater purchased at a local retail store would. So if you are willing to carry your heat with you, don't spend \$400. Go to your local retail store and purchase the \$50 heater. You have already saved \$350.

Portable electric space heaters can be an excellent way to provide heating in a bathroom or any small area for a short time. They aren't designed to lower consumers' heating bills. Some of the best ways to lower your heating bills are to: stop energy leaks by using caulk, insulation and weatherstripping or by installing energy-efficient windows. These are better alternatives.

Remember the next time you see an advertisement that seems "too good to be true," it just may be. Do research before you buy these "too good to be true" products. ⚡

Electronic checks

On Oct. 28, 2004, a federal law – the Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act or "Check 21" for short – was put into effect. This new law means your payment can be processed more quickly. When you write a check as payment, be sure enough money is available in your account or you run a high risk of bouncing the check. When a check comes back for non-sufficient funds (NSF), you are charged an overdraft fee from the bank, plus an additional fee from the merchant. Any check returned to New Enterprise REC is charged a fee. New Enterprise REC will notify you by mail should we receive a NSF check of yours. These fees can add up very quickly. After two NSF checks, New Enterprise REC will not accept payment by check on your account. Cash, money order, debit or credit will need to be used.

So when writing a check to New Enterprise REC or any other merchant, make sure you have money in your checking account to cover this check immediately. The check may be written in the morning and processed by the bank in the evening.

Co-op info

- ▶ Billing and meter reading due date is Nov. 28, 2009.
- ▶ Disconnect date is Nov. 27, 2009.
- ▶ The co-op office will be closed on Nov. 11 to observe Veterans Day and Nov. 26 to celebrate Thanksgiving.
- ▶ More AMI meters will be installed in December or January. This means we will receive more meter readings automatically.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

No final word has come out on the 2009-2010 Energy Assistance or Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), but according to early information, the program will open on Dec. 1, 2009.

There are two parts to the program. One is the crisis grant, which is available if you have an emergency situation and are 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 the danger of being without fuel or of having utility service terminated.

During the winter, New Enterprise REC does not disconnect electric services. We do use Service Load Limiters (SLL), which limit the

amount of electricity you can use at one time. You can run your heating system, but little else. Since LIHEAP is a heating program, this is not considered a crisis. Therefore, no money

Household Size	Maximum Income (before taxes)
1	\$16,245
2	\$21,855
3	\$27,465
4	\$33,075
5	\$38,685
6	\$44,295
7	\$49,905
8	\$55,515
9	\$61,125
10	\$66,735

For each additional household member add \$5,610.

is available through a crisis grant, because the account will not be without heat. So you may want to use your crisis grants for your heating source, such as oil, kerosene, propane, wood or coal.

The other grant is a cash grant. To be eligible for this grant, you do not have to be past due on your billing. So if you are having trouble paying your electric bill, call the assistance office. For more information, visit www.dpw.state.us or call your county assistance office at the numbers listed below.

- Bedford Co. Energy Assistance**
814/623-6127 or 800/542-8584
- Fulton Co. Energy Assistance**
717/485-3151 or 800/222-8563
- Huntingdon Co. Energy Assistance**
814/643-1170 or 800/237-7674

Buy American-made products this Christmas

Why not purchase a gift for a family member or friend that is American-made this year for Christmas? Unfortunately, American-made items are becoming harder and harder to find. New Enterprise REC has a gift that is American-made – electricity. So this would be a perfect gift this Christmas or any time during the year. New Enterprise REC has gift certificates available year-round, but Christmas is the most popular time to buy this American-made gift.

If you would like to purchase a gift certificate, please complete the certificate below. Should you want more than one, you can write the additional information on a piece of paper. Gift certificates can also be found on our website or purchased at the office. Amounts from the internet will not be posted to an account until a form of payment has been made.

New Enterprise REC Gift Certificate

Recipient's Name: _____

Amount of Gift: _____

Purchaser's Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Purchaser's Address: _____

How should the certificate(s) be signed: _____
(Mom & Dad, The Smith Family, Joe & Betty, etc)

(Please circle one)

I wish to remain anonymous

Mail letter to recipient

Mail letter to purchaser

KIDZCORNER

A North American Holiday

MOST PEOPLE outside of North America have heard of Thanksgiving, but not many really know much about it. Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated in both Canada and the United States. In Canada, it is celebrated on the second Monday of October, and in the United States, it is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November.

Thanksgiving in Canada

The Canadians can lay claim to having had the first Thanksgiving celebration in North America. Martin Frobisher, an English navigator, held a formal ceremony in Newfoundland in 1578. He did this to give thanks for surviving the long sea journey. Other settlers continued the tradition after they arrived in Newfoundland. At the time of the American Revolution, Americans who remained loyal to the government in England moved to Canada and thus Thanksgiving celebrations spread throughout Canada.

In 1879, Parliament declared Nov. 6 as the national holiday of Thanksgiving. Over the years this date has changed, and on Jan. 31, 1957, Parliament declared the second Monday in October of each year to be "A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed."

Thanksgiving in the United States

The Pilgrims were the first real European settlers to go to North America — they arrived on the Mayflower in 1620. They were setting off to the new land of America for a variety of reasons. These Pilgrims had varied backgrounds, including merchants, servants, freemen and religious separatists. They were willing to risk everything they had, including their lives, for new opportunities that could not be

found in their home country.

The religious separatists were the smallest group within the ranks of the colonists; however, they were also the most organized. They were going to America for religious freedom. This group was originally from England. To escape religious persecution, imprisonment and even death, this group had escaped England for the Netherlands to live in self-imposed exile. It is there that they lived and practiced their beliefs, as best as they could, for 12 years before they boarded the Mayflower.

While we normally refer to the whole group of colonists on the Mayflower as Pilgrims, the term really refers to these religious separatists. In fact, the word Pilgrim was not used to describe the colonists until 200 years later.

One year after arriving in Plymouth, the Pilgrims celebrated Thanksgiving. They had suffered through much hardship. They had run out of food, and the crops they had planted failed to grow. Native Americans led by Chief Massasoit helped them survive and once again have an abundant harvest, rebuild their lives and make a future for themselves and those who would later come to this New World.

One of the things that enabled the Pilgrims to survive was their friendship with Chief Massasoit and his tribe. They showed the Pilgrims about native food and crop cultivation so that their

farming would be abundant. The Pilgrims, in turn, showed their appreciation for the friendship of Chief Massasoit and his tribe by inviting them to celebrate their harvest and bounty after all of their sufferings.

The first Thanksgiving meal was nothing like the meals of today. It was more like a giant cookout. Now, people traditionally eat turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, filling, corn, and a variety of other vegetables and side dishes. The traditional dessert is pumpkin pie and/or pecan pie.

The Pilgrims continued to hold a Thanksgiving celebration every year, and it was eventually declared a national holiday. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln declared a national day of Thanksgiving, and made a proclamation. Every year since, the sitting president of the United States gives a Thanksgiving Day proclamation.

Thanksgiving in the United States is a day when people reflect on all the things they are thankful for during the year. People celebrate the bounty of the harvest and their lives, just as the Pilgrims did years before.

Think of a tradition that has been in your family. Be sure to continue to celebrate this special day with the tradition that was handed down from one generation to the other.

If you don't have a Thanksgiving tradition, then why not start one this year? Continue to do it every year until you have children of your own; then pass it down to them. 🍁

Candy-filled Thanksgiving cornucopias

A UNIQUE AND FUN CRAFT TO MAKE THANKSGIVING TABLE PLACEHOLDERS

A popular Thanksgiving symbol that's easy to make is a cornucopia.

What is a cornucopia? A cornucopia is a symbol of food and abundance dating back to the 5th century B.C. It is also referred to as horn of plenty or harvest cone.

You will need the following supplies:

- ▶ waffle ice cream cones
- ▶ "Runts" candies, gum drops or dried fruits and nuts

Fill each ice cream cone with the special treats.

Place the cones on a Thanksgiving napkins or colored paper. Let the treats in the cornucopia spill out to get the full effect.

This is an easy decoration you can make for your Thanksgiving table.

