


New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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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

Start Now to Improve Your Home's Energy Efficiency



Rick L. Eichelberger
General Manager & CEO

THE WINTER MONTHS are finally over. This past winter we saw a mix of above average warm spells and below average cold periods. Though warm periods helped to keep heating bills down, electric use went up when the cold weather hit our area. People with electric heat saw large increases in their monthly use.

No matter what you heat your home with, you want to be sure your home is as energy efficient as it can be. And winter months aren't the only time electric use can be high. In the summer, air conditioners can cause high bills. A do-it-yourself home energy audit can help you save money year round.


It's something you can do by just walking through your home and determining where you are using the most energy. Keep a checklist of areas you have inspected and what problems you find. This will help you decide which problems need taken care of first.

Energy Auditing Tips

- ▶ Check for air leaks or drafts such as holes or cracks around your walls, ceilings, windows, doors, light and plumbing fixtures, switches, and electrical outlets that can allow air into or out of your home. Sealing drafts can save 5 percent to 30 percent on your heating and cooling needs per year. Pay special attention to your attic and basement where the largest gaps and cracks are often found.
- ▶ Check for open fireplace dampers.
- ▶ Make sure your appliances and heating and cooling systems are properly maintained.
- ▶ Study your family's lighting needs and use patterns, especially in high-use areas such as the living room, kitchen, and outside lighting.

- ▶ Check out your hot water heater. Heating water is close to the top of the list when it comes to the money you spend on energy.

Hopefully after your audit, you have identified where your home is losing energy. Now it is time to make a priority list. What will save you the biggest amount of money over time? A few suggestions to improve your efficiency are:

- ▶ Put caulking around any cracks or gaps. Replace missing weather stripping.
 - ▶ Appliances and heating and cooling systems may not be working properly because of dirt and neglect. Cleaning or repairing the system's air filters can help to lower your energy bills plus give you better air quality in your home. Remember, your appliances and heating and cooling systems need a yearly checkup, too.
 - ▶ Look for ways to use lighting controls—like occupancy sensors, dimmers, or timers—to reduce lighting energy use. Replace standard (also called incandescent) light bulbs and fixtures with compact or standard fluorescent lamps.
 - ▶ If your hot water heater is working properly, you may want to try some of these energy saving tips. Insulate your hot water pipes with convenient pre-formed, pre-cut pipe insulation. Wrap old heaters with insulating jackets. Before installing an insulating jacket, make sure a wrap won't void your water heater's warranty. The bottoms of conventional water heaters aren't insulated. Place a piece of insulating foam sheathing between the water heater and the floor. Lower the water temperature. A setting of 120 degrees is adequate for home needs.
- Just by doing a few inexpensive home improvements, you can save money with your electric bills. Why not start these projects now and have them done before winter rolls around again. 

Budget billing

If your electric bills were high this winter, you may want to try our budget billing program. With budget billing, the computer looks at your previous 12 months' use, averages it and rounds it to the nearest \$5. This is done each month. Should your budget amount need to be increased or decreased, the computer will automatically do this. This helps many people with those large winter bills.

There are only three requirements to be put on budget:

1. The account balance must be zero;
2. All budget payments must be paid on or before the due date each month; and
3. You need to have been receiving electricity from this account for one year.

If you are interested in budget billing or have questions, please feel free to contact Mindy at extension 230 or e-mail her at mhankinson@newenterpriserec.com.



Auto Pay Program Provides Convenience

With New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative's Auto Pay program, you can eliminate writing a check each month. You no longer have to remember to buy stamps so you can mail your payment to the office. No more forgetting to drop your payment off at the office.

Our Auto Pay program automatically withdraws your electric payment from your checking or savings account on the 20th of each month. All you need is a good credit rating with New Enterprise REC to join. It's easy to sign up and it is FREE. Just complete the application below and return it to Brawna at our office. Applications are also available on our Web site at www.newenterpriserec.com or at our office. Though you may download and print the application from our Web site, you need to return it in person or by mail with your signature and a voided check. If you have more than one account number, be sure to write all your account numbers on the application. Joint name accounts must have both signatures on the application.

You will still receive a billing statement each month. Statements show

your electric use and the amount to be withdrawn. Even though your electric bill is being deducted automatically, you still need to provide your meter reading to us. You may continue to mail your meter reading to us with your statement as before, except you won't need to include a payment. To save postage, you may consider submitting your reading by phone at 814/766-3221, or 800/270-3177, press option 1 to be directed to our meter reading mailbox, by fax at 814/766-3319, or through the Web site.

Auto Pay can be cancelled by your request. To cancel just provide us with a letter stating you would like to cancel the Auto Pay. Joint name accounts need to have both signatures on this letter. The letter must be in our office by the first of the month.

Should you have two insufficient funds while on Auto Pay, the cooperative will cancel your Auto Pay.

This is a great program to make your life a little easier. Should you have any questions, give Brawna a call at extension 224 or e-mail her at bsell@newenterpriserec.com.

Auto Pay Enrollment Form

I authorize New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. to withdraw my monthly electric bill from my checking or savings account. The amount will be deducted on the 20th of each month. This authorization will remain in effect until I provide New Enterprise REC with a written signed termination letter. This letter will need to be in the office by the first of any month.

New Enterprise REC Account # (s)

Account Name(s)

Daytime Phone # *include area code*

Bank Name

Bank Phone # *include area code*

Bank Account #:

Checking

or Savings

Member Signature

Date

Joint Member Signature

Date

Please attach a voided check.

Co-op Notes

- ▶ April's due date is the 27th. Payments and meter readings must be in on or before this date.
- ▶ We have changed to our hours due to daylight-saving time. We are now open from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.
- ▶ Call Brawna at extension 224 if you are having trouble paying your bill. She can work out an agreement with you.
- ▶ Do you depend on life-sustaining equipment? If you do, call Bobbi at extension 222. She will send a form for your doctor to complete. We do our best to notify you when a planned outage is scheduled. During an unplanned outage, New Enterprise REC will make every effort to restore power as quickly as possible to your account. Be sure to have emergency backups in case of extended outages.

Look up and Live!

YOU'VE HEARD IT BEFORE: be careful when using any ladder, especially a metal ladder, around power lines. But it pays to be reminded. Wood and fiberglass ladders are best if you're going to use them anywhere near a power line or electricity source. If you must use a metal ladder, here are a few additional cautions to keep in mind:

- ▶ Metal ladders shift position. Wind, uneven ground, or reaching to the side while on the ladder can cause the ladder — and even the person on it — to contact an overhead wire.
- ▶ Never use metal ladders when handling an improperly grounded power tool or contacting an electrical source, such as a light socket.
- ▶ Metal stepladders and extension ladders meeting Underwriters Laboratories and American National Standards Institute voluntary standards have labels warning about this hazard. The labels typically state with words and graphic: "Danger! Metal conducts electricity! Keep ladder away from power lines and live electrical wires."
- ▶ Carefully check the location of all overhead wires before using a ladder, especially where the lines connect to the house. Any power line (including the line running from the street to your house) can permit electricity to flow into a piece of metal or other object, such as a tree branch, that touches it.



- ▶ Power lines and phone lines often appear similar. Assume that all overhead wires carry electricity. Some overhead lines are coated to extend the life of the line. The coating is not intended to protect against electrocution.
 - ▶ Lower the ladder when carrying or moving it to avoid touching an overhead wire. Since long ladders can be unwieldy, have someone help carry and set up the ladder.
 - ▶ Never place a ladder where it could slide into an overhead line. Make sure the distance to the nearest overhead line is at least twice the length of the ladder.
 - ▶ Place the ladder's feet on solid, level ground before climbing it. When the ground is not level or is soft, put a flat piece of wood under one or both feet of the ladder to provide a solid, level base. If possible, tie off the ladder to prevent it from moving.
 - ▶ If the ladder should start to fall into an overhead line, let it go. Never try to move it. Do not leave the ladder unattended. Have someone call New Enterprise REC and report the problem. Do not touch the ladder and stay away from the ladder until our employees arrive. The ground around the ladder may also be energized.
- ▶ If someone is holding the ladder when it contacts the overhead line, never try to pull him or her away with your hands. ⚡

KIDZcorner

Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22 this year. Earth Day is a special day just like a birthday. Each year America and over 100 different countries celebrate this special day. **EARTH DAY** was born on April 22, 1970, in San Francisco. It is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. It is a day set aside to remember and appreciate nature and learn ways to protect our world.

RECYCLING is a good way to help protect our earth. Here are some interesting facts about recycling:

Glass

- ➡ Glass never wears out – it can be recycled forever.
- ➡ Most bottles and jars contain at least 25 percent recycled glass.
- ➡ Recycling one glass bottle saves enough electricity to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours.

Metals

- ➡ In 2003, Washington residents recycled 17,608 tons of aluminum cans.
- ➡ Americans throw away enough steel every year to build all the new cars made in America.
- ➡ Tin cans are actually 99 percent steel, with a thin layer of tin added to prevent rusting.

Paper

- ➡ Seventy-five percent of a tree harvested for paper does not wind up as paper product.
- ➡ One ton of paper requires the use of 98 tons of various resources.

Plastic

- ➡ Americans use 4 million plastic bottles every hour! – Yet only one bottle out of four is recycled.
- ➡ In 2002 the number of single-serving plastic beverage bottles on store shelves was 18 billion.

Miscellaneous

- ➡ Every year we dispose of 24 million tons of leaves and grass clippings, which could be composted to conserve landfill space.
- ➡ Single-use bags are a waste of trees (paper) or fossil fuels (plastic). They contribute to water pollution during production and landfill overload at disposal. Re-usable cloth or paper bags reduce these problems.
- ➡ Recycling is a continuous loop that works only if the collected materials are turned into products, bought, and used again. Buying products made from recycled materials supports the markets for these products and keeps the cycle going.

HOW LONG IT TAKES GARBAGE TO BREAK DOWN:

- ➡ Plastics take 500 years.
- ➡ Aluminum cans take 500 years.
- ➡ Organic materials take 6 months.
- ➡ Cotton, rags, and paper take 6 months.

If you would like to learn more about recycling, check out pennsylvania.earth911.org. To find out where you can recycle in your area, you can look on this Web site or call 1-800-CLEANUP (253-2687) or 1-877-EARTH911 (327844911). Be sure to check with your parents before going to this Web site or calling these numbers.