

# New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives  
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

3596 Brumbaugh Road  
New Enterprise, PA 16664-8814  
814-766-3221 • 1-800-270-3177  
FAX: 814-766-3319  
Website: [www.newenterpriserec.com](http://www.newenterpriserec.com)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leroy D. Walls  
President  
Timothy Newman  
Vice President  
David Bequeath  
Secretary  
Merle Helsel  
Asst. Secretary  
Curtis Brant  
Treasurer  
Brian McCoy  
Mark Swope

### OFFICE HOURS

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

### EMERGENCY OUTAGE NUMBERS

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

## Building into 2024



**MARK MORRISON**

**OVER THE PAST EIGHT DECADES**, the board and management of New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative have worked to improve the quality of life in the cooperative service territory. Each of those years were building blocks that brought us to where we are today.

2023 was quite challenging and impacted the way we all live and move as free people. While news outlets report inflation is easing, the fact is, all of us are still feeling the punch of abnormal price increases on everything we buy.

The cooperative is no different. Nearly every budget line item for line construction material, vehicles, hardware, transformers and voltage regulators has increased 20% to 40% above what they were in 2020. Despite this adversity, your electric cooperative is in good shape and will continue to provide safe, reliable, and competitively priced electric service to the membership.

In the coming year, we will continue to build on the cooperative's previous successes. Our right-of-way maintenance plan has put our system in a great position to handle the adverse weather conditions we experience as seasons change. While we cannot guarantee our system will always be stronger than all weather-related events — or misguided vehicles — our six-year right-of-way cycle is helping us preserve the integrity of the distribution system and provide a reliable flow of electricity. Also, I'd like to thank all of our members who are on the alert for trees that pose threats to our lines. As always, feel free to give us a call if you have a tree like this, and we will be more than happy to come out and take a look.

In 2023, the cooperative added a new service bucket truck, featuring a Ford F-600 chassis with a 45-foot bucket truck. A welcome addition to the cooperative fleet, it replaces a bucket truck that has served the cooperative since 2007. The new unit provides line crews with flexibility, and allows them to access areas where ground space is limited.

You may have noticed the capital credits applied to your electric bill in December 2023. One of the benefits of cooperative membership is this return of margins, and the board is focused on continuing the capital credits program for years to come. To date, the cooperative has returned more than \$2 million to our members.

In 2024, the cooperative will be focused on upgrading poles and conductors throughout its territory, particularly in the Waterside service area. This project will coincide with plans to upgrade the Waterside substation. We will be replacing the aging wood-pole structure with an engineered steel package and increasing station voltage and capacity. The upgrades will provide decades of future electric load growth and allow our distribution system to work more efficiently.

Our current board and management are continuing to meet the outstanding standard of service and reliability set by those who came before us. We will continue to do our part to maintain the level of service the cooperative has always provided. We'll do this through the thoughtful, meaningful and efficient use of time and resources, which ensures our decisions make the cooperative better than it was before.

Hoping you all have a happy and blessed new year. Stop in or give us a call and let us know how we are doing. 🍷

**MARK MORRISON**  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

# Co-op Connections Card Puts Value in Your Wallet

**NEW ENTERPRISE RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S (REC)** commitment to you goes beyond providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

We're always looking for ways to provide value to our members and our community, especially during tough economic times. New Enterprise REC's Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer. The card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to prescription drugs.

Looking for a discount on your next meal? Get 10% off your order at Wild Annie's in McConnellsburg. Valentine's Day is right around the corner — get 10% off at The Prospector Jewelers in Martinsburg. A wide variety of merchants throughout our community accept the card so be sure to present it at the register to receive your discount.

We hope local businesses participating in the Co-op Connections program benefit from increased traffic from New Enterprise REC members. Businesses can sign up to participate in the program at no cost. For a complete list of all participating businesses in our area, visit [newenterpriserec.com](http://newenterpriserec.com), click on "Programs" and then "Co-op Connections Savings," and follow the link.

The card also gives you access to online savings at more

than 95 national retailers like BarnesandNoble.com, Hertz Rental Car, Best Western and ProFlowers.com. You can check out these great national discounts at [connections.coop](http://connections.coop).

One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of 10% to 60% on prescription drugs. The card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional and local pharmacies.

The pharmacy discount has been widely used by cooperative members across the country, resulting in combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions. Want to find out more? Visit [locateproviders.com](http://locateproviders.com) to search for pharmacies in our area honoring the card. Use code 22203 as the group number under the "Groups" login section, then enter your zip code.

As a Touchstone Energy co-op, New Enterprise REC strives to serve our members according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to the community. Our Co-op Connections Card is one of the ways we live up to those values.

We're eager to answer any questions you have about the card and how to take advantage of the discounts it provides. Call us at 814-766-3221. 📞

## Co-op Connections® Card



New Enterprise Rural Electric  
Cooperative, Inc.

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## THINK SAFETY WHEN OPERATING A GENERATOR

A valuable piece of equipment during a power outage, a generator can either be temporary or permanently installed.

A permanent generator is wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch that prevents the generator from feeding electricity back into overhead lines, which can be deadly for lineworkers.

A temporary generator is powered by gasoline and should not be attached to a circuit breaker, fuse, or outlet. Before purchasing a generator, you need to know the wattage required to run the appliances you will attach to it. You also need to know the surge power, which is the power it takes to turn on an appliance.

Once you have purchased the proper generator, follow these tips from Safe Electricity to operate it:

- ▶ Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions to properly ground the generator. Be sure you understand them before hooking up the generator.
- ▶ Never operate a generator in a confined area, such as a garage. Generators can produce numerous gases, including toxic and deadly carbon monoxide, and require proper ventilation.
- ▶ Generators pose electrical risks when operated in wet conditions so only use it then when necessary. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface, where water cannot pool or drain under it. Always dry your hands before touching the generator.
- ▶ When you refuel the generator, make sure the engine is cool to prevent a fire if the tank overflows.
- ▶ Nothing should be plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances.
- ▶ Be sure to keep children and pets away from the generator. It could burn them.
- ▶ Turn off and unplug all appliances and equipment being powered by the generator before shutting it down.
- ▶ Remember to perform maintenance between uses. Inspect the fuel and oil filters, spark plug, oil level, and fuel quality and start the generator on a regular basis.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org).



## BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

### ■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

### ■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

### ■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at [www.ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov)



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



# Sales Tax Notices

**ARE YOU PAYING SALES TAX** for your service? If so, call the cooperative's office, and we will see if you can be exempt from the tax. The Department of Revenue requires us to maintain a certificate, which members must sign for each metered service. If you received a form and did not return it to the office, you will be assessed the tax.

Signed forms are valid for three years. The cooperative will be sending forms within the next few months to those whose certificate expires this year.

Certain businesses are required to pay sales tax as well as landlords who keep a rental account in their name. If you have a business and are exempt, please include your sales tax exemption number on the form.

You will be exempt from the tax if the property is:

- ▶ a primary residence (doesn't matter if you own or rent the property)
- ▶ a vacation home
- ▶ used directly for manufacturing, mining, farming, dairy or ship-building operations performed as a business

- ▶ used for an organization or institutional activity by a religious organization, volunteer firefighters, non-profit educational organization, or charity holding a charitable exemption
- ▶ directly used by the purchaser in the production, delivery, or rendition of public utility service and/or construction, alteration, or maintenance of public utility facilities other than buildings. Purchaser presently has on file with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission the following Tariff of Rates:

Rates \_\_\_\_\_ PA P.U.C No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Supplement \_\_\_\_\_

- ▶ used for another purpose (personal garage, shed, barn — buildings must be on your primary residential property)

Please call the office if you have any questions or need a certificate to sign. ☎

BEST BETS FOR

## Winter Savings

Energy consumption spikes during winter months as we spend more time indoors and heating systems work overtime. You can help reduce demand and strain on the electric grid by conserving during peak energy times. Reducing energy use will also help lower your energy bills.




**UNPLUG WHEN POSSIBLE**

Turn off unnecessary lights and electronics when you aren't using them.

**ELIMINATE DRAFTS AND AIR LEAKS**

Seal air leaks and drafts around windows and exterior doors.






**MAINTAIN HEATING EQUIPMENT**

Maintain your heating system by replacing dirty, clogged filters and scheduling an annual inspection for necessary maintenance.

**USE APPLIANCES WHEN ENERGY DEMAND IS LOWER**

Run large appliances like clothes washers, dryers and dishwashers early in the morning or before you go to bed.



**LOWER THE THERMOSTAT**

Home heating accounts for a large portion of energy consumption. Adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting (68 degrees or lower).

