

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.

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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

Power is in Your Hands



MARK MORRISON

MORE THAN 80 YEARS AGO, many of our neighboring communities wanted the convenience of electricity. However, private power companies were not interested in providing service to rural areas. Their decision hinged on the perception that there wasn't enough profit for their stockholders. The solution to this problem came from local farmers, business owners, and community leaders, who were dedicated to serving their community and finding a way to improve the quality of life for generations to come. They organized and formed New Enterprise Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), a not-for-profit electric cooperative, owned by those it serves.

When you become a consumer-member of New Enterprise REC, you share in the benefits and responsibilities of the cooperative for as long as you remain a member. Realized profits are returned to members in the form of capital credits. To date, the cooperative has returned more than \$2.4 million in margins to our members.

A board of seven directors governs the cooperative. Directors are trustees on behalf of the cooperative's consumer-members and are elected by the membership at the cooperative's annual meeting.

This year, three director areas are open for election. If you are interested in this challenging experience and reside full time in Areas 1, 2, or 5, stop by the cooperative office or call us at 814-766-3221 by March 1 to discuss the process.

Director Area 1: Portions of Bloomfield, South Woodbury, and Woodbury townships in Bedford County, including Bakers Summit, Lafayetteville, Route 867 to Muley Lane and Middle Ridge Road.

Director Area 2: Portions of Bloomfield, South Woodbury, and Woodbury townships in Bedford County, including Hickory Bottom, Pulpit Road, Woodbury Pike and Frosty Hollow.

Director Area 5: Portions of Broad Top, Hopewell and West Providence townships in Bedford County, including Plank Road to Tatesville, Route 26 north of Everett, the "beach" areas along the Raystown Lake, and accounts along the westernmost part of Sherman Valley.

Other opportunities exist for members to serve the cooperative by being part of the Nominating Committee or Credentials & Elections Committee. The bylaws of the cooperative outline the qualifications, expectations, and elections of directors and committee members.

The board of directors will select a Nominating Committee, which is comprised of cooperative members who prepare a list of qualified nominees for this year's annual meeting. Cooperative members also serve on the Credentials & Election Committee, which oversees director elections according to cooperative bylaws.

Do not miss your chance to vote for the person you want to represent your area. We look forward to seeing you at the cooperative's annual meeting on Tuesday, June 3, at the Southern Cove Power Reunion Grounds in New Enterprise. We will be posting more annual meeting news in future *Penn Lines* issues, on our Facebook page, and at newenterpriserec.com. 

MARK MORRISON
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO

Pick the Space Heater that Meets Your Needs

WENDY CONLEY, MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

AS WE ENTER JANUARY, COLD temperatures loom in the air and fuel prices are still high, so many of us will turn to our good friend, the space heater. Whether you are using it to take the chill off or as a heating source, the question arises: Does it make financial sense?

It's important to look at a few things that contribute to the cost:

► **What is the size of the heater you will be using?**

Space heaters come in a range of sizes and styles.

You will find most heaters use about 1,500 watts of energy and produce the same amount of heat. Radiant heaters and conventional heaters both do the same job: produce heat. However, a conventional heater may be a better choice because you can control the temperature.

► **How big or small is the area you want to heat?**

If you are trying to heat an open-concept room or an area with vaulted ceilings, you may find that a space heater may not work as efficiently. Heat will rise to the ceiling or the heater will run continuously to warm the spacious room. Using heaters in a small space, like a

bathroom or bedroom that has doors, is a better choice. You can close the doors and heat that one room. In this situation, you'll want to choose a heater that has a temperature-control setting that automatically turns on and off to keep the room at a steady temperature.

► **How often are you going to be using the heater?**

If you plan to use it only an hour or two each day to take the chill off, you may only see a small increase in your electric bill. If you are using the heater 24/7, you can expect to see at least a \$100 increase in your electric bill. If you are using more than one space heater in your home, your bill will increase even more.

Whether you are using an electric fireplace heater, a radiator-style heater or an oscillating heater, they are producing heat by using electricity. Therefore, you will notice an increase, whether it's small or large, on your utility bill.

Remember to use your heater with caution. Never plug it into a power strip or an extension cord; keep it away from children and pets; and place it on a hard, level surface. ❗

Types of Electric Heaters



DECISIONS, DECISIONS: Radiant heaters and conventional heaters both produce heat, but a conventional heater allows you to control the temperature. Understanding how much space you need to heat and how often you need it will help you find the right space heater for you.



A NEW YEAR MEANS NEW RESOLUTIONS TO SAVE MONEY

WENDY CONLEY, MEMBER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

As I start 2025, I sit here contemplating how I can save money this year. Isn't that always a resolution we make: to save more money? Maybe you want to save for an emergency, a vacation, college tuition or a new(er) car. To save means you need to cut back on expenses, and you can start with your utility bill.

Here are some tips that may help you:

- ▶ Set your hot water heater to 120 degrees. Also, try wrapping your hot water heater in a blanket or insulation to help prevent heat loss.
- ▶ Do full loads of laundry and use the cold-water setting, if possible.
- ▶ Line or hang dry clothes whenever possible. Use the dryer only when necessary.
- ▶ Run the dishwasher when it is full or air dry dishes.
- ▶ Make crockpot meals or microwave them instead of using your oven.
- ▶ Turn off lights and TVs when you are not in the room. Disconnect chargers when nothing is plugged into them.
- ▶ Lower your thermostat when leaving the house for a few hours or going to bed.
- ▶ Use ceiling fans to circulate air, especially if you adjusted your thermostat.
- ▶ Clean your refrigerator and freezer coils.
- ▶ Take shorter showers.
- ▶ Unplug extra freezers and refrigerators if they are not being used.
- ▶ Seal air leaks around windows and doors.

By following some of these options, you may be able to save a few dollars a month.

SALES TAX NOTICES

Are you paying sales tax for your service? If so, call the cooperative's office at 814-766-3221, 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 will expire this year.

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

You are 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 a 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: _____

PA PUC No. _____

Supplement _____

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

Please call the office at 814-766-3221 if you have any questions or need a certificate to sign.

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

We understand how busy life can get and managing your account can sometimes feel complicated.

Our SmartHub tool allows you to save time and money while giving you complete control to manage your entire account at anytime from anywhere.

Features include:

- Billing and Payment Options
- Usage Monitoring
- Alerts and Notifications



Save time and money by managing your account at anytime from anywhere. Download the SmartHub app or visit newenterpriserec.com to create an account.



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS!

The Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour gives high school juniors an opportunity to learn leadership skills, network with peers from across the United States and travel with other PA and NJ students – and have FUN while doing it!

WHAT TO EXPECT

An all-inclusive trip to Washington, D.C., June 16-21. Tour Capitol Hill. Learn about electric cooperatives. Visit monuments and memorials. Stop at the Smithsonian museums. And so much more!

APPLICATIONS

Applications are available on newenterpriserec.com and due Jan. 24.

Please contact Bobbi McIlroy at bmcilroy@newenterpriserec.com or call 814-766-4606 for more information about this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!



Youth Tour 2024 participants