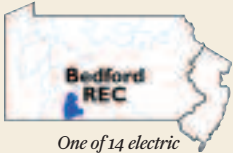


Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC
P.O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522
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OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

What would life be like without electric co-ops?



by Brooks Shoemaker
General Manager

CAN YOU imagine life without electricity? Our modern conveniences depend on it — alarm clocks, refrigerators, HVAC units, vacuums, kitchen appliances, washers, dryers, computers, TVs, cell-phones, and many more. They all depend on the kilowatt-hours the co-op provides. Can you imagine our lives without electricity?

Businesses rely on electricity to produce and sell the products and services we depend on. So, it is no wonder that many electric co-ops feel that while our primary product is electricity, we are really in the quality-of-life business.

As we celebrate the season that reminds us to be thankful for all that we have, it is important to remember the 1.3 billion people in the world who still live without reliable electric service. That is equal to about four times the U.S. population!

Many of the things we take for granted living in the U.S. are much harder and more time consuming for people in developing countries. We are thankful our ancestors had the vision and foresight to gather our friends and neighbors to form your cooperative. As the electric business of the 21st century continues to evolve, you can count on Bedford Rural Electric to meet all of your electric energy needs. More importantly, we are here to help improve the quality of your life.

Cooking up holiday energy savings

For many of us, the holidays revolve around home-cooked meals. A busy kitchen equals a house full of family and friends. However, you still have an opportunity to save energy during the holidays.

Cooking, combined with the energy consumed by refrigerators, dishwashers and hot water heaters, accounts for as much as 15 percent of the energy used in a home.

So, saving energy here can have a sig-

nificant impact on your household budget. For example, when preparing side dishes, baked goods, soups and such, consider using small appliances like a slow cooker, toaster oven, or microwave instead of your conventional oven or stovetop. They are smart, energy-saving alternatives that typically use about half the energy of a stove.

When using your oven, don't peek — that lowers the temperature by as much as 25 degrees. Then, your stove uses more energy to return to the desired cooking temperature. Baking a dish more than an hour? It's not necessary to preheat the oven. Ovens can be turned off for the last five to 10 minutes of cooking, allowing the residual heat to complete the job. Clean burners and reflectors increase efficiency and offer better heating, so don't neglect this small but important task.


The same rules apply to the refrigerator and freezer. Keep the doors closed as much as possible so cold air doesn't escape. Interestingly, leaving the door open for a longer period of time while you load groceries or remove items you need is more efficient than opening and closing it several times.

When your home is full of people, turn the thermostat down and rely on the heat from the stove and the guests to keep your house comfortable.

After dinner, consider washing the dishes by hand — but don't leave the water running continuously. If you do use the dishwasher, rinse the dishes in cold water before loading them. Run the dishwasher with full loads only, and if possible, use the energy-saving cycle.

By adopting these efficient practices, energy savings will be one more thing to be thankful for this holiday season.

Energy efficiency tip of the month

Remember to close your fireplace damper (unless a fire is burning). Keeping the damper open is like leaving a window wide open during the winter, allowing warm air to escape through the chimney. 

Operation Shoe Box is underway

BY LINDA WILLIAMS

IT'S Operation Christmas Child Shoebox time again!

Churches in towns and across the country are gathering shoeboxes full of love and small gifts for children in underprivileged countries. In addition, gift recipients learn of the love of Jesus Christ, many becoming Christians from this one small gift.

Last year, the United States sent 7,991,643 boxes of Christmas joy. Internationally, there were a total of 1,444,333. The Mid-Atlantic region, of which Bedford is a part, collected 1,023,125. The United States has set a goal of 8.6 million shoeboxes for 2015.

Karen Diehl, the project's local chairperson, recently held a workshop at the Pennwood Bible Church to encourage area residents to begin working on the shoebox project and to sign up for a trip to Baltimore where the boxes are given their final preparations for trips abroad.

"Packing the shoeboxes should not begin in November," Karen says. "Items can be collected all year."

She suggests purchasing flip-flops when they go on sale in late summer.



DROP-OFF: Youth and leaders at Pennwood Bible Church take part in the drop-off location portion of the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. Participants include, front from left: James Greenawalt, Donna Christopher, Laura Greenawalt (holding Will), Timothy Donaldson, David Hartman and Andrew Weiss; middle from left: Dave Aaronson, Alex Flaaen, Katy Hartman, Abigail Donaldson, Caleb Mack, Abby Christopher, Diane Flaaen, Eric Flaaen, and Troy Hartman; and back from left: Kelsie Holliday and Bailey Donaldson.

Back-to-school sales provide a good opportunity to buy crayons, pencils and tablets for the boxes.

Some churches get together to make items such as pillowcase dresses, jump

ropes, fishing kits, small wooden cars or drawstring bags.

Boxes are divided by gender and age. There are three categories for each: 2 to 4, 5 to 9, and 10 to 14. There are usually multiple boxes for girls ages 5 to 9, but not so many for boys of the same age. The same is true for older children of either gender.

Keep the masculine youngsters in mind when shopping. For older boys, tools are very appropriate because they often begin doing repairs or working at a very young age. Hammers, screwdrivers, drills, nails and screws would be welcomed. For older girls, fabric, scissors and a sewing kit would be desirable items.

Hygiene items are also a great way to fill a box. Children can use and would welcome washcloths, soap, toothbrushes or toothpaste. Do not send liquids, including body wash, shampoo or lotions. The other "no-nos" on the list would be money, chocolate or any candy that melts, food stuffs that might spoil or



CHURCH INVOLVEMENT: Pennwood Bible Church is just one of seven drop-off locations in Bedford County. Others are Buffalo Mills United Methodist, Clearville Pleasant Union Church, Fishertown Chestnut Ridge Independent Fellowship Church and Hopewell Grace Brethren.



PILLOWCASE DRESS: Ila Jane Diehl shows one of dozens of pillowcase dresses she has made for the Shoebox project.

attract rats, medications, items that might break, war toys, knives, or items in an aerosol can.

Vladimir Foreman, born in Russia, was in an orphanage when he was a child and received a shoebox one Christmas. He was thrilled to find a washcloth and toothpaste. He had never before had

his very own washcloth. He admits he ate the toothpaste, or most of it, because it tasted so good. He also says his experience led him to Christ. That box gave him hope and it is the hope he continues to have to this day.

Another part of the shoebox operation is postage. It costs at least \$7 for each package, and it is asked that a check be included in each box or one check written for multiple boxes. This can be done on an individual basis or individual churches may take up a separate collection to cover the postage.


Once the boxes have been packed at churches in the area, they are collected and taken to drop-off locations, which include Pennwood Bible Church. At this church, the youth take over getting the boxes in shape for their next stop, which is the Breezewood Gospel Lighthouse Church. From there, they are taken to Baltimore. Pennwood Bible Church youth leader



ASSEMBLY LINE: Helping on the assembly line at the distribution center in Baltimore is a heart-warming experience. Jay Williams, a volunteer last year, is pictured at the Christmas tree in the center.

Troy Hartman says his church youth love helping with the boxes, and they save money from their allowances to purchase box items. He says they talk about the project all year, and they are more than willing to help with the preparation for the trip to Breezewood. From Breezewood, the shoeboxes go to the Baltimore Distribution Center and then to the hands of eager children around the world.

This year, a Bollman Charter Service bus will be taking folks to the Baltimore Distribution Center on Black Friday, Nov. 27, and on Saturday, Dec. 12. The cost is \$25 per person. Lunch is available for purchase at the plant or you can take your own. There is a dinner stop coming home. Anyone wishing to go should contact Diehl at kdiehlocc@gmail.com. There are additional spots on other dates for those who would prefer to drive.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox comes under the umbrella of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief agency headed by Franklin Graham. 



DISTRIBUTION: Cards indicate where some of the shoeboxes will be distributed this year. Donors can follow the delivery of their box online.

Bedford REC's office will be closed on Wednesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27, for Thanksgiving



NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to non-traditional students whose primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.

For an application, go to our website at www.bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received at our office no later than Feb. 1, 2016.

Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to seniors whose parents' or guardians' primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.

For an application, go to our website at www.bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2016.

Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative directors and employees are asking members to join in and make donations to area food banks. Those wishing to donate items should bring them to the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative office on Lincoln Highway before Dec. 21, 2015.



Items needed include canned goods, paper products, soap, other hygiene-related items, and food products such as noodles, cake mixes, spaghetti, and boxed foods of any kind. Items with expired dates cannot be accepted. The collected items will be donated to local food banks throughout the county.

Your help and kindness will be appreciated during this holiday season.

All members who make a donation will have their names entered for a \$25 gift certificate toward their electric bill.

TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

In case of trouble ...

- First Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- Second Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- Third **Call 24-hour number, 623-7568**
OR call 800/808-2732 during office hours
(Please help us save money - only use this number if toll charges apply.)

Please give person receiving call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

Alternate numbers ...

Dennis Tursich	Week of November 2	623-0922
Scott Shook	Week of November 9	623-2395
Ed Hankinson	Week of November 16	733-4005
Scott Bischof	Week of November 23	839-4640
Adam Claycomb	Week of November 30	635-3376

In case you cannot reach any of the above ... Call:

Jim Wood	Bedford	623-6121
James Clark	Everett	652-9791
Mark Rowan	Bedford	623-7890

During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures. You may receive a busy signal, or in certain cases your call may go unanswered. This occurs in after-hours outages when the office is not fully staffed. Please be patient, and try again in a few minutes.