

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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Bedford, PA 15522

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Office Hours

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

From the General Manager



A starting point for energy savings

By Brooks Shoemaker

MOST homeowners I know would love to save money by being more energy efficient. While some are very successful at it, others aren't because they feel overwhelmed. They just don't know where to start. First of all, what are the top energy users in your home? According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the top five energy users in U.S. homes are:

1. Space cooling
2. Space heating
3. Water heating
4. Lighting
5. Refrigeration

Armed with that information, here are a few things you can do:

Adjust the temperature

Together, home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your energy budget. On the bright side, there are ways you can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps.

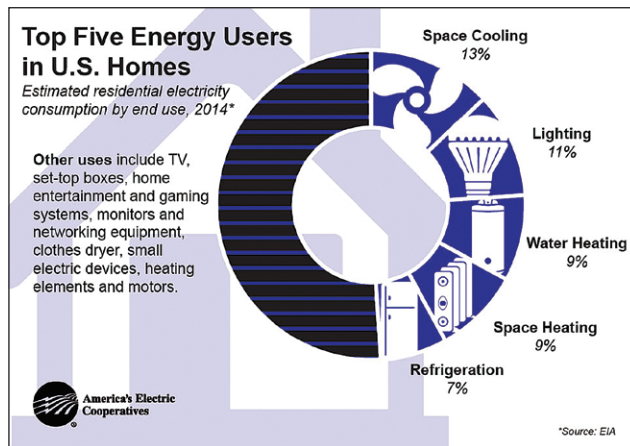
- ▶ During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ▶ During warm weather, the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ▶ Cleaning the filters of your HVAC system can cut costs from 5 to 15 percent.
- ▶ Clean the coils around your electric

baseboard heater to maintain maximum efficiency.

- ▶ Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping to the outdoors.
- ▶ Turn the thermostat down to 60 or 62 while you are asleep, at work, or away from home for long periods.
- ▶ A programmable thermostat can save you 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.

Shine the light on savings

Take a fresh look at the lighting in your home. If you are still using incandescent lighting, your lightbulbs are only operating at 25 percent efficiency. Replacing your home's five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can save you \$75 per year. Also,



don't forget to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

Water heating efficiency

Most water heaters come preset at 140 degrees, which is hot enough to scald

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It started with a book

By Linda Williams

HERB Brambley of Breezewood has always loved the great outdoors, adventure and animals. Therefore, he took easily to the concept of a new hobby when his librarian wife, Jamie, brought home a book entitled “The Cruellest Miles.”

The book is about dog sledding and the hero pack that took a cargo of serum from Nenana, Alaska, to Nome, Alaska, in 1925. The serum was to save the lives of many children with diphtheria.

This true story made Herb fall in love with the Siberian husky breed.

The owner of three huskies, Herb took to the internet to learn more about the Iditarod race in Alaska and found a link to “Teacher on the Trail.”

Since he is an environmental education and technology teacher at Southern Fulton Elementary, he was a natural to apply for the 2010 title. He has a background as a farmer, blacksmith, farrier, sawyer, machinist, and tool and die maker, and he loves teaching kids how to survive in the real world. The judges probably did not have to think long before they decided to award Herb the Target 2010 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail Award, which gave him the privilege of traveling the entire Iditarod trail.

It was an experience that totally changed his life, and one year after his Teacher on the Trail experience, his dog pack had grown to eight. He now has 15 huskies that are housed in neat



RESCUED DOG: “Scout,” who is part sled dog and part house dog, is one of the two rescued dogs in the Brambley pack.

kennels near the home that Herb built from scratch. Huskies prefer being outside as their thick coats are too warm for most houses. Herb built them an underground dog house that is cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Two of their dogs have been rescued. One had an owner who could not handle the big, fuzzy, dog, but it fit easily into the Brambley family. The other husky was found starving in the cold by a friend. Herb and Jamie named it “Scout,” and it has become a valued member of the family, spending part of its time in the house.

“She is also a good pulling dog,” Herb adds.

The instinct to pull is so strong in the husky breed that Herb finds training the dogs is very easy.

Because he wants to encourage folks to get outdoors even in the winter, Herb now operates Wilderness Adventure Kennel. If there is snow on the ground, he can offer dog-pulled sled rides; if there is no snow, people can go for a dog-powered ATV ride, depending on the weather. The dogs love to pull and run, getting excited as soon as a car comes up the drive.

Herb likes folks to meet the dogs, learn how to harness and



TAKING A RIDE: Herb Brambley takes a friend for a dog-drawn ATV ride.

bootie them, and then hang on for a ride. He gives family tours, group presentations, and school programs, as well as the sled and ATV rides.

Just one-half mile down the road is Brush Creek Evergreens, where Herb sometimes offers rides into the fields to cut down your own Christmas tree.

In 2011, Herb took his team of dogs to the Pennsylvania sled dog race and the dogs finished the entire course.

"I didn't come in first, but I wasn't last either," he says.

One of the folks Herb met on his Iditarod adventure was Kim Darst. She was the first person ever to qualify for the Iditarod

races from New Jersey. Packing up her dogs in a pickup, complete with kennels, she headed north to Alaska. Her adventure was not quite what she had hoped as one of her dogs became ill, forcing her to quit. The story was so interesting that Herb wrote a book about it, "Cotton's Tale."

Herb's Teacher on the Trail experiences were numerous. He rode on the runners of a dog sled, flew over the dog sleds in a plane, and slept in schools and libraries along the way.

Teacher on the Trail began in 1998, designed as a unique opportunity for one selected educator each year to teach beyond the traditional classroom walls via the internet and to be involved in a project that reaches students around the world.

Herb sometimes takes several of his dogs to school, where they are an immediate hit with the students.

"These dogs are just so tame and so lovable they make up with anyone," he explains.

You can reach Herb and Jamie and learn more about their adventures at info@wildernessadventureskennel.com, or call them at 814-735-3225. 🐾



FINISH LINE: Herb Brambley and his huskies cross the finish line at a Pennsylvania race.



UNUSUAL PERCH: One of Herb Brambley's dogs likes to climb, so Herb built him a tree house.



LIVING IN A DOG HOUSE: You can see the access to the underground dog house that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

From the General Manager

(continued from page 14a)

your skin. The Department of Energy recommends water heaters be set at 120 degrees. For every 10 degrees you turn it down, you'll save 3 to 5 percent on your bill.

We all know it is wise to insulate your home, but did you know it also pays to wrap your hot water heater with an insulating blanket? This is all the more critical if you have an older, metal unit (our plastic Marathon heaters do not require insulating). For additional efficiency and savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment buildup.


Put cold hard cash back in your wallet

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new Energy Star model. If you are considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards. Regardless of the age of your fridge, there are additional steps you can take to save energy and money. For example, don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends temperatures of 35 – 38 degrees Fahrenheit for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees Fahrenheit for separate freezers (used for long-term storage).

By understanding how your home uses energy, you can determine the best ways to modify energy use and keep more money in your wallet.

Interesting tidbit

Members often use electric space heaters to heat a single room, or supplement the heat in a room.

Did you know that a 1,500-watt heater, running continuously, costs about 17.64 cents per hour to operate? That's \$1.41 for an 8-hour period, and \$4.23 for a 24-hour period. One running continuously (24 hours a day for 30 days) for an entire month would add \$127 to your bill. 

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.

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**

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 no later than Feb. 1, 2016.

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

TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

In case of trouble...

- 1** Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- 2** Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- 3** 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 ...

Al Hileman..... 766-9971 (Week of December 28)
Jim Seymour..... 839-2848 (Week of January 4)
Dennis Tursich 623-0922 (Week of January 11)
Scott Shook..... 623-2395 (Week of January 18)
Ed Hankinson..... 733-4005 (Week of January 25)

In case you cannot reach any of the above, call:

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

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.