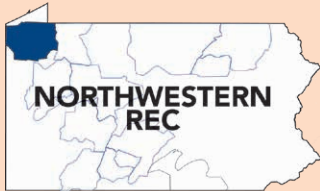


# Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## NORTHWESTERN REC

P.O. Box 207  
22534 State Highway 86  
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403  
[www.northwesternrec.com](http://www.northwesternrec.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Lisa Chausse, District 9**  
Chair

**Kathy Cooper-Winters, District 5**  
Vice Chair

**Marian Davis, District 8**  
Secretary

**Earl Koon, District 2**  
Treasurer

**June T. Shelhamer, District 1**

**Candy Brundage, District 3**

**Robert G. Agnew, District 4**

**Kim Docter, District 6**

**David "Earl" Snyder, District 7**

**Lanny Rodgers, District 10**

## STAFF

Ryan Meller, President & CEO

Kathy Lane, VP & CFO

Stephen Miller, COO

Thomas Dimperio, Director of IT

Kerri Fleet, HR Director

Amy Wellington, Director of Communications

Clarissa Schneider, Executive Administrator

## MAIN ACCESS NUMBER

1-800-352-0014

## EMERGENCIES/OUTAGES

1-800-352-0014

## FAX

814-398-8064

## OFFICE HOURS

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

Amy Wellington, Editor

## Power in Your Hands



**ONE OF OUR NEWER EMPLOYEES** asked me what makes electric co-ops different than other types of utilities. This month, I thought I'd tell you a few of the things I told her.

Because we're a co-op, we operate a little differently than other utilities. Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative's (REC) decisions are made locally by directors who live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here to pay for the electricity used or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders five states away. We're a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you, our local members.

You may notice we schedule opportunities throughout the year for you to attend co-op events, like Co-op Community Safety Day, so we can hear from you. We also stream the annual meeting online for those who can't join us in person. We conduct a biannual survey to gather your feedback on co-op programs and services so we can plan and adjust for the future.

Our success lies in your satisfaction, which is why we offer these opportunities to engage and listen to what you have to say.

Because you're part of an electric cooperative, you can count on our team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity and first-class service, no matter what the economy — and supply chain issues — throw at us.

Northwestern REC is striving to keep our costs as low as possible so we can keep more money in your pocket. We want to help you maximize the value you can get from our services and offerings. For example, we can help you save on energy bills through our free energy audit program and efficiency rebates.

If you want to receive important information from Northwestern REC, such as power restoration updates and tree trimming crew alerts, sign up for our text message notifications through your SmartHub account. You can also stay in the know with SmartHub alerts and our social media updates.

Please know that you — the members of Northwestern REC — are at the heart of everything we do. Co-ops adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service.

We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve. While we've grown over the years, we're still driven by the same guiding principles to serve our community. We hope to see or hear from you soon. This co-op was created for you, the members. The power is in your hands. 🌱

Cooperatively yours,

**RYAN MELLER**  
PRESIDENT & CEO

# Northwestern's Travelling Hot-Line Demo Spreads Electric Safety Education

**AMY WELLINGTON**, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

**THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY** around electricity is not only written in Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative's (REC) mission statement but also embedded in the co-op's legacy. For as long as anyone can remember, Northwestern REC had a stationary hot-line demonstration unit located at its headquarters in Cambridge Springs. This old demonstration certainly received upgrades over the years, but it is suspected the original hot-line setup dated back to the 1970s or so.

Since it was directly hardwired into the co-op's electric service, groups were required to travel to the co-op to learn about electric safety in a life-size format. (The co-op also has a tabletop demonstration better suited to younger audiences.) Despite this limitation, the safety demonstration was used each year by local fire schools and police cadets. On occasion, groups such as local scout troops or hot air balloon pilots would schedule a visit.

Anyone who ever saw the old demonstration would undoubtedly remember what happened to a fuse when something — like a tree limb or animal — came in contact with a transformer. The echo from the blown fuse was known to reverberate through the Cambridge Springs valley.

It was a true eye-opener ... or downright heart stopper.

For years, the community would ask us to take this demonstration on the road. With a totally self-sustained mobile hot-line unit, the co-op would reach far more communities, as well as a wider audience. Finally in 2020, Northwestern REC's travelling hot-line demo came to fruition.

Designed and built by Northwestern's own Justin "Sully" Sullivan, a journeyman lineman, Sully's Electric Safety Trailer made its debut on Sept. 11, 2021, during Crawford County's fire school held at Townville's volunteer fire department. This mobile hot-line trailer can and has traveled virtually anywhere.

With this new "have demo, will travel" capability, the mobile hot-line unit has been featured in local parades, presented at senior centers and elementary schools, participated in several PennDOT safety stand down days, and even viewed by Hazlett Tree Service employees in the middle of a corn field. It has taken the co-op principle of education and training, as well as concern for community, to a new level.



**HAVE DEMO, WILL TRAVEL:** Justin Sullivan, Northwestern REC's staking technician, center, talks electric safety to PennDOT employees at their Safety Stand Down Day in Meadville.

Northwestern REC has since incorporated its Tesla into the traveling hot-line demonstration. As more electric vehicles (EV) take to the road, it became imperative to educate the local firefighters and first responders how to handle EVs in emergency situations. These demonstrations have been so well received, demand among local fire departments has taken off.

“During these past few summer months, we visited fire departments in Franklin, Venango, Cambridge Springs, Pleasantville, Rocky Grove, Springboro, Seneca and Centerville,” Sully says. “Not to mention there were multiple departments present at each of those demonstrations.

“Our reach is limitless with our new mobile hot-line trailer,” he adds. “It is very rewarding to be part of this movement.”

Not only is Sully a longtime employee of Northwestern REC, he is also a volunteer firefighter in Townville as well.

These demonstrations are free to all and can be scheduled at your convenience. For more information, visit [NorthwesternREC.com](http://NorthwesternREC.com) or call Amy Wellington, director of communications, at 800-352-0014. 📞



**SAFETY ON WHEELS:** Sully's Electric Safety Trailer, set up at Hazlett Tree Service's employee training event, demonstrates the consequences of improper safety precautions around electricity.



# Make the Most of Your Electric Vehicle Battery's Charge

**ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) DRIVERS** are usually well-versed in how to make the most of their car's battery charge. However, new EV owners or non-EV drivers might be curious about it, too.

## In town vs. highway

Do you use your EV to run errands nearby or for a long commute to work? In-town driving usually benefits battery range, since EVs use the braking system, called regenerative braking, to put energy back into the battery. Coasting toward stoplights also helps because you can move forward without using power.

## Driving, period

Although painstakingly obvious, driving will always drain the battery. Higher speeds require more battery power than lower speeds.

## Rate of acceleration

While driving EVs is fun because they get up and go, high (and rapid) acceleration requires more energy than taking off more slowly. Taking the lead out of your foot helps improve your car's battery range.

## Weather

While all types of conditions affect battery range, frigid temperatures cause the biggest drain. It requires more energy to keep the battery running when it is cold outside.

## Heat/air-conditioning

Controlling the comfort inside your EV is the biggest power drain, second to driving it. Warming your EV's cabin takes more energy when it is cold outside. The inverse is also true when you use energy to blast the air conditioner when it is hot outside.

## Weight

The size of your EV, how many passengers are on board and how much extra stuff you have in your trunk impact battery range. The lighter the car is, the less energy the battery expends.

## How full is too full?

Most EV owners avoid charging a battery to 100%, since fully charging affects battery life.

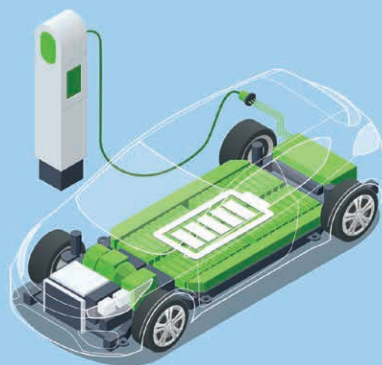
While some EV owners charge to a maximum of 80% capacity, many EV enthusiasts now recommend charging to 50% full.

Taking a long road trip? Some experts believe charging to full capacity now and then is not a major concern. 🚗

*Source: Kelley Blue Book*

## The Name of the (BATTERY) Game

Making the Most of Electric Vehicle Range



### Driving Patterns

Higher speeds require more battery power than lower speeds.

### In-Town vs. Highway

In-town driving has its benefits. Braking charges the battery and coasting conserves energy.

### Acceleration Rate

Taking the lead out of your foot helps improve your car's battery range.

### Weather

While many conditions affect range, frigid temperatures drain the battery the quickest.

### Heat/AC

Controlling the comfort inside your EV is the biggest power drain second only to driving it.

### Weight

The size of your EV, number of passengers and any added cargo impact efficiency.



Source: Kelley Blue Book