

# Northwestern Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## Northwestern REC

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www.northwesternrec.coop

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## From the President & CEO



## A sustainable future

By Bill Buchanan

EVERY INDUSTRY is subject to trends and fads, and the energy industry is no different. So when we hear about smarter technology, changes in the way renewable energy is captured and advances in energy efficiency, it's important to make sure we think carefully about how we can make these advances work best in our communities.

Fortunately, we are an electric cooperative. That means we're a community-focused organization working to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy to our members. It also means that we are led by consumers like you who understand and listen to the community.

As a result, when it comes to utilizing cleaner sources of energy, we've been smart in our decisions. The electric generation for all electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania is about 70% carbon-free.

An advantage of being an electric cooperative is that we belong to the communities we serve. That means

when our members make improvements to the energy efficiency of their homes or businesses, they can go a long way toward keeping energy more reliable and affordable for everyone.

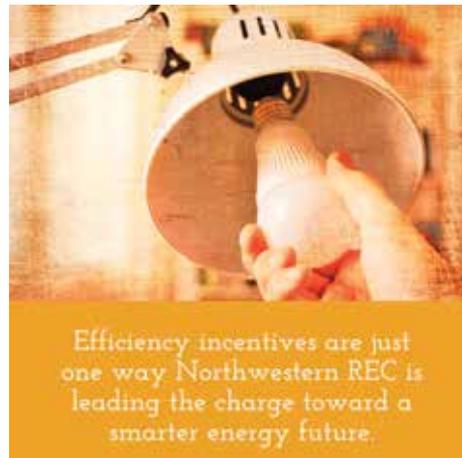
We want our members to save energy (and money). In fact, we offer free energy audits and lots of energy-saving tips and efficiency rebates to help manage your energy in smarter ways.

It shouldn't be any surprise that what's good for

our members is good for the whole cooperative. After all, we were built by the communities we serve. At the end of the day, that difference is perhaps our greatest strength. It's also why, for our members, a little efficiency can go an awfully long way.

Cooperative yours,

Bill Buchanan  
President & CEO



**In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the co-op has taken the following precautions (effective March 17, 2020):**

- Postponed the Spring Nominating/Member Meetings, please visit our website or Facebook page for more details. You may also call member services at 1-800-352-0014 during regular business hours; Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Closed the co-op to public access. Bill payments are encouraged to be made online via SmarHub at [NorthwesternREC.coop](http://NorthwesternREC.coop) or by phone at the number above.
- Linecrews and service technicians will complete necessary jobs, but will greatly limit any face-to-face interaction with the public. Questions may be referred to field services at the number above.
- Paused collections until further notice and are working diligently with members during this difficult time.

**Please call the cooperative should you have any questions, or visit our website at [NorthwesternREC.coop](http://NorthwesternREC.coop).**

LINeworkERS KNOW HOW TO GET THE JOB DONE.

LET'S THANK THEM FOR POWERING OUR LIVES.



OUR LINeworkERS ALSO MAKE COTTON CANDY: From left, Chief Michael Frazier, Corey Jordan, Chris Peters and Joe Bernier make cotton candy at the 2018 annual meeting.

## Are you a co-op voter?

AS PART OF a member-owned electric cooperative, voting is already in our DNA. It's how we maintain an electric utility that is responsive to the consumers it serves. Voting also plays a crucial part in our representative democracy. Federal, state and local elections offer an opportunity to exercise a civic responsibility — to select the best leaders for our communities.

This year is going to be a big one, with the possibility for unprecedented voter turnout. Co-ops must find a way to ensure that elected officials in our communities understand the issues we face.

When voters miss the chance to vote, they also lose the opportunity to communicate their concern to our leaders about the issues that matter to us, where we work, live and raise families.

Reliable electricity, rural infrastructure and access to rural broadband are just a few of the issues we all care about. These issues will only become priorities if we continue to express our concerns to our elected officials. Registering to vote and showing up to the polls on Election Day are the most effective ways to send this message.

When we go to the polls with the cooperative principle of “Concern for Community” in mind, we instantly improve our political system. It's a system designed to produce a government “of the people, by the people

and for the people.” People like you and me.

Northwestern REC has (once again) joined America's electric cooperatives in continuing the Co-ops Vote campaign to help get out the vote and insert issues important to co-ops and our communities into the public discussion. This effort will ensure that our voices are heard loud and clear every day, and especially on the next

Election Day.

We have the opportunity to continue the dialogue with a variety of candidates this year, and now is the perfect time to ask, “What will you do to ensure we continue to have affordable and reliable electricity in our community?” This is a perfect time to confirm your voter registration is valid and encourage any new voters to get registered. 2020 — It's a great time to go vote!

For information on how to register and vote in our state, visit the Co-ops Vote website at [vote.coop](http://vote.coop). You can also find information about elected officials and read more about issues important to our community.

Co-ops Vote is a nonpartisan program developed by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization that represents the nation's more than 900 private, not-for-profit, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. You will join with 42 million members across the nation, to ensure that electric co-ops are a powerful voice on national issues that have a local impact.

Stop by our office and pick up a Co-ops Vote button or bumper sticker to let our community know that you're a Co-op Voter. If you have any questions, please visit [VOTE.COOP](http://VOTE.COOP) or contact us directly at 1-800-352-0014. We hope to see you at the polls! 🌞

**CO-OPS**

**VOTE**

A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

[WWW.VOTE.COOP](http://WWW.VOTE.COOP)

# Respect the orange signs: move over and slow down in work zones

FOR MANY people, there aren't enough hours in the day. Because of that, many people use drive time to be productive. They might call their boss, text their best friend or apply mascara.

Multitasking can be an effective use of time, but not while driving.

In 2017, 799 people died in work zone accidents, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Although this reflects incidents that took place in road construction zones, know that accidents, injuries and deaths can happen in any road-side work zone, including utility work zones.

That is why we ask you to help keep our crews safe by slowing down and following any other instructions — including moving over to give them space — anytime you see orange warning signs and cones that lead up to a work zone.

Cars or trucks that speed through a work zone don't just endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or not moving over can also put



**A LINEWORKER'S JOB IS DANGEROUS WITHOUT TRAFFIC:** Northwestern crews will often use flaggers so they can focus on the job and each other's safety.

an elevated lineworker in danger by causing the bucket he or she is in to move or sway.

Lineworkers already have enough to contend with by working high up on power lines while out in the elements. Their profession consistently places on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' list of most dangerous jobs. Do your part; please don't add noncompliant drivers to the mix.

Other 2017 statistics released by the DOT's FHWA include:

- ▶ There were 203 fatal crashes where speeding was a factor.
- ▶ There were 222 fatal work zone crashes involving large trucks or buses.
- ▶ There were 132 worker fatalities in road construction sites.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## DO YOUR PART TO HELP KEEP LINEWORKERS SAFE



Never plug a generator into an indoor or outdoor wall outlet, which can cause voltage to back feed.



Workers need to efficiently and safely restore power when it goes out; please be patient.



Do not post signs on a utility pole, especially with staples and nails, which can puncture protective gear.



Slow down and move over in utility work zones. Crowding workers can cause accidents.

Learn more: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

22 April

# EARTH DAY

## Energy efficiency tips for Earth Day and every day



### Receive a rebate for new Energy Star-rated electric appliances

Northwestern REC members may be eligible to receive a rebate for installing new Energy Star-rated appliances.

#### Rebates are available for:

- Air-Source Heat Pumps: \$200
- Heat Pump Water Heater: \$200
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station: \$150
- Refrigerator: \$100
- Clothes Dryer: \$50
- Freezer: \$50
- Clothes Washer: \$50
- Dehumidifier: \$25
- Dishwasher: \$25
- Window Air Conditioner: \$25

#### Program procedures & requirements:

- ▶ Qualifying appliances must be certified as Energy Star. Appliances can be verified at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).
- ▶ One rebate per appliance type per calendar year.
- ▶ Appliance must be installed within Northwestern REC's service territory.
- ▶ Members are responsible for proper disposal of pre-owned appliances.
- ▶ Rebates will be issued as a one-time electric bill credit.

EARTH DAY is considered one of the world's largest civic events, and on April 22, we can all be part of this global movement to help the environment.

There are many ways we as individuals can help the environment, and some are easier than you'd think. Here are a few simple actions you can take now to reduce your energy use:

**Audit your lightbulbs.** Swapping out any remaining incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency, and it's one of the easiest ways to reduce your energy bill.

**Maintain your HVAC system.** Replace your home air filters to allow your HVAC system to run more efficiently. Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Changing the filters makes your unit run more efficiently — keeping your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.

**Examine your smart or programmable thermostat.** Make sure it is programmed for the current season and family schedule. This is one of the best tools at your fingertips; however, you can only achieve these efficiencies and savings if it is programmed properly and adjusted periodically to keep pace with changes in household routines.

**Seal window and doors.** Seal leaks with weather stripping and caulk to keep cool air indoors during warm months and prevent cold air from penetrating the indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer vents, fans, and outlets also helps to seal the envelope and increase efficiency.

While these suggestions may not be glamorous actions worthy of a press release or event, they do make a difference. And we're always here to help if you want more information on how you can save energy. Stop by our office or give us a call at 1-800-352-0014.

As we celebrate Earth Day this April, let's continue to work together and make a positive impact on our local community — and our beautiful planet. 🌱

**SUMMER** | **WINTER**

**PLANT ENERGY SAVINGS** | Plant deciduous trees to block heat from the sun in the summer and let sunlight in during the winter.

**TYPES OF DECIDUOUS TREES**

- Oak
- Maple
- Birch
- Poplar
- Willow
- Cottonwood

**PLANT ENERGY SAVINGS** | A six- to eight-foot deciduous tree planted near your home will start shading windows in the first year.