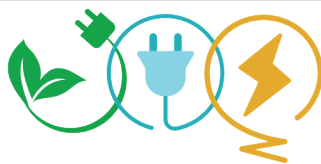


*Pictured:
Sussex REC lineman
Jake Hasert waves from
atop a utility pole.*



**Sussex Rural
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



SREC's Member Newsletter

2025, Issue 3 of 4

www.sussexrec.com

973-875-5101

info@sussexrec.com

Currents

We care about what you think.

We rely on feedback from members like you! Answer this quick survey to let us know what matters to you and how we can serve you better.



**Sussex Rural
Electric Cooperative**

sussexrec.com/surveys

FLISR

Keeping the Lights On & Cutting Outages Short

For all the work we do at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative to prevent outages before they happen, we cannot control factors such as extreme weather, falling trees, and car accidents. However, we are constantly innovating to better respond to these factors.

Sussex REC has long been called the most technologically advanced utility in the state. In 1997, we were one of the first NJ utilities to fully embrace and invest in a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system. SCADA allows us to remotely monitor power outages and to reduce outage times by “backfeeding” power using remote controlled switches that re-route electricity from one part of our territory to another. This system has served us well, and we’re pleased

By Chris Reese, President & CEO
contactthceo@sussexrec.com



to announce that we’ve recently added another high-tech tool to our tool belt: FLISR (Fault Location, Isolation, and Service Restoration).

This software greatly reduces the magnitude and duration of outages by automatically isolating a problem area and transferring consumers to adjacent circuits. “FLISR basically takes SCADA to the next level,” says Patrick Murphy, Staff Engineer at Sussex REC.

While FLISR does not prevent outages, it can keep the power on for as many members as possible when one does occur. FLISR works with our existing SCADA-enabled grid devices to greatly reduce an outage’s magnitude by automatically isolating problem areas and determining what areas are safe

>> Continued on pgs. 4 & 5

Our EV Journey

By Steve Sokolowski, Marketing & Member Services Associate
ssokolowski@sussexrec.com

As your local electric co-op and trusted energy advisor, we at Sussex REC seek to be knowledgeable about all major electric trends.

Electric vehicle purchases have been on the rise for years. We've watched EV adoption closely, with the goal of adding one to our fleet when the time was right to help us get a fuller understanding of what they're like to use.

Over multiple years, we researched available models to find the right car to learn from. This was an unexpectedly long process. With few available to purchase locally, it was a challenge to find one that would work for our needs. We prioritized EVs manufactured entirely in the U.S., but after years of searching we ultimately seized the opportunity to purchase an EV with a great rating, great value, and that would be available to most of our members.

We secured our 2024 Hyundai Ioniq 5 last year from our local Hyundai dealership in Sussex. Two private charging stations were installed at our facility for fleet use, made possible through a grant from the State of New Jersey.

The plan has always been for Sussex REC to use its EV as both a hands-on educational resource and a marketing tool. Shortly after purchasing, we worked with Jersey Signs in Andover (owned by a Sussex REC

member) to design and install a wrap on the car that both looks great and makes the car identifiably "us."

Spending time using the Ioniq gave us firsthand experience with some of the pros and cons of driving an electric car. It is very "zippy," able to go from 0 to 60 mph in 4.4 seconds. It boasts a very modern interior (whether you like that style or not), with a large LCD display, a "push to start" button, and various notification systems for blind spots, lane switching, and snitching on passengers not wearing seatbelts.

Early on, we faced a recurring issue with the EV battery not charging properly, which drained the car battery as well. It had to be jump-started to bring its normal charging systems back online. This was fixed by a recall but caused a lot of headaches for our team.

I also got to experience "range anxiety" firsthand. A trip to State College, PA for a meeting pushed the car's 260-mile range nearly to its limit. I arrived at my destination with barely 9% battery and, presumably, stress-induced heart palpitations.

Since adding the Ioniq to our fleet, adoption of EVs in the U.S. has cooled down. While more and more manufacturers are offering electric-powered options, high prices, a shifting political landscape, and the lack of a robust public charging infrastructure have all contributed to reduced demand.

The lack of public chargers is certainly an issue for EVs in our area. They have not taken over our territory just yet, but we do see more of them every day. For these

>> Continued on pg. 4



Sussex REC Summer Events

YOUTH TOUR 2025

June 16th - 21st, 2025

2025's Youth Tour Trip brought three local students to Washington, D.C. for a free week of adventure, education, and new friendships!

Cristina Hatzimihalis and Andrew Schuman from High Point and Natalia Kuznar from Pope John joined a group of 77 other rising seniors from Pennsylvania, plus nearly 1,800 students from

all over the country, on this unforgettable trip. Together, NJ and PA's group visited D.C.'s many famous monuments, memorials, and museums, heard from Congressional staffers, and made memories that will last a lifetime!

Next year's Youth Tour trip will take place from June 15th through June 20th, 2026. If you're a member with a child who will be a junior this year, they are eligible to attend for free! Applications will open at www.njyouthtour.com by October 20, 2025, so set a reminder!



2025 ONLINE MEETING

July 7th, 2025

2025's Online Meeting, the business portion of our Annual Meeting, included a Chairman's Report, Financial Report, official results of our 2025 Board of Directors Election, and a Q&A with Steve Brame, President & CEO of our power provider Allegheny Electric Cooperative and the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association.

You can view the Online Meeting at www.sussexrec.com/ann-mtg.



2025 MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT AT THE FAIR

August 4th, 2025

As part of the NJ State Fair, we once again invited members to join us for a Member Appreciation Event! Held at the Fair's BBQ Pavilion, members who stopped in could chat with Sussex REC's team, claim their \$10 bill credit and free giveaways, and enter our prize drawing!

Over 1,500 members attended the event throughout the day, setting a new record for attendance. Thank you to all who joined us at the Fair! We are already putting together plans for next year's event, so we hope to see you there!



Currents



Our EV Journey


<< Continued from pg. 2

members, we've explored the idea of an off-peak rate for EV charging. For now, we've taken our foot off the accelerator. EV charging has not yet caused any situations, such as dramatic increases in load or overloaded transformers, that would make an off-peak incentive required for us.

Ultimately, we are taking a "wait and see" approach for any EV programs. If you drive one, we invite you to tell us about it at

www.sussexrec.com/evs.

Through your feedback and our own experiences with the Ioniq, we will continue to learn about EVs, the needs of their drivers, and the role they'll play in our community in the years to come. 🌱



MEDICAL ALERT PROGRAM

Do you rely on
electric-powered
medical equipment?

Enroll in our Medical
Alert Program to
receive
advance notice of
planned outages.

www.sussexrec.com/medalert



FLISR

<< Continued from pg. 1

to backfeed. This helps us "power on" members downstream of an outage faster, so they are not left waiting while crews make repairs.

One example took place on November 12th, when a large tree on El's Way in Vernon fell and caused an outage for 996 homes. In under a minute, FLISR was able to redirect power to restore power to 750 of those homes. Crews were then able to respond to restore power to the remaining members in the immediate vicinity of the problem.

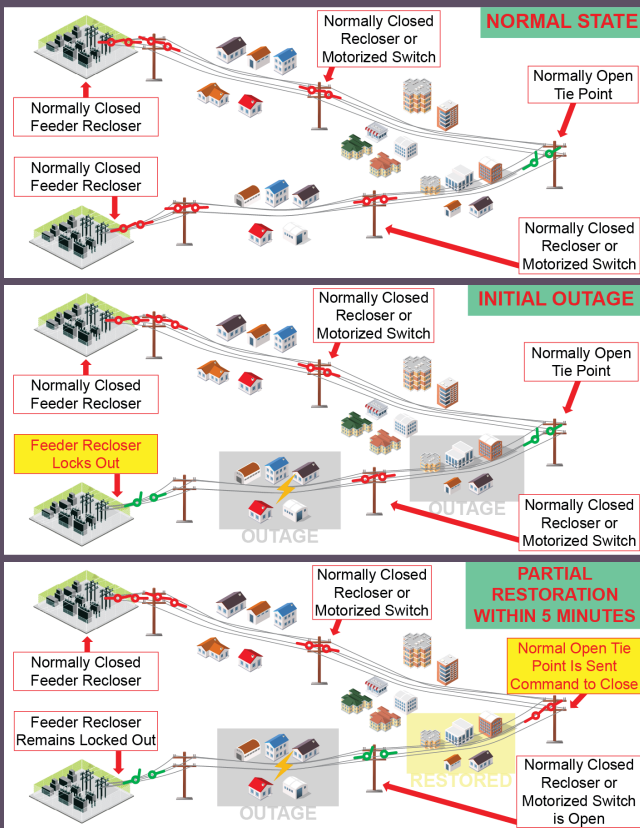
"When a device locks out, FLISR checks surrounding areas within 30 seconds to see where backfeeding can occur," says Murphy. When FLISR detects an outage, it assesses the surrounding area and automatically "switches" affected homes and businesses to circuits that are powered on, "so an outage that could last hours for some members can instead be restored in seconds."

We know nobody likes a power outage – not the Cooperative and not our members. Sussex REC does everything it reasonably can to prevent them, maintaining our rights-of-way with an aggressive tree trimming program, performing regular and periodic maintenance

on our lines and equipment, replacing older poles and wires, and investing in or upgrading our use of technology. Even with all of these programs in place to prevent outages, storms, invasive species that damage and kill trees, and car-pole accidents are still going to happen and power outages will still occur.

A 2014 study by the Department of Energy found that electric systems in the U.S. that use FLISR can cut their number of service interruptions by 45% and the duration of outages by 51%. Reducing outage times via our FLISR system can help save money for members by preventing spoiled food and shortening the amount of time that they are forced to run a generator for backup power. It also cuts down on business losses for commercial members who suffer reduced sales or manufacturing productivity during outages.

As of September of 2021, about 26% of electric co-ops nationwide have deployed FLISR systems, and another 33% are planning to do so, according to a smart grid report by the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corp.



Left: A series of three graphics depicting how FLISR works during an outage.

In the “normal state” of operation, reclosers have not been tripped and remain closed. Open tie points allow two circuits to be interconnected.

During an outage, reclosers lock out, shutting off power. FLISR continuously monitors the status of our equipment and can react to faults within seconds.

When an outage is detected, FLISR automatically will close tie points to keep an outage’s impact limited to those in the area of the fault.

Our Co-op began testing the system in 2022, running it in “semi-automatic” mode to make sure it could be implemented reliably and safely. During this “test period,” when FLISR detected an outage it would document the recommended steps to switch on the highest number of homes possible. A member of our engineering team would review those orders and either approve them or make adjustments. “Running it in semi-automatic helped us gain confidence in the new system,” says Murphy, “and that it was safe for our linemen.”

After two years using the program, we switched FLISR to run in automatic mode in the fall of 2024. Now, FLISR is always running, ready to respond automatically to outages that pop up in our service territory or at Picatinny Arsenal, where we maintain the Army base’s electric grid.

The automatic switching doesn’t happen for every outage, just when conditions allow it – depending on where the fault is and what the status of other circuits are. However, it has already proven to be a great tool that helps reduce outage times and limit how they disrupt our members’ daily lives.

FLISR is another example of how your Cooperative strives to provide its members with the highest quality of service. As a much smaller entity than our investor-owned counterparts, we do more with less. Our small size allows us to concentrate our efforts on what is best for our 12,000 members in northern Sussex County and across the border into southern Orange County, NY. You are always our focus, making it possible for us to move and react to new technology and opportunities more quickly and efficiently than large corporations. 🌱



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



Before you start a digging project, call 811 to make sure you won’t be digging near any utility lines.

After your call, your local utility companies will visit your home and mark the location of underground lines, free of charge!

Please be sure to keep all flags in place until your project is completed.

What the flags mean:



The quarterly newsletter of
Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative
64 County Route 639, Sussex, NJ 07461
Website: www.sussexrec.com
Email: currents@sussexrec.com
Phone: 973-875-5101



**Sussex Rural
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

President & CEO - Christopher P. Reese

Our Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Chairman | - Jack Haggerty, Jr. |
| Vice Chairman | - William Kovach |
| Sec./Treasurer | - Ronald Dupont |
| Thomas Madsen | Barbara Miller |
| Brad Sparta | Joseph Barca |
| Michael Abate | Karen McDougal |

Peak Performance

How Load Management is Leading to Energy Savings

Guest Column by Michael T. Crawford, *PennLines Magazine*

Some words and phrases are just a fixture of childhood. Like: “When you leave the room, turn the lights off!” Aside from being a parent’s persistent command, this sound advice for keeping electric bills low is built upon the idea that the cheapest kilowatt-hour (kWh) is the one never generated.

In 1986, 13 electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey collaborated with their wholesale energy provider, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), to turn this simple idea into an energy-saving program, the Coordinated Load Management System (CLMS).

The program, which encourages cooperative members to do their part to alleviate stress on the power grid, has been lauded by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission as an initiative that truly works. In an era when energy policy and legislation tend to dictate efficiency and conservation measures, Allegheny has been ahead of the game for years.

“This program is what cooperatives are all about,” says Steve Brame, president & CEO of Harrisburg-based Allegheny and the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA), your cooperative’s statewide advocate. “CLMS is about cooperation among cooperatives to best serve their members; it exists solely to save members money on their power costs.”

How does CLMS work?

Cooperative consumer-members, through Allegheny, own a significant portion — nearly 70% — of the generation resources that power their homes and businesses.

This includes the Raystown Hydroelectric Plant in Huntingdon County and a 10% share of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, a nuclear

plant in Luzerne County. Allegheny has also secured long-

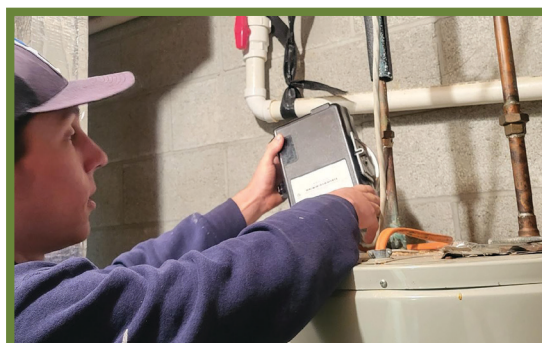
term power

purchase agreements for hydroelectric energy from the New York Power Authority. These carbon-free resources ensure cooperative members enjoy stable electric rates at the lowest cost possible.

The remaining energy is purchased on the open market. The cost of that extra electricity is based on the amount of electricity called for, or “demanded,” at a particular time of day. “Peak demand” refers to those periods when electric consumers collectively use the most electricity. Generally, electricity prices are higher during those peak-demand periods.

As a result, the price of electricity is partially based on how much power your local electric cooperative requires during the five hottest, most humid days each summer. Reducing the amount of power your cooperative uses on those days, as well as during other times throughout the year, can stabilize electric costs.

CLMS works by shifting when electricity is used — from times of peak demand to off-peak hours. As a result, Allegheny’s generation costs are lower, which in turn reduces power costs to local cooperatives and, ultimately, the cost to members of every cooperative. In 2024, the CLMS program reduced purchased power costs by approximately \$5.3 million, bringing total savings to more than \$170 million since the program began. ⚡



BEATING THE PEAK: Steve Tataleba, an HVAC technician at Somerset Rural Electric Cooperative, installs a load control receiver (LCR) on a cooperative member’s water heater.



Read the full article online at:

www.sussexrec.com/peak-performance

Interested in joining the effort? Sign up for Sussex REC’s Coordinated Load Management program at:

www.sussexrec.com/peak

KIDS' CORNER

with Pluggy the Pug

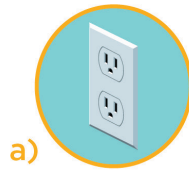
We all use electricity to power our everyday lives, but certain items or elements that seem harmless can be dangerous when mixed with electricity!

View the grouped items here, then circle the two items that (when combined) create a potential electrical hazard.

Check your work in the answer key below.

Answer Key:
1.) a & b 2.) a & c 3.) b & c
4.) a & c 5.) b & c

1.



b)



c)



2.



b)



c)



3.



b)



c)



4.



b)



c)



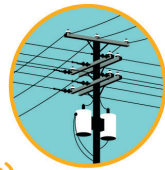
5.



b)



c)



Sussex REC's Holiday Card Art Contest is BACK!

YOUR child or granchild's art can be featured on our 2025 holiday card!

Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade can participate by channeling their excitement for the upcoming holidays into a piece of artwork to submit to the Co-op. Artists don't need to live on our lines if their grandparent is a member.

Artwork must be no larger than 8.5" x 11" and must be an original creation of the child. The artwork should be in color, whether that's crayon, colored pencil, watercolor, or paint - whatever is preferred by your young artist! And of course, to be considered for this contest, all artwork must be winter or holiday themed!



2024 winner: Rose C.

Upon review by Co-op staff, our top piece of art will be printed on the cover of our 2025 holiday card that is sent to friends and associates of the Co-op. Our first place winner will also receive a \$25 Amazon gift card and 30 printed cards with envelopes for mailing to family and friends. Second and third place winners will also receive a \$20 and \$15 Amazon gift card, respectively.

Find our contest form and more details at www.sussexrec.com/holiday-card. Submissions will be accepted until **Nov. 3rd**. Winners will be announced by the following week! When mailing, please do not fold the artwork! You can submit it to us at:


Sussex REC, Attn: Holiday Card Art Contest, 64 County Route 639, Sussex, NJ 07461 

IN THIS ISSUE OF Currents



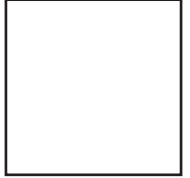
**Sussex Rural
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**









64 County Route 639
Sussex, NJ 07461

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

973.875.5101

www.sussexrec.com



-  **FLISR: Keeping Lights On and Cutting Outages Short**
-  **Our EV Journey**
-  **Sussex REC Summer Events**
-  **811: Call Before You Dig**
-  **Peak Performance: How Load Management Is Leading to Energy Savings**
-  **Pluggy the Pug's Kids Corner**
-  **Holiday Card Art Contest 2025**
-  **Online Payments: As Easy as 1-2-3**

Online Payments: As Easy As 1-2-3

by Steve Sokolowski, Marketing & Member Services Associate, ssokolowski@sussexrec.com

If you aren't yet taking advantage of our convenient suite of online billing options, consider making the switch! Paperless billing switches you from receiving paper billing statements by mail to receiving your statements exclusively by email, and Auto Pay will automatically have your bill paid through your preferred payment method on its due date each month. These options are simple, convenient, and secure, and using them is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Simple: Paperless and Auto Pay are incredibly simple to set up so you can start reaping the benefits right away! When you log in to your account at www.srecbillpay.com, you can navigate to Billing Information > Paperless or Payments > Auto Pay to enable either of these features.

2. Convenient: Paperless billing conveniently brings your electric bill to your email inbox, freeing you from paper waste and risk of mail delays. Auto Pay lets you "set it and forget it" so your bill is paid monthly. As a bonus, setting up Auto Pay with your bank account means you won't be charged the 3.65% credit card convenience fee which is applied to all credit, debit, and Paypal transactions.

3. Secure: All transactions are handled securely by our online payment provider, and your personal and financial info is securely encrypted. Using either of these options also protects your payments from mail theft or postal delays.

You can't beat the simplicity, convenience, or security of paying online. Make the switch today! 

**Online payments are
faster, easier, and more
secure.**

**With AutoPay, set it and forget it!
Your electric bill will be paid
automatically each month.**

SIGN UP TODAY! 

www.srecbillpay.com



@sussexrec



@SussexREC



info@sussexrec.com