



**Sussex Rural
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



P1 / Something To Be Thankful For

P3 / Billing Assistance

Currents

64 County Route 639, Sussex, NJ 07461 . p: 973.875.5101 . f: 973.875.4114 / November 2020 / www.sussexrec.com



Something To Be Thankful For

By: Chris Reese, President & CEO
contacttheceo@sussexrec.com



Every year around this time, it's customary for us to look around and take stock of what we're thankful for. The love of family and friends, as well as a nice Thanksgiving meal, are all common choices each year and are things that should never be taken for granted. We've reached this special time of year once again, though the rest of this year has been far from normal or customary.

As hard as the pandemic and 2020

have been, I think and hope that it has made some of us even more thankful for what we have. I know it has for me. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you, the members of Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, some of the things I am thankful for this year.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, our office still remains closed to the public. Inside our office, we are now operating fully staffed as we

have recently welcomed back our remaining employees who were working from home since March. We are once again all together, safely under one roof, and this is something that I am truly thankful for.

I am thankful for the health and safety of our employees and all of our families. At the beginning of

Something to Be Thankful For

>> CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

the pandemic, the decision to change our day-to-day operations was a daunting one. We shifted many of our employees to a work-from-home model and implemented new rules for our other employees, including linemen, to be consistent with social distancing guidelines. By remaining dynamic and acting quickly, we were able to ensure that we preserved the health and safety of our employees, without having to compromise on our duty to provide power to our communities.

I am thankful for the health of our community. I have been relieved to see coronavirus case numbers remain relatively low in our area, and I hope that this trend continues. Our members are at the heart of everything we do and I hope that you all, along with your family and friends, remain safe and healthy. I have appreciated you all being so understanding of the changes to our day-to-day operations that came at the beginning of the pandemic. Know that if you ever have to reach us, we are still here for you. If circumstances have affected your ability to pay your bill, know that we are open to helping you work through that. There are a variety of options our members can make use of if they are in need of financial assistance. You can read more about those options on page 3.

Lastly, I am thankful of a new perspective. On a “normal” Thanksgiving, we tend to express thanks for our loved ones, our community, and a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner. These are all blessings, of course, but I feel that the circumstances of this year have deepened my appreciation of these things. For myself, a nice meal shared with my extended family in celebration of the holiday is probably unlikely. This is probably the case for many of us as we adhere to our new status quo of social distancing, limiting exposure and travel, and reducing risk of infection. This has created space between loved ones, but it can never truly separate them. All this does is bring into perspective that we ought to voice our thankfulness more often. We all have a lot to be thankful for – I know I do.

This Thanksgiving, please be sure to let an important person in your life know how much they mean to you, whether you haven’t seen them in-person in months or even if you see them every day. We may not all be together right now, but we’re all going through the same thing. By showing someone that you’re thankful to be a part of their life, you can make their holiday a bit brighter.

I wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving!

Chin



Billing Assistance

By: Claudia Raffay, Director of Marketing & Member Services
craffay@sussexrec.com

Don't get caught out in the cold this winter. Take steps now to prepare for your winter utility bills. www.sussexrec.com is your resource for knowledge on saving money on high winter bills. From a whole-house analysis tool to tips on keeping your bills in check, we want to provide you with all the information you need to make sure your bills are manageable.



There are many small changes in energy use that members can take advantage of to lower bills. Some members, though, may be in need of further aid in order to cover their monthly electric bill. The COVID-19 crisis has had a major impact on many people's finances, and we want to make sure that these members are given reliable options for aid as winter approaches. If you are worried about covering your bills or monthly payments, one of the best things to do is to reach out and ask for help.

We understand that some members may be hesitant, but if you are in a situation where you worry about being able to pay your electric bill or meet other necessary expenses, please know that there is no shame in looking for a helping hand. Our foremost goal is to support our members' needs, so it is our duty to connect members in need with the resources that exist to help them. On our Billing Assistance page at www.sussexrec.com/assistance, you will find a guide to the many agencies that you may be able to turn to.

10 Quick Tips to Avoid High Winter Bills

Looking to lower your bills this winter? Use the 10 tips below to conserve energy.

-  Seal air leaks and insulate well to prevent heat from escaping and cold air from entering your home.
-  Reduce waste heat by installing a programmable thermostat.
-  Turn off lights when not in use.
-  Lower your water heater temperature. The Dept. of Energy recommends using the warm setting (120 degrees) during fall and winter months.
-  Unplug electronics like kitchen appliances and TVs when you're away.
-  Open blinds and curtains during the day to allow sunlight in to warm your home.
-  Close blinds and curtains at night to keep cold, drafty air out.
-  Use power strips for multiple appliances, and turn off the main switch when you're away from home.
-  Wash clothes in cold water, and use cold-water detergent whenever possible.
-  Replace incandescent light bulbs with LEDs, which use at least 75 percent less energy.

For example, NJ 211 is a free information and referral service that connects people in need with programs and services designed to help. If you need help meeting basic needs, dial 2-1-1, text your zip code to 898-211, or visit www.nj211.org. These services are free, confidential, multilingual, and available 24/7/365.

If you can't pay the balance due, pick up the phone and call us at 973-875-5101. We will work with you to make a payment arrangement. Members currently on a payment plan who need assistance from another agency are encouraged to call our office if they need us to provide a letter regarding their status.

If you feel that you are struggling or are just holding on, please see if you qualify for any of these programs. Circumstances can get the best of any of us, so there is no shame in seeking out help. We want to make that search as easy for you as possible, especially as winter approaches. Remember, you can turn to www.sussexrec.com/assistance for more information.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: www.energy.gov



*Lightning cracks.
Power fails.
Cummins works.*



Safeguard against power outages with a Cummins Connect Series home standby generator.

Powering your life.



SREC
RESOURCES, INC.

RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL GENERATORS

NJ Licensed Electrical Contractor #15375A

973.875.1365

generators@sussexrec.com

Prefer the inbox
over the mailbox?



www.sussexrec.com

Sign up today to go paperless!

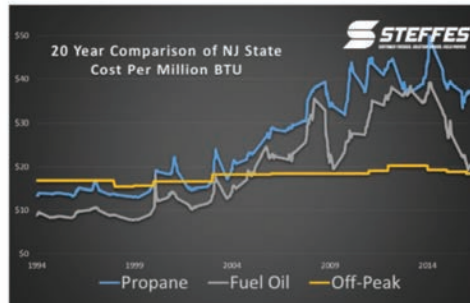
It's not magic, it's ETS! Electric Thermal Storage Heating



The "magic" of the cost effectiveness of Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) is the ability to store heat during off-peak billing hours for use during higher priced on-peak billing hours.

A variety of furnace sizes are available to fit your home ranging from 19.2kW—45.6kW.

For more information go to www.sussexrec.com or call 973.875.5101



CURRENTS is published monthly by Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative
64 County Route 639 p: 973.875.5101
Sussex, NJ 07461 f: 973.875.4114
website: www.sussexrec.com
email: currents@sussexrec.com

Board of Directors

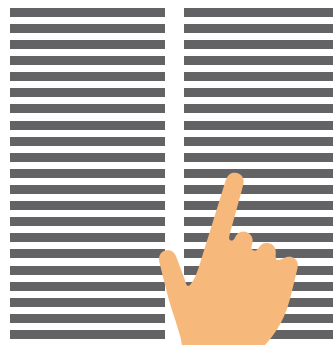
Chairman.....Jack S. Haggerty Jr.
Vice Chairman.....William Kovach
Sec/Treasurer.....Raymond Cordts
Barbara Miller Thomas Madsen
Ronald Dupont Brad Sparta
Michael Hopkins Joseph Barca
President & CEO: Christopher P. Reese

Do you have unclaimed capital credits from SREC?

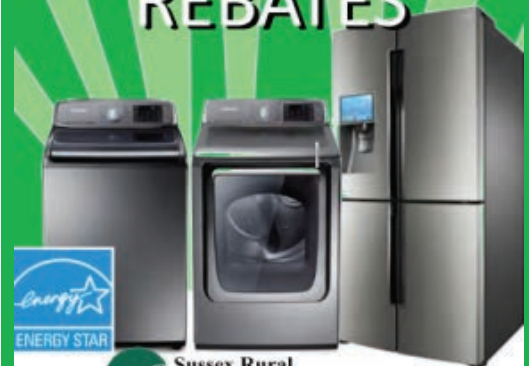
Check our list:
sussexrec.com/unclaimed



Unclaimed Capital Credits



APPLIANCE REBATES



Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

\$50.00 Rebate for Appliances
www.sussexrec.com/appliance-rebate