



Currents

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www.sussexrec.com



Cooperative Participation

Here's a simple fact that we at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative know all too well: The 21st century economy runs the risk of leaving much of rural America behind. It's a concern shared with electric co-ops all across the country, because their strong community ties give them a bird's-eye view of the quality of life of the members they serve.

Our co-op's number one priority is providing our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

But doing this job requires a lot more than stringing and maintaining power lines throughout our service territory. It requires political engagement.

“Our co-op's number one priority is providing our members with safe, reliable and affordable electricity.”

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



That may seem far removed from our core mission, but it's absolutely essential to service you, our members.

Rural America grows most of the food, generates much of the power and manufactures many of the goods that are used throughout the country. When the modern economy threatens to leave much of the country on the wrong side

Cooperative Participation

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of the ledger, that's bad news regardless of where you live and work.

Today, fewer than 15 percent of U.S. businesses are located in rural areas and small towns. The solution isn't simple, but it's within reach. It will take a concerted, long-term commitment from Congress and the administration to reverse this trend. The Federal government has already taken significant steps to jump start programs that bolster the rural economy. That's helping turn the tide in many communities. But reversing this trend will require a long term sustained focus across Capitol Hill.

That's why SREC has been participating in a national program of America's electric cooperatives called Co-ops Vote. Co-ops Vote simply encourages all co-op members to participate in national,



“When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and in our local communities.”

state and local elections while educating political candidates and elected officials about the important role played by electric cooperatives in their communities. What Co-ops Vote does **not** do is endorse any candidate or back any particular political party.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the service organization representing the nation's electric co-ops, launched Co-ops Vote in 2016. Co-ops Vote started as a national non-partisan get-out-the-vote initiative that helped drive rural voter turnout in the 2016 presidential elections.

Through this program, electric co-ops realized they had a unique advantage: As co-ops, the civic virtue of voting is in our DNA. We show concern for community - one of the seven cooperative principles - through participation in our democracy.

When we all get involved, we can make things happen politically and in our local communities. You can find out more about Co-ops Vote by visiting www.vote.coop. Our participation in Co-ops Vote helps to ensure that rural issues remain part of the national discussion.

Is your refrigerator running?

IT'S NOT A JOKE!

Got an old fridge or freezer out in the garage or in the basement? Is it always running - but cooling only a six-pack of beer or a few miscellaneous items you rarely use?

If so, you better go catch it because that fridge is running away with your electric meter and your wallet. That old second refrigerator or freezer could be using five times the amount of electricity as a newer model, costing you an extra \$150.00 or more each year in electricity.

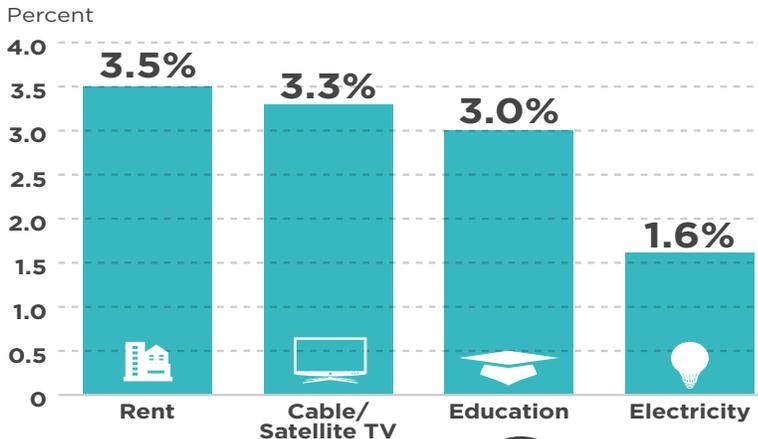
Appliance rebates for refrigerators, as well clothes washers and dryers, are available through your Cooperative. To learn more or to find an application, look under the "Your Home" tab at www.sussexrec.com.



ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2012-2017



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index



By: Claudia Raffay
Manager of Marketing & Member Services



Electricity keeps us connected to our modern world. Consider all the conveniences we enjoy in part because of the power lines running to the electric meter outside our home.

Count up your televisions, desktop, laptop and tablet computers, printers, your gaming consoles, music and video players and personal assistant devices. Whether they get used every day or just occasionally, the electricity that keeps them working comes from Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative (SREC).

Have you looked around your kitchen lately? Between the coffee maker and toaster and the microwave, a lot of us have added several other modern small appliances. You use electricity to run all these devices, and still keep the lights on, use the stove, heating and air conditioning. The good news is, even as we rely more on electricity, it's still a bargain, especially compared to other things we pay for regularly.

Since 2011, medical care, residential rental rates and education have increased at rates of three percent or more per year. Butter, meat and eggs costs have been up by more than one to two percent annually, and even bread costs have risen better than a half point on average.

Electricity costs rise about 1.6 percent a year, but co-ops across the country have reported a decline in average residential use per household since 2010. Which means we are doing more things with less energy.

Kilowatt hour use per household dropped by eight percent between 2010 and 2016, slightly less than the nine percent decline reported by all electric utilities, nationwide.

When it comes to value, electricity is a clear winner, and we're always looking for ways to work with you to make it even better. That's why SREC urges energy efficiency and promotes

technology designed to give members more control over their electricity use.

SREC lets cooperative members become partners in the effort to control electric rates with our *Beat the Peak* program. The program allows us to work together by shifting the electric usage of residential electric water heaters, central air conditioners, electric thermal storage (ETS) heating units, and other special equipment in the homes of volunteer members from times of peak demand to times of lesser demand. In return, the volunteers receive bill credits and rebates for their program participation.

Peak demand refers to those periods when electric consumers collectively use the most electricity. Generally, electricity prices are higher during demand peaks.

The price an electric cooperative member must pay for electricity is partially based on how much power Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative requires during these monthly peaks.

Energy performance dashboards, smart thermostats and power strips, and appliance settings that shift most water heating, laundry and dishwashing outside of peak rate periods help reduce the co-op's overall power demand. They also give you opportunities to control or even trim your monthly utility bills.

That's good for members trying to live within their budgets. And it's going to become even more important as digital devices and internet connected technologies become even more important in our lives.

For more information go to sussexrec.com.

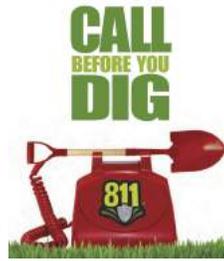


New School Year New Opportunities



A new school year is underway and Sussex REC is already working with your local schools on a variety of levels. Our school and scout support trip information is available to schedule safe electricity demonstrations and class trips for your younger students. Youth Tour 2019 is already being organized by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and scholarship information has been sent to the high school guidance departments.

SREC will once again sponsor the Bright Ideas Teacher Grant for local schools which benefit our members' children. And new programs are in the works to provide additional assistance to our local students and teachers. For more information go to www.sussex.com.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



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**WHY CHOOSE A
CO-OP CAREER?**

- Local, community-focused organization
- Dynamic and exciting industry
- Competitive wages and excellent benefits
- Challenging roles where every day is different

I don't leave the TV on for the coffee table. Why cool an empty house?

I'm saving money by adjusting my thermostat before I go to work. What can you do?
Find out the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com

It's not magic, it's ETS Heat!

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.

An ETS furnace offers several distinct advantages:

- ⇒ No oil tanks or fuel deliveries to worry about.
- ⇒ No wide price fluctuations that make budgeting difficult.
- ⇒ No burners to maintain or fumes to vent.
- ⇒ Quieter operation—practically no sound.

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

ETS Furnace (cutaway view)

MADE IN THE USA

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

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