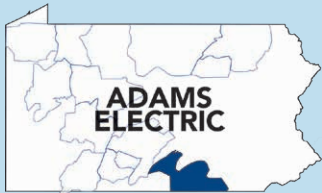




Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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P.O. Box 1055
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GETTYSBURG DISTRICT

1338 Biglerville Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

YORK DISTRICT

200 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408

SHIPPENSBURG DISTRICT

10 Duncan Road
Shippensburg, PA 17257

DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.*
*By appointment only

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LOCAL PAGES EDITOR:
Kami Noel, CCC

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The Seven Co-op Principles



I RECENTLY SPENT SOME TIME in a Gettysburg High School classroom working with a group of juniors and seniors. They are taking a college prep course called Introduction to Business. I was there to provide some real-life examples of creating and modifying a business's organizational chart. I also discussed teamwork and the importance of communication within an organization. As I was reviewing the material, I came across a chapter in the textbook about various businesses and how they operate — LLCs, corporations and cooperatives. I was so happy to see cooperatives received some attention.

More and more, the co-op business model is being recognized. Cooperatives are guided by seven principles, which were explained in the textbook, and we use them daily as a measure of success. In fact, my involvement in that classroom fulfills two of the principles: "concern for community" and "support for education and training."

Cooperatives across the globe adhere to the same seven principles. The other five are:

- ▶ voluntary and open membership;
- ▶ democratic member control;
- ▶ members' economic participation;
- ▶ autonomy and independence; and
- ▶ cooperation among cooperatives.

That last one is probably the easiest to recognize, especially for members in southern York County who rode out the August storm with us. You likely saw our team of white hard-hat-wearing lineworkers in the field with others wearing yellow and green hard hats. We had lineworkers from seven cooperatives on York County soil helping with storm restoration.


While electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania are not regulated by the Public Utility Commission, we do try to mirror many of the practices that local investor-owned utilities (IOUs) are mandated to follow. The main difference is we don't have customers and shareholders — we have you, the consumer-member.

Our members come to us based on the location of their home. There's territorial law in the Commonwealth, and for that reason, you can't just choose your electric distribution provider. Sure, the IOUs may say you have a "choice" — that's what all those postcards in the mail say, too. But really, the power you are receiving is still flowing through the same distribution system it always has; someone else just might be generating the electricity.

Cooperatives encourage member participation. Members elect directors to oversee the governance of the business. They vote to set rates, which they are also paying. They also vote to return margins that, as a not-for-profit organization, we can choose to return to members annually, if our financial condition permits.

To quote the mission of our cooperative, "We provide safe, reliable power at competitive rates, deliver exceptional service to our membership and help to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve." That's what we're all about, and it can't be learned in most textbooks.

We are most effective when we work collectively for the good of our cooperative membership.

These are the principles Adams Electric was built on nearly 85 years ago, and they continue to guide us in our day-to-day operations and decisions. Working together, we embody these principles, which demonstrate the cooperative difference we honor and practice every day. 

STEVE RASMUSSEN
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

H.O.P.E. Haven Provides Respite for Patients with Cancer

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

“IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES; it was the worst of times.” This well-known passage from “A Tale of Two Cities” by Charles Dickens could also apply to cancer patients and their families during the holiday season.

Barb Titanish, who has witnessed cancer’s toll firsthand, says it can be hard for families to get into the holiday spirit when uncertainty looms. A co-op member, Titanish is president and co-founder of Help for Oncology Problems and Emotional Support (H.O.P.E.), a not-for-profit volunteer network founded in 1994 to meet the needs of cancer patients.

H.O.P.E. runs on sponsorships, donations, and fundraisers to provide support groups, cancer-related women’s accessories, meals, and educational materials. During the holiday season, the organization takes giving a step further, offering to help take on the weight of the patients’ Christmas responsibilities.

“We provide Christmas for families (50 this year) by taking away the worry of Christmas shopping, the wrapping, and the financial burden the holiday season can bring, thanks to the volunteers and those who donate toward this project,” Titanish says. “We at H.O.P.E. are exhausted by the end of this busy season, but when you see all the wrapped gifts and the smiles on the parents’ faces when they receive their bags of goodies, it is well worth all the hours devoted to this project.

“We believe in Santa and everything he represents,” she adds. “We hope they awaken to find that Santa has been there, even through the darkest of days.”

Titanish and her friend, Jeanette “Jen” Cartwright, met when their children were playing together in the Barrens

Soccer League in York County. Together, they started H.O.P.E.

“When Jen was diagnosed with cancer in 1992, I walked in with a flip chart and said, ‘Here’s how we’re going to get through this,’” Titanish recalls. “She joked that I was directionally challenged, saying I walked into her life when others were walking out. Her journey really cemented our friendship and my future.”

Titanish explains cancer was prevalent in her family as she was growing up. She knew what “cancer mode” entailed and what had to be done to get through it, but didn’t see a resource available to help.

“Jen said to me, ‘When I get through this, I’m going to start something to help other people get through this,’” Titanish recalls. “I started the paperwork for H.O.P.E. shortly after that.”

By March 1994, Jen’s health was deteriorating. Known to her friends as the “Comeback Kid,” Jen was starting to “say goodbye,” Titanish says, but she wasn’t ready to let her friend go.

“We started making regular trips to her cabin in Sullivan County, so she could just be at peace,” Titanish reflects. “She called it her haven. On our last trip to the cabin in November 1994, Jen told me to start taking others there when they needed to get away, but I knew the distance was too great to travel. So we built a plan to build a haven here, close to home.

“In those last few days,” she says, “we drew a picture of what the haven would look like.”

Jen witnessed H.O.P.E. in action for about six months before she lost her battle with cancer in December 1994, just after her favorite holiday — her Christmas birthday.

Late last year, the H.O.P.E. founders’ dream, conceived back in 1994, became a reality with the opening of H.O.P.E. Haven, a cancer retreat in Stewartstown.

H.O.P.E. Haven is a six-bedroom home, divided into three suites, and nestled in the countryside. There’s a great room with a gas fireplace, a full country kitchen, living room, dining room and game room. Outside, Haven sits on an 18-acre wooded site, surrounded by a water garden, a fire pit, in-ground pool, a gazebo, small playground and miles of walking trails.

The only expense to the family is a \$25 application fee and the cost of whatever meals the family chooses to prepare during their visit.

H.O.P.E. also offers scholarships to high school seniors who have been impacted directly or indirectly by cancer.

For more information about H.O.P.E. and the Haven, visit hopelifeline.org or call 717-244-2174. 📍

REASON TO HOPE: The H.O.P.E. Haven, a six-bedroom home nestled in the York County countryside, offers cancer patients and their families a peaceful retreat.



Keep Your Home Warm and Your Energy Bill Low

SCOTT SIKER, MARKETING MANAGER, AERO ENERGY

WITH WINTER APPROACHING, it is important for homeowners to prepare their homes to achieve the comfort they need without breaking the bank. While certain energy-saving practices might seem obvious, there are several factors a homeowner should consider that can make a significant long-term impact. This brief guide explores some key strategies to keep your home warm and your energy bill low as we head into the colder months of the year.

Your home's HVAC system

It should come as no surprise that your HVAC system plays a pivotal role in your energy consumption throughout the year. The No. 1 recommendation we can give people is to schedule an annual cleaning. Routine tune-ups help to clear debris, improve air quality and catch small problems before they turn into big ones. Simply put, a clean system operates more efficiently and will consume less energy.

If your system is more than 20 years old, it is worth considering a full system replacement. While there are upfront costs associated with this, the long-term energy savings will be substantial. Aero Energy is pleased to offer free quotes to any Adams Electric Cooperative member interested in learning more about this option.

Insulation

It's easy to forget, but proper insulation is a cornerstone of energy efficiency. Insulating your home effectively prevents heat loss and helps to keep your living space warm. While areas such as your walls, floors and attic were likely insulated when your home was built, it's important to keep them in mind if you feel like your home has cold spots. You may be losing heat and, in turn, requiring your HVAC system to work harder to maintain an optimal temperature.

Additionally, heat can escape from seal gaps and cracks in windows as well as doors. By investing in quality insulation, you create a barrier that retains heat and reduces the workload on your heating system. Local insulation companies can often provide consultations tailored to specific cases.

Smart energy practices

Are you looking to make some immediate changes? We have some recommendations. First, be sure to open your curtains during the day to allow sunlight to warm your home naturally. Conversely, remember to shut your curtains at night to help retain the heat in your home.

Next, we recommend making strategic adjustments to your thermostat throughout the day. Lowering the temperature while you're asleep or away from home can have a significant impact on your bill. For those interested in automating this process, there are smart thermostats



TUNED UP: An Aero Energy technician performs regular maintenance on an outdoor HVAC system to help improve its efficiency.

available on the market that allow you to program presets that match your lifestyle.

Incorporating these strategies when preparing your home for the heating season can result in a warmer home and lower energy bills.

If you're interested in learning more about these services or others Aero Energy provides, call 888-827-1695 or visit aeroenergy.com.

HS scholarship process opens Jan. 1

ARE YOU AN ADAMS Electric member and the parent of a high school senior? Adams Electric offers \$1,500



continuing education scholarships to high school seniors whose parents or guardians are cooperative members. The cooperative works in partnership with the Adams County Community Foundation to administer these scholarships.

Scholarships for high school seniors

If you are a high school senior and your parents receive service from Adams Electric, you are eligible to apply.

All applicants should apply online through Adams County Dollars for Scholars at adamscountydfs.org.

Applications must be submitted between Jan. 1 and March 15, 2024, to be eligible for review and possible selection. You must include the account number of the Adams Electric member with whom you reside.

For more information about eligibility and applications, visit adamsec.coop or call 800-726-2324.

Scholarships are funded by unclaimed Ownership Rewards and do not affect rates.

WANTED: YOUTH TOUR APPLICANTS

Do you know a high school junior interested in spending a week in our nation's capital? Now is their time to apply for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 2024 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 16-21.

Selected delegates will visit federal legislators, tour historic landmarks and interact with 1,700 other high school juniors from across the nation.

Candidates must complete an online application, take part in a face-to-face interview and provide a resume for review. There are a limited number of delegate positions for this all-inclusive trip, supported by Adams Electric Cooperative.

The deadline to schedule an interview is Jan. 10, 2024. Interviews will be conducted Jan. 15 at the cooperative's headquarters in Gettysburg. Students must live in the cooperative's service territory, but DO NOT need to be related to a co-op member. To be considered for Youth Tour, visit adamsec.coop/rural-electric-youth-tour and complete the online form.

Local high school guidance counselors also have Youth Tour information available. 📄



ON TOUR: Ian Paul, left, a student at Littlestown High School, and Anthony Williams, right, a student at Bermudian Springs High School, visit the Pennsylvania Monument during the 2023 Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

GIVE THE 'GIFT OF ELECTRICITY'

If you would like to give the gift of electricity to a cooperative member this season, we can help. The cooperative can either send a pre-purchased gift certificate to a co-op member or, if the purchaser would like to remain anonymous, the cooperative can send a certificate directly to a recipient. Please allow five to 10 business days for processing. Call 800-726-2324 for more information or to purchase a "Gift of Electricity" gift certificate. 📄



SAVE THE DATES

WANT TO ATTEND A DISTRICT meeting in 2024? Add these dates to your calendar today:

- ▶ **Gettysburg District:** March 12 at the Wyndham Gettysburg
- ▶ **Shippensburg District:** March 19 at The Beistle Company, Shippensburg
- ▶ **York District:** March 26 at the Wyndham Garden York. Look for more information in your January bill.

In addition, plan ahead for our annual membership drive-thru events this spring. Join us in Shippensburg or York on May 15 between 3 and 6 p.m. or in Gettysburg on May 16 between 3 and 6 p.m. The cooperative's annual business meeting will be held May 16 in Gettysburg beginning at 6 p.m. Reservations required. 📄

Seeking Suggestions

DO YOU ENJOY READING THE community features we share in *Penn Lines* magazine every month? Want to be part of the story?

Adams Electric is looking for ideas to feature on our Community Connection page in 2024 and beyond. The suggestions must feature a co-op member or business. On occasion, we also highlight special events of organizations supported by the cooperative through our donation program.

Do you know a local co-op member whose story should be shared? Maybe they are a veteran, have a unique hobby, run a local festival, make moonshine in their basement or have been to the Olympics.

Send a note to memberservices@adamsec.coop and share your suggestions. You may just see your friend or neighbor featured in the new year. 📄

PURPA Standards Accepted

ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE completed its determination for two new standards under Sections 111(d)(20) demand-response practices and 111(d)(21) electric vehicle charging programs of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act ("PURPA"; 16 U.S.C. 46, Section 2621(d)) in October. The determination and resolutions of the board of directors of the cooperative are posted at adamsec.coop and will remain there through the end of 2023. Copies are also available upon request by calling 800-726-2324. 📄

LIGHTING YOUR



Holiday Season

Wishing you a happy and safe holiday.



**Adams Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

® A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Adams Electric offices will be closed Dec. 25 and 26 and Jan. 1.