



Northwestern REC  
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# NEWS *from the* REC

The Northwestern Rural Electric Co-operative Association, Inc.  
22534 St. Hwy. 86, PO Box 207, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-0207

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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## Weatherization Assistance Program—It Works

Source: [www.doe.gov](http://www.doe.gov)

It's a fact: weatherization works! In the 27 years since its founding in 1976, U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program has provided weatherization services to more than 5.3 million low-income families.

Through this program, weatherization service providers install energy efficiency measures in the homes of qualifying homeowners free of charge. These are not expensive upgrades—the average cost is \$2,672 per home—but they are effective, and energy savings pay for the upgrades within a few years.

### Program Services

The Weatherization Program performs a site-specific energy audit utilizing state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment to assess such conditions as air leakage and heating system operation and to identify cost effective energy saving measures for each dwelling. Some of these services include:



## Weatherization Works

- Blower door guided air sealing
- Ventilation, installation of attic, wall and basement/crawlspace
- Heating system modification or replacement
- Minor repair, and/or health and safety measures
- Client education activities

### Training Services

The Weatherization Program provides on-going training through the Weatherization Training Center. It is funded as part of the Department's Training and Tech-

(Continued on page 3)

### Inside this issue:

- Weatherization Assistance Program 1 & 3
- Up, Down, Up—What Energy Prices Are 2
- What Heating Bills are Expected to Be 2
- Co-op News 2
- Contractor's Meeting Insert
- Load Management Insert
- Cambridge Business Center 4
- Contact Information 4

News from the REC is published quarterly by the Northwestern Rural Electric Co-operative Assoc., Inc.

Owned by Northwestern Rural Electric Co-operative Assoc., Inc., the Center is located one mile south of Cambridge Springs in Crawford County, Pennsylvania.

# Cambridge Business Center

Ideal location in NW Pennsylvania with complete facilities to expand or relocate light manufacturing, high-tech and service industry.

13 lots ~ 11 available

## Strategic Location

- Within one days drive to 50% of the U.S. population
- Only minutes from major interstate & state highways
- Easily accessible from THREE international airports

## Shovel Ready

- Strong infrastructure for competitive business operations
- Environmental, archaeological & wetland studies complete
- All thirteen lots front on PAVED public roads

## Rural Advantage

- LOWER operating and property costs, LOWER taxes
- Motivated workers for HIGHER output
- HIGHER quality of life in a safer, more natural setting

Get the most out of Your Investment

# KOEZ

1.800.472.7910

[www.northwesternrec.com](http://www.northwesternrec.com)

Up, down, up - What'll energy prices be next week?

**Prices as of December 13, 2004**

Currently at almost \$2 per gallon, heating fuel oil prices are up 48.6 cents per gallon since last year this time. That is over a 48% increase. Propane prices (currently \$1.71 per gal.) have increased 32 cents per gallon since this same time last year. Natural gas prices were \$1.11 for the Northeast.

What will fossil fuel prices be next week? Up? Down? We know one thing for sure, they will be considerably higher than last year at the same time!

We also know that electric rates will be what they are today, which is what they were yesterday, last week, last year at this time; and what they are expected to be tomorrow and next year. There are no electric rate increases scheduled for 2005 for Northwestern REC.

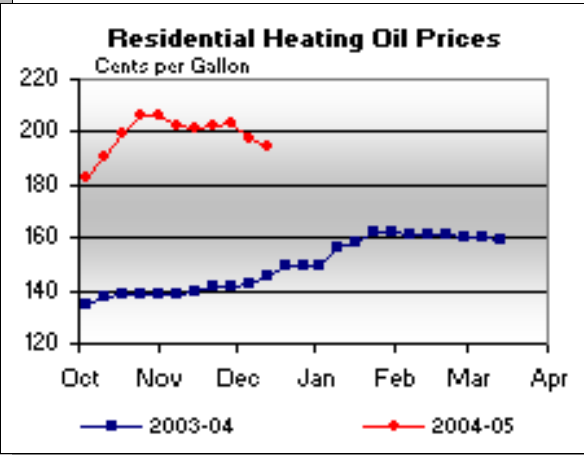
At Northwestern REC, our off-peak electric heat rate options are untouchable by fossil fuel rates. To beat our Comfort Plus Off-Peak Heat option:

- Propane has to be 84¢ per gallon!
- Fuel Oil has to be \$1.13 per gallon!
- Natural Gas has to be 82.9¢ per ccf!

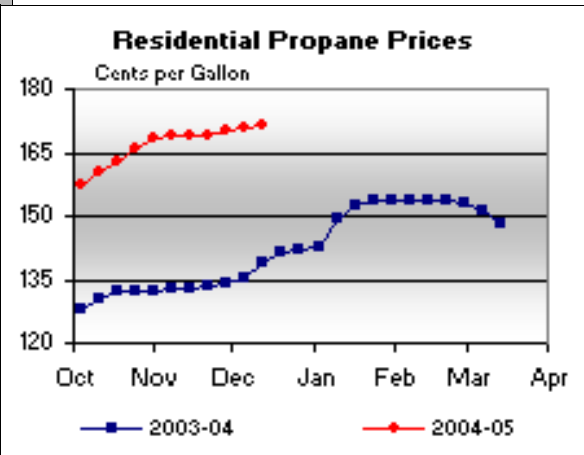
Retail Prices		Change From Last
12/13/04		Year
Heating Oil	\$1.944 /gal.	↑ 48.6%
Propane	\$1.712 /gal.	↑ 32%

Source: www.eia.doe.gov

**GO ELECTRIC**  
It's the **SMART** choice



Source: www.eia.doe.gov



Source: www.eia.doe.gov

**What home-owners can expect their heating bills to be this winter**

Source: www.eia.doe.gov - December 7, 2004

Heating oil expenditures by typical Northeastern households are expected to average about 34 percent above last winter's levels with average residential prices averaging \$1.85 per gallon for the October-to-March period. Propane-heated households can expect to see increased expenditures of about 22 percent this winter. Expected increases in expenditures for natural gas-heated households

**ATTENTION: Contractors, Electricians, Inspectors, Anyone interested**

**Northwestern REC is holding a Contractor's Meeting**

Topics: News from the REC, Code Updates, and MORE  
When: February 17, 2005; 6-9 p.m.  
Where: Days Inn in Meadville  
Reservations: Contact Northwestern REC at 800/472-7910

**See newsletter insert for more information**

(Continued from page 1)

nical Assistance Grant. The curriculum is designed to improve skills of program workers, as well as to develop and introduce new technologies. Some courses include:

- Weatherization Tactics
- Introduction to Heating Systems
- Combustion Analysis
- Home Energy Auditing
- Diagnostic Approaches to Weatherization
- Duct Solutions
- Basic Residential Electricity

**Eligibility**

Eligibility for services under this Program includes: households at or below 150% of the federal poverty level, or someone in the household received Title IV or Title XVI cash assistance within 12 months of applying, or a household that is eligible for assistance under the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Act (LIHEAP).

**Contact Information**

For more information about the Weatherization Program, visit them online at www.doe.gov. Or contact the local agency:

NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA WEATHERIZATION, INC.  
Crawford County Weatherization Program  
P.O. Box 312  
Meadville, PA 16335  
(814) 333-4341 Fax: (814)-337-8235  
E-MAIL: [nwpaweather@alltel.net](mailto:nwpaweather@alltel.net)  
Jason R. Amory

**Co-op News**

**SitesacrossAmerica.com**

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association has created a commercial/industrial real estate-like Web site for member cooperatives and their members.

Any commercial buildings or properties for sale & located within Northwestern REC's distribution territory, may be listed on this site absolutely FREE.

For more information, visit the Web site, or call Linda King, Business Development Manager, at 800/472-7910. ♦

**WildBlue—Broadband, Within Your Reach**

COMING THIS SPRING—Leading the way with the next satellite technology, WildBlue will deliver:

- Reliable, always-on Internet access through 2-way wireless satellite connectivity
- Affordable pricing—comparable to DSL and cable modem service today
- Internet access at speeds up to 3.0 Mbps, over 50 times faster than 56K dial up
- Availability virtually everywhere in the continental United States
- A one-dish solution, receiving high-speed Internet from WildBlue and satellite TV

Parker, PA based Central Electric Cooperative is offering WildBlue to northwest Pennsylvania businesses and residents.

The WildBlue satellite was launched earlier this year and should be ready in April 2005.

For more information or to be added to a NO obligation waiting list, call Central EC at 800/521-0570 or visit Northwestern REC's Web site—www.NorthwesternREC.coop— for the WildBlue link.

Visit [www.NorthwesternREC.coop](http://www.NorthwesternREC.coop) frequently for other Co-op news.