

Northwestern
Rural Electric
Cooperative
Association, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Northwestern REC
P.O. Box 207
22534 State Highway 86
Cambridge Springs, PA 16403
Home Page:

<http://www.northwesternrec.coop>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathy Cooper-Winters
President
Larry Proper
Vice President
AnneMarie Sundean
Secretary
Robert G. Agnew
Treasurer

Francis Surovick
District 1
Roger Follett
District 3
Kim Docter
District 6
David Rectenwald
District 7
Ronald Wineland
District 8
Lanny Rodgers
District 10

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Billing/Moves/Credit/Consumer Services
1-800-352-0014
Engineering/New Construction/Field Services/Water Heater Servicing
1-800-473-3567
Emergencies/Outages
1-800-474-1710
Administration/General
1-800-472-7910
FAX
814/398-8064

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Mary Mulligan-Haines, Editor

FROM THE MANAGER & CEO

Winter home heating - in an oil crisis



by Michael D. Tirpak
General Manager & CEO

IT SEEMS THAT every day we are bombarded with the latest news about the unprecedented costs for crude oil and the related byproducts, such as gasoline, diesel and home heating fuel oil. The news is also not too good for the costs of propane and natural gas.

The questions many of our members are asking include: What is it going to

cost me to heat my home this winter? What are my options for home heating? Northwestern REC is interested in helping our members answer those questions, but we need to understand that some of the answers involve different home heating options and some of the answers involve the efficient use of energy, no matter what the source.

We are offering a couple of free home heating seminars to review the options for home heating using electricity and to answer questions about the costs and benefits of adapting today's technology. Many of the electric heat retrofit options, such as electric furnaces, boilers and heat pumps, are affordable to install and cost effective to operate, especially when compared to fuel oil and propane. We can also discuss other off-peak options using electric thermal storage (ETS) and dual fuel. Our co-op representatives are knowledgeable and can answer a variety of questions. The co-op also purchases some electric heating equipment and stores it in Cambridge Springs in order to get the best prices for our members. If you cannot make these seminars, you can call our office to talk about your options and/or visit our website, northwesternrec.coop, for information and on-line tools to help answer your questions.

The efficient use of energy is also very important, regardless of the energy source you use. Basic questions involve the

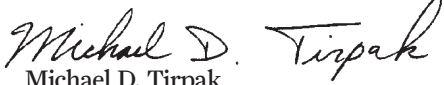
amount of insulation in your home, the kinds of doors and windows you have, and the efficiency of your appliances. The co-op has been promoting Energy Star appliances for a number of years, along with a message of energy efficiency and conservation. Many ideas to save energy can be found on our website as well. The future most certainly will include the need to use all forms of energy wisely.

Future Electric Costs:

I'm sure that you have another question relating to this discussion on home heating. What is going to happen to the price of electricity in the future? My staff and I, along with our wholesale power supplier, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), are working on this question and do not have all of the final answers, but I can share with you the trends that I see.

Northwestern's internal costs are primarily influenced by inflationary increases on materials and equipment, cost of fuel, and wages and benefits, but are projected to be at or below the rate of inflation for the 10-year projections. The cost of generation from Allegheny is projected to increase in part due to the 30 percent of power that is purchased from the increasing wholesale market and in part due to the increasing costs of buying into new generation plants as our load grows. The bottom line is that, yes, there will be increases in the coming years in our electric rates, along with all other forms of energy. The good news for our co-op members is that the co-op model, along with some good planning, should provide for increases that are substantially below other energy providers. I will keep you informed as we finalize some of our studies and major decisions that are made by our board of directors.

Best wishes for a good summer season!


Michael D. Tirpak
General Manager & CEO

Woodcock Creek Lake Recreational Trails

BY ERIN BOGDA
Communications/Marketing Intern

NORTHWESTERN Pennsylvania offers a variety of recreational walking trails that are open to the public, including Saegertown's Woodcock Creek Lake.

Woodcock offers visitors an array of trails that outdoor recreational seekers can visit.

Woodcock Creek Lake began as a flood control project in the early 1960s, but its history extends beyond that. Shortly after World War I, the need for lock-and-dam systems on public waterways became apparent as interest grew in navigating waterways. Once residents understood the workings of a lock-and-dam system, they expressed interest in assistance with flood control. As dams to assist with flood control became more popular, they began being implemented in areas like Woodcock.

The dam project, which was not completed until 1973, created an environment around the lake that was receptive to walking trails and other recreational activities. Woodcock Park contains trails on each of its waterless sides, and while most trails are marked, over the years, visitors have created their own trails merely by self exploration.

"There are seven major trails that run all over the park," notes Edward Schwindt, resource manager of Woodcock Creek Lake. "Each major trail has minor trails that branch off of it and then there are seasonal trails that visitors create themselves, which account for roughly a mile of trails."

Visitors may explore by way of these

major, marked trails or go off on their own. Some of the trails, which are kept up by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, include the Bossard Nature Trail, the Woodcock Dam Trail, the Fitness Trail and an array of other trails that were constructed as early as 1973. But,

or grass, and are opened year round for day use by the public," Schwindt reports.

The composition of a trail dictates what activities may be pursued on it. While some trails are made mainly for walking, others can be used for biking, rollerblading or even running.

"While on the trails, visitors can view an entire range of wildlife," Schwindt notes. "Visitors can bird watch, see lots of small game, like squirrels and chipmunks, and there's even the occasional spotting of white tail deer."

Perhaps the most exciting game addition to the park is the osprey fish hawk.

"Nearly 14 years ago, Northwestern REC placed a few of their poles into the lake in order to encourage osprey nesting," Schwindt says. "In the spring of 2005, ospreys inhabited the land and have been attempting to successfully reproduce since."

In the spring of 2008, osprey chicks hatched in the Woodcock Creek Lake nest.

But, these listed forms of wildlife account for only a small portion of the vast amount of wild critters that can be viewed at Woodcock.

"We have a little something for everybody here," Schwindt emphasizes.

Whether you are looking for recreation or just a unique way to obtain healthy exercise, Woodcock Creek Lake is your one-stop shop for free outdoor interaction. ☀

Erin Bogda is attending Gannon University, majoring in communications arts with a minor in advertising communications.



HAPPY TRAILS: Bossard Run Nature Trail is partially paved at the trailhead.

the Woodcock Dam Trail stands as the park's most popular trail. This trail, located on top of the park's dam, is a mile in length, one way.

"Various activities occur on top of the dam throughout the year," Schwindt notes. "We have had many benefit runs, walks, triathlons and even wedding ceremonies on top of the dam."

"The dam trail and other trails are either composed of packed limestone, dirt

Northwestern REC is the northwest Pennsylvania distributor of the ACADIA™ all-climate heat pump

NOW homeowners can save on energy bills and avoid fossil fuels even when temperatures drop below zero with Acadia, new from Hallowell International.

Residents of cold climates especially rejoice as this patented, all-in-one heating and cooling system cuts costs and reduces the carbon footprint.

As homeowners brace for record-high heating bills this winter, they have a new source of relief with Acadia: the combined heating and cooling system from Hallowell International. This patented new system is all-electric, eliminating the need for expensive and pollutant fossil fuels. Acadia outperforms conventional heating systems by 200 percent, and has already lowered home energy bills by up to 70 percent — even when outside temperatures reach well below zero.

Acadia early adopters have experienced sizable energy savings and appreciate that they are also helping the environment. Steve S., a homeowner in Portland, Ore., said, “We originally bought the Acadia because we wanted to reduce our carbon footprint. The more we learned, the more excited we became...We are very happy with the Acadia and think it’s not only great technology to help us reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, but also it is surprisingly inexpensive to run.”

How does it work? Simply stated, Acadia is a next generation heat pump, a single system engineered to comfortably and efficiently heat and cool homes no matter what the weather outside, making it both economical and environmentally friendly. Traditional heat pumps lose efficiency when temperatures outside drop below freezing, requiring additional, expensive resistance heaters to keep homes heat-

ed. The engineers at Hallowell International resolved this issue with the patented Opti-Cycle booster that enables the Acadia to run efficiently in temperatures as cold as -30 degrees Fahrenheit.

The savings are even greater when compared to fossil fuels. Acadia is 300 percent efficient, compared to the 95 percent efficiency rate of the best natural gas furnaces.

“The Acadia is a wonderful milestone for consumers in cold climates and, of course, the environment,” said Duane A. Hallowell, president and CEO of Hallowell International. “We continue to develop technologies that will aid in protecting our planet and are within reach of the average consumer.”

To learn more about Acadia, please visit www.gotohallowell.com, www.northwesternrec.coop or call 800/472-7910 for more information.



About Hallowell International

Founded in 2005, the vision of Hallowell International could not be clearer: “Think past the boundaries of conventional home heating and cooling solutions to create alternative approaches to residential climate management.” The company is committed to creating innovative concepts and products that are highly energy efficient, eco-friendly, easy to install and easy to maintain. Hallowell’s products are for both residential and commercial use and are distributed throughout the United States and Canada. The local distributor for the Acadia is Northwestern REC, located in Cambridge Springs. Hallowell International is headquartered in Bangor, Maine. To learn more about energy-efficient products provided by Hallowell International visit, www.gotohallowell.com. 

Load management and electric heat

ELECTRIC thermal storage (ETS) and off-peak pricing combine to offer members an affordable option for using clean, safe and convenient electric heat.

ETS units do double duty by heating your home and storing heat for later use at the same time. The stored heat can be used during off-peak times when the electricity to your ETS unit is interrupted (turned off). The heat and the fan to distribute the heat are still available to warm your home.

Interrupted periods (peak periods) occur during high-use periods. Very cold days and very warm days are good examples of peak times. During peak times, the power that the cooperative buys from our power supplier is more expensive. By using ETS heating, you allow the cooperative to shift the time you use the most electricity to off-peak times. In exchange for your flexibility, you receive an attractive off-peak rate that is a savings of 42 percent.

You can also take advantage of the off-peak rate by wiring other appliances, such as your electric water heater, to the off-peak panel.

As members of a Coordinated Load Management System with other cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Northwestern REC's load management program controls peak periods through ETS and water heaters. Water heaters alone do not qualify for the off-peak savings, but participants receive the benefits of free service and replacement when necessary.

The load management program also provides a tool for the cooperative during outages and maintenance. Reducing load makes it possible to use one substation to power several substation areas. Often, rather than leaving people in the dark, the load is controlled and switched to another substation. All of this usually occurs with no inconvenience to the member.

Operating your ETS units requires some attention to weather conditions. For example, not allowing the units to be fully charged during frigid periods may result in a chilly house during a five- to six-hour control period. It is up to the homeowner to be sure to keep the units charged appropriately for the expected

weather. Using the wall thermostat to adjust the temperature for periods when people are home or gone works best. Set the units themselves to allow proper charging. If any of your units are not working properly, have them checked by an electrician.

If you are considering installing ETS room units to take advantage of the off-peak rate, now is a good time. Electric rates continue to be stable and economi-



An ETS unit.

cal. Plus, Northwestern REC is offering a truckload of savings on Steffes ETS units while supplies last. Call Bruce Hough at 800/472-7910 for more information. ☀



**Come visit your co-op at the
Crawford County Fair Aug. 16-23.
We're located in Home Show Building No. 1.
Bring this invitation with you to the fair
to receive a free gift.**