



United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

United Electric Cooperative, Inc.
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From the President & CEO



The future of lighting is here!

By Brenda Swartzlander

SOME of you may have already received a small box from United Electric Cooperative delivered by your mail carrier; others will be receiving it soon. Inside, there are four free, Energy Star-certified, 60-watt equivalent, light-emitting diode (LED) lightbulbs. That's right — the bulbs are free, compliments of United Electric Cooperative.

The LED bulbs are part of an electric cooperative energy efficiency program underway across Pennsylvania and New Jersey aimed at helping our members reduce your electric bills.

Lighting technology has advanced so rapidly that the installation of each of these LED bulbs is expected to save you \$6.22 per year or more than \$140 in electricity costs over the life of the bulb (estimated to be about 23 years of average use). That's because an LED bulb improves lighting efficiency by 80 percent over traditional incandescent bulbs.

Eighty percent is a lot — enough of a difference that we are encouraging you to take an unusual step. As soon as you receive your bulbs, select four of your most-used incandescent bulbs and replace them immediately with the new bulbs.

I know it goes against our sensibilities to throw away a bulb that still works, but that is our recommendation. You will begin saving money instantly, and what could be better than installing free bulbs that shine brighter, last longer, and are less expensive to use than your current incandescent bulbs?

The benefits to our members are obvious, but you may wonder what benefit the cooperative gains from giving light-

bulbs to our members. The answer is we purchase the electricity we provide to you — our members — from Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), a Harrisburg-based cooperative owned by 14 distribution cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Allegheny owns a hydroelectric plant and 10 percent of a nuclear power plant. Together with some long-term hydropower contracts, these sources provide about two-thirds of the power needed for the cooperatives. The remainder is purchased on the open market, where the price can fluctuate significantly.

When cooperative members install these new LED bulbs, it will reduce the amount of power Allegheny must purchase from the open market, which in turn will decrease costs for local cooperatives. United Electric will pass those savings along to our members through a lower rate than would otherwise be possible.

The LED is one of the most energy-efficient lighting technologies available today. LED bulbs, which last longer, are more durable, and offer comparable or better light quality than other types of lighting, having the potential to change the future of lighting.

If you haven't already received your gift of light from the cooperative, watch your mailbox and remember, your savings will begin the day you install your new LED lightbulbs.

Until next month,
Brenda

Rustic Views

Humility makes us strong

By Glenn Schuckers

I DO NOT think I have ever met farmers who seemed the least bit arrogant. That is to say, people who thought they knew it all, had done the best job at something, or were conceited enough to think that they were better than everyone else.

That is probably because farmers know what they accomplish is just as a partner. My dad used to say that his orchard was the result of a partnership with God. Of course, he added that it wasn't too much when God ran it by Himself. That was because it takes a lot of human effort to make an orchard, a field or a garden productive. We all know what happens if we plant corn in June and don't come back until August. Nature is just as likely to promote weeds as it is corn and as likely as not, the weeds will get bigger and take over the whole field. So it takes some human

effort to get the kinds of results we want.

But human effort is only part of the picture. Realizing that keeps one humble.

In short, farmers, whether their "farm" covers 1 acre or 1,000, almost to a fault, are pictures of humility. That is a quality I admire, one I try to follow and one I wish more Americans would imitate.

Some things never fail to amaze me. Something that amazes me the most is how different so many people act contrary to what they believe, or at least say they believe. Almost every person I know says he or she believes humility is something people should show.

They all say they believe things like "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" from the Bible in Matthew 5:5, or "It is humility that exalts one and favors him against his friends," an African traditional religion proverb. Islam teaches "Successful indeed are the believers/Who are humble in their prayers;" Native Americans were taught, in a Black Elk, Sioux, tradition, "The Lamentor (who is seeking a vision) cries, for he is humbling

himself, remembering his nothingness in the presence of the Great Spirit;" and Hinduism teaches, "Be humble, be harmless./Have no pretension."

Those words come from people who know a whole lot more than I do, but I believe them without hesitation. Everyone who works on a farm, no matter how large or small, understands humility. Anyone who has ever planted a seed, a tree or a plant knows what it means to be humble. I have never seen any farmers or gardeners puff out their chests and pat themselves on their backs because the seeds sprouted, the trees grew, or the plants took root. They all knew they were just part of the formula that made the trees grow, the fruit ripen or the corn sprout. They knew there were forces beyond their control that controlled that magic event. But when it comes to careers other than farming, it looks as though some people think everything they have, everything they have become, every accomplishment they reach, is

NOT MADE BY MAN: With scenes like these that men neither create nor control, how can anyone be anything but humble?



PHOTO BY GLENN SCHUCKERS

just because of their own effort.

And believing that, they start thinking they are better, stronger or superior to everyone else. And that leads to the quality we say we like the least: pride. We say we don't like people who boast about how strong they are, how rich they are, how powerful they are or how tough they think they are.

But the truly successful people don't need to boast. Their actions will speak louder than their words, and they don't need to tell us how powerful, how strong, how successful, or how rich they are.

That is why I cringe when I hear the words of a boxer shouting, "I am the greatest," or a businessman saying, "I am the richest," or a politician saying, "I will make the best deals anyone has ever made."

Men and women who have really made their own fortunes don't usually brag about it; they know that a lot of other forces have made it possible for them to amass that fortune. They happened to be in the right place at the right time; they made the right decision at the right time. They seem to sense that fortune, like the force that makes a seed sprout, is out of their control.

That is why boasting is so abhorrent. That is why we should all cringe when we see people clapping for themselves, reciting their accomplishments, boasting, "I am the greatest."

I sincerely believe what I read in the book of Proverbs, Chapter 16, Verse 18, "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." I really think a lot of people believe that, and have seen evidence of it all around them. They have seen pride laid low and the powerful reduced.

But it looks as though a whole lot of people have been willing to allow the boasters to blow their own horn and blivate about how great they are, how rich they are, and how powerful they are, without a thought to how they got there. And they believe them.

All of past history teaches us that the fall is coming. Everyone in history who thought he was the greatest has found something that was greater. It

might be a debilitating disease, a financial disaster, or a political devastation, but sooner or later, the arrogant meet their defeat.

Don't believe me? Ask Napoleon, Caesar, Alexander, Hitler or Nixon. They all thought they were invincible, that they could conquer all. Fate, nature and their enemies had other ideas.

Nature and fate are indeed cruel mistresses. They can destroy the rich and the arrogant; the boastful can be laid low regardless of their power or fortune. It is the really wise, the really enlightened, who know this and who

refrain from boasting, from making empty claims about how great they are. The fall may not come tomorrow, next week or next month, but ultimately, I still believe the words of the proverb, "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." 🌟



Glenn Schuckers, a longtime member of United Electric, operated Schuckers' Orchard in Luthersburg until the mid-1990s. He is a retired high school teacher and a contributing writer for *The Courier Express*.

We are pleased to have Glenn provide our *Penn Lines* readers with his take on rural life.

Energy Efficient Water Heater Only \$100

As a participant in United Electric's Load Management Program, you can replace your water heater for only \$100.

It's as simple as calling United Electric at 1-888-581-8969 to take advantage of this special offer.



Water Heaters can be picked up at three convenient locations:

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Not only do you receive a high efficiency water heater for \$100, as part of the load management program you will also receive \$3.00 off your electric bill each month.

Call United Electric the next time your water heater needs replacing.

The value of electricity continues to shine

By Derrill Holly

HOW MANY of us remember stopping by United Electric Cooperative's office with our parents and grandparents to pay the light bill? Whether you do that in person, by mail or online today, paying your monthly bill does a lot more than just keep the lights on.

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

Have you looked around your kitchen lately? Between the coffee maker and toaster and the microwave and crock pots, a lot of us have added several other modern small appliances.

If you've got a craft nook or work-

shop, the power tools and machines you use to cut and shape your projects are either plugged in or recharged from the outlets connecting your household wiring to United Electric.

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 3 percent or more per year. Butter, meat, and egg costs have been up by more than 1 to 2 percent annually, and even bread costs have risen better than a half point on average.

Electricity costs rise about 1 percent a year, but co-ops across the country have reported a decline in average residential use per household since 2010. That means we're doing more things with less energy.

Kilowatt-hour use per household dropped by 8 percent between 2010 and 2016, slightly less than the 9 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 United Electric urges energy efficiency, encourages you to look for Energy Star® appliances and promotes technology designed to give members more control over their electricity use.

Energy performance dashboards, smart thermostats and power strips, and appliance settings that shift most water heating, laundry, and dish-washing 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 families, couples and individuals 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 prevalent in our lives.

The average home now has 10 Wi-Fi-connected devices. That number is expected to explode to 50 by 2020. Technology and the gateways that keep it working use electricity, so you'll depend upon United Electric for more than the power that keeps the lights on.

That's why we're always looking for new and better ways to provide service that's safe, reliable, and affordable for our members. ⚡

Derrill Holly writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When streaming online content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop.

Source: energy.gov

