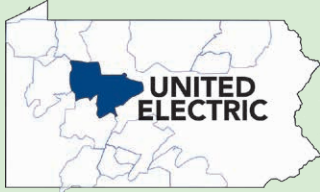




United Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

UNITED ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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Outage: 800-262-8959
Office Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Manage Energy, Save Money




TAKE A FEW SECONDS AND look around your home. You'll likely see you have more devices and equipment that require electricity than you'd ever thought possible. We are so connected to the world in our daily lives and more dependent upon electricity than ever before. At the same time, when demand for electricity rises, utilities must continue to deliver that demand uninterrupted, regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect, based on your own family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day. United Electric must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the needs of all members during the times of highest energy use, or "peak hours." These peak times vary by hour, but can be estimated based on habits. In Pennsylvania and surrounding states, winter peaks occur in the morning as people start their day. More heat is required due to low outside temperatures, and then again in the evening as people return to their homes. In summer, peaks occur during the day due to air conditioning use in homes and large, industrial-type businesses.

What you may not know is that electric utilities, including cooperatives, typically pay more for electricity during these energy "rush hours." This concept may seem puzzling, but the easiest way to think about it is to compare the energy grid to a major concert headliner. We all know that costs go up when there is a large demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, that commodity becomes more expensive; when people don't, it becomes a bargain.

United Electric has coordinated our Load Management Program for 29 years, and it has saved members more than \$18 million in power costs by controlling electric use during peak demands on the electric grid. Peaks occur Monday through Friday between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. They do not occur on weekends and holidays when most industrial loads are shut down. Winter peak hours are generally on the coldest days of the month, between 7 a.m. and noon and 5 and 10 p.m. Summer peak hours are usually on the hottest days, between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Are you interested in joining our Load Management Program? There are several ways to join, and all of them are easy. See the graphic on page XX for all the details.

Still have questions? Visit our website, unitedpa.com, or give our customer service department a call at 888-581-8969. Reducing demand impacts the power-supply cost to every co-op member, particularly as energy costs are rising across the United States. Collectively, everyone conserving energy and making small changes can truly make a difference. 

KRISTY SMITH

MARKETING & MEMBER SERVICES SUPERVISOR

Faith, Hope and Charity

GLENN SCHUCKERS

WHEN I FIRST THOUGHT ABOUT MARCH, nothing much came to mind. It is, after all, a kind of transition period between winter and spring. There will almost certainly be some snowfalls this month, but there will also be signs of spring, so it is either another month of winter or the first month of the new season.

That's the problem with first impressions: They are almost always wrong. At one time, March was thought to be the first month of the year.

As I thought more about March, more ideas started coming to mind. It is the month when a lot of gardeners start seeds for the coming garden. Based on the advice to plant some seeds eight weeks before the last anticipated frost, it looks as though the middle of this month is the best time to sow seeds like tomato, pepper, melon, and the many flowers that cannot be planted directly outside.

A fellow teacher who taught biology up the hall from me, V. Paul Keller, always said St. Patrick's Day, March 17, was the deadline for planting tomato seeds. I am sure there are a lot of students around the area whose plants grew from seeds planted in his room in March.

As it turns out, this is the month when President Franklin D. Roosevelt gave a speech that is remembered for the phrase, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." It also is the month when the first form of national

government was approved; the Articles of Confederation became effective in March 1781.

On the more somber side, the Spanish Flu showed up in America in March 1918 and went on to kill almost one-fourth of our population. President Ronald Reagan was nearly assassinated in March 1981, and the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant near Harrisburg had a partial meltdown in 1979. I also remember March 15 as the "Ides of March," when Julius Caesar was assassinated, and the time when Winston Churchill first used the phrase "the Iron Curtain."

On the more hopeful side, the Peace Corps was established in 1961, and the Philippines gained its independence during the month.

My history lesson is over now for those of you who were paying attention.

Planting the seeds

When I hear the words "faith" and "hope," I also think of "charity," which was written together as "faith, hope and charity" in First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 13: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." We need to practice more charity these days, especially toward those with whom we disagree, but in terms of the garden, the other two stand out.

When I plant seeds in little containers full of potting soil, I am expressing both faith and hope. I have faith the seeds will sprout and grow into plants that will, in about two months, be ready to plant in the garden. I also hope those plants will be the ones I wanted since all seeds look mostly the same. There is no way of knowing whether the tomato



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENN SCHUCKERS

MARCH MANIFESTATIONS: I have faith – and hope – the seeds in these three pots, along with a couple dozen others, will have plants ready for the garden in a couple of months.

seeds I plant will be San Marino or Beefsteak, Roma or Big Boy. I ordered them from a reputable seed company, but I can only hope the person or machine filling my order sent me what I wanted. I won't know, however, until the tomato forms and ripens.

I have been lucky when it comes to some fruit trees I planted a few years ago. They started to have apples last year; the Lodi tree had some Lodi apples, the Jonared had Jonareds, and the Cortland had some Cortlands. Hopefully this year the others will begin to bear fruit as well. Aside from looking at the form of the trees, I had little idea about what fruit they would produce.

There is an act of faith with all farmers. They all plant seeds this month having faith that nature will cooperate, and they will harvest what they have sown. Whether it is sweet corn for market, oats, or field corn for stock feed, or any crop they need for their farm, they have faith the crop will grow, that there will be enough rain for growth — but not so much to drown the fields and seeds — that the sun will warm the soil, and that hail will not cut down the crop before it is mature.

However, if my tomato plants do not produce the vegetables I want, I need to learn to use what grows. If those fruit trees don't produce the fruits, I will learn to use what does grow. Nature is not being unfair; it is being nature. I may cuss at someone if the seeds don't grow as I think they should or as I had planned, but that will be the end of it. If there is time, I will plant new seeds.

I have to remind myself that although things may not go as I plan, there may be another plan that is better than mine. So let me add to "faith" and "hope" the idea of "flexibility."



SAFETY TIP: Always place ladders on solid, level ground. If possible, enlist the help of a family member or friend to hold the ladder while you climb.

Simple Steps to Load Management



During peak periods, turn your thermostat down a few notches or use a programmable thermostat.



Plug electronics into power strips and turn them off during peak hours and wait to use large appliances outside of those times.



Ask for a Demand Response Unit (DRU) to be installed, free of charge, on your current water heater and receive a \$3 monthly bill credit.




Is your home primarily heated with electric, but you also have an additional fuel source? Ask about our Home Comfort Rate with installation of a DRU.



Are you in need of a new hot water heater? Residential members are eligible to purchase a high-efficiency water heater for only \$100 plus tax. A DRU will already be installed on the water heater upon pick up.



United Electric
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All applications are due by March 1, 2023. Dates for Youth Tour 2023 are June 18-23.



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*Must be a United Electric Cooperative member or dependent. Directors, employees and their families are ineligible to apply.

