

Starting Lines

YOUR FIRST STEP TO MEMBER BENEFITS

WINTER 2011

MEMBERS TESTIFY

Product and Services Guide



In October, Adams Electric printed a Products and Services guide informing members about all of the co-op resources that are available to them. The booklet was inserted into *Penn Lines* magazine; however, individual copies are available at all co-op offices. The guide serves as an educational reference for members with an emphasis on programs that save energy and help lower members' energy costs.

After receiving a copy of the guide, member Jim Krut of Bonneauville sent the co-op this email.

"Wanted to say 'Wow' on the latest *Penn Lines*, and the insert. What a project! Thought at first it was an annual report..."

"After reviewing all the information, I began to realize how long it took to become familiar with each of those programs...so much to track and keep promoting.

"You guys make me proud! Keep up the great work!"

- Jim Krut

A member in the co-op's Gettysburg District and the former vice president of communications at Adams Electric.



If you are interested in learning more about any of the co-op's programs, products and services, such as: energy efficiency practices, scholarships, tree clearing, load control, or upgrading your heating and cooling systems, call toll-free, 888/232-6732 or visit www.adamsec.coop.



LOAD CONTROL: Donald and Loretta Hall of Shippensburg have used a load control switch on their electric water heater for the last 10 years or so. They say being a part of the load control program "took some convincing. But we've been on it forever now and we don't even notice it's there and working."

**Note: The co-op continues to change out old load control switches for a newer, more accurate model. Members will be contacted when a contractor is ready to begin work in their area.*

Members help keep electric use under control

Whether it's to save money or the environment, Adams Electric works with its members to reduce the demand for electricity during times when the demand and cost of electricity is highest. This is done mainly by asking members to allow the cooperative to shift electricity use to off-peak times.

When everyone uses power at the same time, it creates demand peaks. The peaks, which usually take place on the coldest winter days and hottest summer afternoons, are costly and can lead to higher electric bills. A network of load control switches connected to residential electric water heaters can be turned off for several hours during periods of high demand for electricity.

Over 10,000 co-op members have voluntarily allowed a switch to be installed on their electric water heaters. Other members are using controlled meters installed on separate subpanels (at their expense) to control their heating and cooling systems along with their water heaters.

Join the effort

If you purchase a new electric water heater, ask the co-op to install a switch on it and receive a \$100 bill credit for water heaters 80 gallons and above. Receive a \$50 bill credit for water heaters under 80 gallons. **If you already own an electric water heater**, allow the co-op to install a switch and receive a \$50 bill credit (regardless of size).

After the switch is installed, participating members will see a \$5 monthly credit on their electric bill. (Members do not receive a credit if they already have a controlled meter on a separate subpanel. The two rate discounts may not be combined.)

For more information about the load control program, or to receive a brochure on how to have a load control switch installed on your water heater, call toll-free 888/232-6732 or visit www.adamsec.coop.



FEATURED PROGRAM: Scholarships for high school seniors



Sons and daughters of Adams Electric members may apply for \$750 cooperative scholarships. Scholarships are offered to seniors attending public high schools in the co-op's service area, as well as seniors attending vocational, technical, cyber, private, home-schools, or other public schools outside of the districts coverage territories.

Seniors who attend a public high school served by the co-op (see a list at www.adamsec.coop) should visit their high school guidance counselor for an application. The scholarships are made available through each school's scholarship application process.

Seniors who attend other recognized schools or programs should apply through the co-op by completing an application, available online at www.adamsec.coop. A committee of member volunteers chooses the winners.

All applicants must meet the same list of qualifications in order to be eligible for a co-op scholarship. For a list of requirements, review the information posted in the Scholarships portion of the Student Corner menu at www.adamsec.coop.

For more information, contact Cindy Brant at cindyb@adamsec.coop or call 888/232-6732. Scholarships are supported with unclaimed patronage capital money, and therefore have no effect on rates.

FEATURED SERVICE: Members helping members in need



Project Helping Hand (PHH) is a service that helps keep the lights on for over 300 co-op members each year. When members fall on hard times, they may turn to PHH for assistance in paying their electric bills.

You can help by joining the nearly 5,000 other co-op members who allow Adams Electric to "Round-Up" their electric bills to the nearest dollar amount. The difference in change goes to PHH.

Your annual donation will average \$6, and may be as small as 12 cents, but will never be more than \$11.88 per year. All donations go directly to help qualifying co-op members.

You may also contribute by,

1. Having a donation added to your electric bill one time per year;
2. Sending a personal check to PHH; or
3. Donating your patronage capital check each year.

Your annual donation is tax deductible.

For more information, visit www.adamsec.coop.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY with George Taughinbaugh, manager, safety/energy use

Heaters for single room use

As I write this, it is mid-November and lately I have been receiving several ads telling me about the new electric heaters that can lower my heating costs as much as 50 percent. The heaters look nice, have wheels to move from room-to-room, and include a fan. Several people testify as to how much they like them. And, if I buy right now, there's even a special price!

I am not going to put down the units. They can be, in some cases, a good thing. Basically a space heater, these units are not really different from the less expensive fan heaters that you can buy at the local discount store. They provide electric heat, which is 100 percent efficient. (Other systems are available with up to 400 percent efficiency ratings.) And, they can be a way to reduce your heating costs, if you turn the heat down in your whole house, and set this unit up to heat just the space you are in.

But remember, use care in purchasing a portable space heater. Be sure to read all the fine print. Make sure that the unit carries an Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label. And, make sure that you can return the unit if you are not happy with it.

If you are not interested in just space heating, but instead whole house heating, give us a call. We can tell you about ways to save on home heating costs, which will work for your particular need and budget. We also have a brochure available on electric resistance heaters, which offers buying tips and suggestions for portable space heaters. For more information, call toll-free 888/232-6732 or visit www.adamsec.coop.



60 SECOND SAFETY with Terry Hancock and Dave Bolton, energy use/safety specialists

It's generator season

It's that time of year again. The time when Mother Nature can throw your co-op some curve balls with ice, snow and strong winds. It's also the time of year where our members look into and install stand-by generators for use during power outages. What some members might not be aware of is that improperly installed, these generators can become a danger to the user and our line crews, along with neighbors and the general public.

When not properly installed, generators can send power back onto the electric lines, causing them to become re-energized.

A double-pole/double-throw switch can stop such an occurrence from happening, and is a required element on any stand-by unit. These switches may either be controlled manually or they can be wired to work automatically when they sense a loss of power. And when properly installed, these switches are designed to isolate the generator from our lines.

Another thing to remember about generators is to never run them inside or close enough to your residence that poisonous carbon monoxide gases could be inhaled if they leak into your living spaces.

For more information on generator safety and planning for winter weather, visit the Storm Central portion of Adams Electric's website, www.adamsec.coop.

Thank you and have a great winter!



Live in a manufactured home? Sealing the cracks is one of the best ways to save energy and money this winter. Also, consider installing a well-sealed, insulated skirt around the base of the home and add a 4- to 6-mil thick polyethylene vapor barrier over dirt floors. For more information, visit www.togetherwesave.com/manufactured-housing.

YOUR MEMBER BENEFITS

- Automated Meters
- CFL Recycling
- Community Development Loans
- Convenient Payments
 - Budget Billing
 - E-Bill (Online Bill View/Pay)
 - ElectriPay (Automatic Bank Draft)
 - Pay By Mail
 - Pay In Person
- Co-op Connections Discount Card
- Co-op Owners for Political Action Dial 8-1-1
- Dry Hydrants
- Electric Service Installations
- Electronic Alerts
- Energy Audits
- Energy Calculators
- Energy Conservation Loans
- Energy Library (online)
- Energy Savings Information
- Generator Safety
- Gift of Electricity
- Go Paperless
- Heating and Cooling Options
 - Air-Source Heat Pumps
 - Electric Thermal Storage (ETS)
 - Ground-Source (Geothermal) Heat Pumps
 - Heat Pump Plus
- High Voltage Safety Demonstrations
- Incentive Rates
 - Controlled/Interruptible Rate
 - Geothermal Rate
 - Time-of-Day Rate
 - Water Heater Rate
- Informative Brochures
- Load Management
- Online Efficiency Store
- Outage Map/Storm Central (online)
- Patronage Capital Credits
- Penn Lines Monthly Magazine
- Project Helping Hand (Payment Assistance)
- Safety Presentations
- Scholarships
 - Adult
 - High School
 - Statewide
- Security Lights
- Starting Lines Quarterly Newsletter
- Stray Voltage Reduction (Earth-to-Neutral)
- Surge Protection
- Tree Clearing
- Water Heater Rebates
- Youth Programs
 - "CFL Charlie" Science Curriculum
 - Envirothons
 - "Get Charged" Science Curriculum
 - Kids Websites
 - Low Voltage Safety Demonstrations
 - Mobile Agriculture Education Lab
 - Newspaper in Education
 - Youth Tour

