



**Sussex Rural
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Currents

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January 2019

www.sussexrec.com



Three SREC linemen worked to help restore power to Co-op members in Vermont following winter storm Bruce.

Rate Decrease

Happy New Year!

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative's commitment to our members is to provide the highest quality of service at the lowest possible cost, now and in the future. This high level of service requires a fair and equitable investment

from each SREC member.

In order to ensure this, SREC evaluates rates through a cost of service study done periodically. The net result is that the majority of SREC members will see a rate decrease in 2019. The average member uses 968 kWh per

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month, and this average member should see a 1% bill reduction. Those that average more monthly kWh will see a larger decrease, and those that use less will see less of a decrease. However, approximately 75% of the membership will see some type of decrease on average.

“...the majority of SREC members will see a rate decrease in 2019.”

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Rate Decrease

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Rate design is a balancing act between meeting our revenue needs and minimizing the overall financial impact to our members. As a not-for-profit organization, we must recover our costs of doing business, as well as maintain sufficient margins to reinvest in our electric distribution system. A cost of service study helps identify the total revenue requirements for the cooperative. Through the cost of service study, costs are allocated appropriately to each rate classification based on the service, equipment, and infrastructure that is required to serve them.

Based on rate classification and consumption, the impact to the member will vary – an overall bill may have increased or decreased. The greatest difference in the 2019 rates is the change in the Basic Facilities Charge, which has increased for all residential members by \$2.00.

The Basic Facilities Charge is the fixed rate portion of your bill. It

ensures that your expectations for continuous power and outstanding customer service are met. It gives each member a fair and equal share of the cooperative’s operation. It provides funds to the cooperative that must be invested now to maintain the quality, reliability, and integrity of services that our members have traditionally counted on and come to expect.

Among the expense items covered by the facility charge are:

- Trucks, wire, transformers, utility poles, and labor needed to build and maintain the electric distribution system
- Keeping pace with increased system investments to improve both capacity and reliability
- Implementing new technologies to provide increased reliability and operational efficiencies such as the outage management system and advanced metering
- Liability insurance, interest, taxes, and emergency storm restoration
- Outage restoration costs

Because all cooperative members benefit from having reliable electric service available when they want it, the facility charge ensures that everyone

pays their fair share of the basic costs – costs that exist whether or not a single kWh passes through the meter.

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative’s Board of Directors and Executive Staff continuously monitor the financial stability of the organization to determine if or when a rate change is necessary. The cost of service study proved that due to lower energy prices, among other costs, we are able to lower the current energy charge by 3.2%.

As our mission states, Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative strives to provide the highest quality of service at the lowest possible cost. We are happy to report that we are able to reduce the energy charge in 2019, which, for a majority of the membership, will result in a lower power utility bill. Members will see the changes on their bill beginning with the February billing cycle.

On behalf of all Sussex Rural employees and Directors, I wish everyone a happy and safe new year!



Here is what a member can expect to see: (Please note, each charge also includes NJ sales tax)

	-----Average Member Usage-----		
	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Change</u>
Usage (KWH)	968	968	
Facilities Charge	\$ 23.46	\$ 25.59	9.1%
Energy Charge	\$ 109.43	\$ 105.97	-3.2%
PCA	\$ (2.12)	\$ (2.12)	0.0%
	<u>130.77</u>	<u>129.44</u>	<u>-1.0%</u>



Youth Tour

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Youth Tour is an all-expenses paid, once-in-a-lifetime chance for high school juniors to bond with fellow students, meet elected officials, and experience our nation's capital. More than 1,800 students from all across America take part in the Youth Tour experience each year. This unique trip gives the opportunity to watch history come alive as students explore museums, memorials, and monuments.

Students will make friendships that last a lifetime and be part of a group that has more than 50,000 alumni in every walk of life, including U.S. Senators and CEOs.

Apple CEO Tim Cook for example, told George Washington University students how he “had come face to face with two men who guaranteed themselves a place in history,” while on Youth Tour.

The Youth Tour provides the opportunity for young people to: increase their understanding of the value of rural electrification; become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's capital through visits to monuments, government buildings, and cooperative organizations; visit elected officials in order to increase their knowledge of how the federal government works; and expand their understanding of cooperatives as a business model.

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) coordinates hotel accommodations, maintains a Youth Tour office in the hotel, arranges to have a full time nurse on duty, and offers film, postage stamps, and Youth Tour souvenirs for sale. NRECA organizes educational programs on cooperatives, rural electrification and government.

Additionally, NRECA coordinates Youth Day during which all Youth Tour participants assemble to listen to prominent speakers and complete the day with a dinner dance. NRECA also coordinates boat cruises on the Potomac and theater tickets to one of Washington's professional theaters.

Youth Tour is open to any high school junior who resides in a home receiving electric service from Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative. For the application and further information, go to sussexrec.com. The completed Youth Tour application and all application requirements must be received by SREC before February 1, 2019.



A variety of scholarships are available to Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative students through SREC and our regional association, the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association (PREA). Students who participate in Youth Tour are also eligible for scholarships through both regional and national associations. For more information on scholarships go to www.sussexrec.com. Deadlines are approaching fast, so don't miss out on the scholarship opportunities available to you as members of Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative.

Is Your Family Prepared for Severe Weather?

In a recent survey, 75% of people who suffered through a power outage said they wished they were more prepared, and 67% said they wished their homes had backup power. Be prepared with a Cummins generator from SREC Resources.



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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

Source: energys.gov



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For more information go to

www.sussexrec.com or call us at 973.875.5101



Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume
it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near
it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground
up to 35 ft. away - so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through
water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify
the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even
if you think the line is deenergized or if you're
using a non-conductive item - this will not
prevent injury or death!



Source: ESF1.org