

Currents

Your Link to Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative



High Voltage. . .



Green with Envi

By Tom Tate

This article is going to help some of you get green with Envi. Well, greener anyway. Envi is the whole house energy monitor that I have touched on in recent Currents. I acquired one of these monitors back in February and have been putting it through its paces with very satisfactory results.

Let's start with a quick recap. Whole house energy monitors are designed to provide the user with a real time look at the energy consumption in their home. As appliances and equipment turn on and off, you can see the impact on your use. The Envi also shows you how much the change increases or decreases your costs. It has a seven year battery and retains seven years worth of data.

You can view your use on the display or use third party software to view it on your PC. I gravitated to the third party software and now have two packages I use - one from Techtoniq and another from Google. With the Google application, I can log into the Internet and see my consumption online. Both require the PC to be on for current data to be displayed but the developers of the Envi

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Commentary by the President & CEO



Concern for Community, the 7th Cooperative Principle

by Jim Siglin
President & CEO

Periodically I write about the seven cooperative principles that are the foundation of electric cooperatives. This month, I will cover the seventh, "Concern for Community." This may be the hardest to write about for one reason, detailing what your cooperative does for the community can sound a lot like bragging. With this bit of warning, let me cover some of the things your cooperative and its employees do for the towns and people of Sussex County.

A number of our employees decided to start collecting food for the Sussex County food pantry last year. We participated in the Stuff the Bus drive in the late fall and were quite successful in collecting donations of non-perishable food from employees and members alike. At the end of the drive, we decided that the need for food was persistent and that we wanted to keep collecting until that need was satisfied. As a result, we have been able to make steady and regular donations to the pantry. You deserve the thanks as well since members contribute substantially to the effort. We received a letter of recognition from the County so I want to share that fact with you and express our thanks for the generous donations. We will continue this effort as long as there is a need.

We work with the merchants of Sussex Borough each year to plant flow-



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ers, clean up the planting areas and add mulch to landscaping to keep that part of the county looking nice. In addition, our employees regularly support the parks around the county. We provided labor and materials to the Dog Park and to numerous other parks in the form of lighting, landscaping and more. These efforts provide a better experience for people using these facilities and help reduce costs. Much of the labor provided is volunteer.

For projects requiring a capital infusion, we offer the community a low cost loan for civic improvement projects. This revolving loan fund is dedicated to providing assistance to communities in purchasing a new fire truck or ambulance, buying a critical piece of equipment for a hospital, installing lights for a ball field and so forth. If you have a project that might qualify for the program, let us know.

The next contribution might seem like part of our job description but it certainly bears mentioning. Your employees routinely go the extra mile when your service is out. The linemen work in all weather conditions, many times for extended hours, to restore service after Mother Nature or our fellow man interrupt it. Our office staff put in equal hours answering the phone and coordinating the restoration efforts.

These folks take pride in what they do and are dedicated to giving you their best. This dedication to our members is just one of the things that makes the cooperative strong.

In recognition of your cooperative's efforts, we received the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce's 2010 Community Service award. Such recognition is greatly appreciated but is not the reason for our efforts. We are part of our community and want to contribute to keeping it a great place to live, raise a family, work and retire.

Concern for Community is an admirable and essential part of being an electric cooperative and we are committed to doing our part.

OUTAGES & EMERGENCIES

— CALL —

877.504.6463

Your Cooperative's Offerings...

Standby Generators

Protect your property and your loved ones with an Cummins-Onan generator from SREC Resources. We can tailor a whole house solution to meet your needs and your budget. Our Cummins-Onan line is one of the best and most reliable in the business and our pricing is very competitive.



Have a need for a larger commercial generator? Let us give you a solution. Sizes up to 2 MW are available and rates may apply to help you save money with peak shaving.

GenerLink – Connect your Generator the Safe & Easy Way

A typical generator connection means installing a transfer switch and a sub panel. Expensive and inflexible. What if you want to power something not on the sub panel? No way that's happening.



Solve the problem with the GenerLink. This meter-based device makes connection a breeze and allows you full flexibility in what you power – up to the rated capacity of your generator. Need to run a freezer for a while and the generator is at capacity? Flip a breaker on a load you can do without for a while and connect the freezer.

Amperage	Standard	w/Surge Protection	Labor
30	\$660	\$775	\$160
40	\$780	\$870	\$160

Whole House Surge Suppression

Winter storms, lightning strikes, automobile accidents, animals, equipment failure. What do these things have in common? They all can create surges in our lines that can damage appliances and electronics in homes.

Homeowner insurance can cover these losses but why not protect yourself from such incidents to begin with? A whole house surge protector when used with strip devices and proper home grounding gives you the best possible protection.



Easy to install, the TESCO surge protector mounts right behind your meter and provides the first line of defense against surges entering your home by the electric line. Limit your risk today!

Marathon Electric Water Heaters

One of the largest users of energy in your home is your water heater. When that heater is part of your fur-

nace it means you run your furnace in warm months just for hot water.

Save money and rest your furnace with a Marathon water heater. Up to 94% efficient and guaranteed for life against leaks. The perfect tank for our area and the last water heater you'll ever need.



Load Control Program

While on the topic of water heaters, consider adding a load control device to that new Marathon. We install the device before the Marathon leaves our warehouse. Once connected, you receive a one time bill credit and join over 1500 members who help us control our energy costs.

These devices have been on our system for over 20 years. When demand for electricity is high, we control power to the water heater and avoid the purchase of expensive energy. You benefit by lower rates all year.

Already have an electric water heater? Let us install a device and you'll receive a small bill credit for your participation. And, if you have a central air conditioner, we can offer an ongoing credit for your participation.

We designed the program so you never notice it working and there is no cost to you to join.

Save with Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heat

You read this correctly – save with electric heat. Not too long ago that statement would have generated snickers if not outright laughter. Today, with fossil fuel prices showing wide fluctuation and high prices, electricity is once again the way to heat your home.

ETS works this way. Bricks contained in well insulated housings are heating during off-peak hours when we can sell our electricity for a much lower rate. When our cost of power increases at times of peak demand, we turn off the power to the heating elements and small fans and pumps circulate air or water over the hot bricks.



You heat your home for less and enjoy greater comfort than with traditional systems.

In use in our area for more than 20 years, the time is right to rethink electric heat.

We'll size the system according to the heating needs of your home and arrange for professional installation. Or, you can don your contractor cap and we'll provide you with the details needed to complete the project.

Outdoor Lights

There is one thing to be said about life in a rural environment, it's dark at night. This is preferred by most but there are those who like to see what is going on around their house at night or want a safer driveway or parking area. Then there are those who just like to light up their home for all to see. Whether for landscaping or security reasons, we



offer lights to meet your needs: area, landscape and architectural. For a set monthly fee, we install and maintain the lights. You get the illumination, we take care of the rest.

Worried that these lights waste energy? We are looking at high efficiency alternatives. Ask us for more detail.



e-Bill and Bank Drafts

Why pay bills the old-fashioned way? You know, write a check, stuff an envelope, get it to the post office and wait. Let us simplify your life in at least this area – use our on-line bill payment options. The process is easy, wend your way to our website and under the "Your Bill" heading click to get started.

You can select from the option of having the bill drafted monthly from your checking account, just like insurance and other services do. Or you can elect to receive a notification and then make your payment.

Already using your bank to pay our bill? Please consider switching. Bank systems actually increase our cost of processing payments, something our system does not.

Ready to get started?

Please use the form to request more information. Fill it out and mail it in. Or, use one of these methods for faster service:

Generators & GenerLink

Phone: 973.875.1365 • Fax: 973.875.2394
e-Mail: creese@sussexrec.com

TESCO Surge, Marathon, ETS & Load Control

Phone: 973.875.5101 • Fax: 973.875.4114
e-Mail: ttate@sussexrec.com

Outdoor Lights

Phone: 973.875.5101 • Fax: 973.875.4114
e-Mail: dwilliams@sussexrec.com

e-Bill & Bank Draft

Phone: 973.875.5101 • Fax: 973.875.4114
e-Mail: dwilliams@sussexrec.com

Use this handy form to get more information...

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Tel.: _____ Best time to call: _____
e-mail: _____

Contact us today for more information

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative • 64 Route 639 • P.O. Box 346 • Sussex, NJ 07461
973.875.5101 or go to our website: <http://www.sussexrec.com>

I Would Like More Information On:
(check all that apply)

- Standby Generators
- GenerLink – Connect your Generator the Safe & Easy Way
- Whole House Surge Suppression
- Marathon Electric Water Heaters
- Load Control Program
- Save with Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) Heat
- Outdoor Lights
- e-Bill and Bank Drafts

Energy Conservation on a Budget

It struck me that I have presented a wealth of information about how to save money on your energy bill. It also struck me that these tidbits have been scattered over months and may not be all that easy to put together into a coherent solution. Let me rectify that with my suggestions for energy efficiency and savings on a budget.

FIRST STEP: Buy and install a programmable thermostat. Naturally I have gravitated to the gadget aspect as my first recommendation. Pick what is called a 5-2 model. This allows you to set a program for week days and for the weekend. There are easily found and easy to install and use. Honeywell offers the best product (in my opinion) and you can get a nice 5-2 at Lowes for \$39.00. Your savings? Let's be conservative and say it's 10% of your heating (and cooling if you have central air) bill. If that is \$1800 per year, you save \$180.00. Start out using the EPA recommended settings which are often preprogrammed into the thermostats these days.

STEP TWO: Consume a six pack of compact fluorescent lamps. Replace six 100-watt bulbs with 27-watt CFLs and save \$18.00 per year. You can get CFLs on sale for about \$2.00 each.

STEP THREE: Turn down the heat on your water heater. Water heaters generally come preset at 120 degrees. Reducing the temperature to 105 degrees has the potential to save \$110 annually.

STEP FOUR: Weather strip and seal around perimeter. Check your doors, windows and outlets on exterior walls on a cool day with some wind. Where you feel a draft, take steps to plug them up.

By Tom Tate

A roll of high density foam weatherstrip tape costs about \$3.50. Good caulk will run about \$2.50 a tube. Foam electric outlet sealers cost \$2.00 per package. For an investment of \$25.00, you can make your home tighter and more comfortable. How much you save is really tough to calculate so let's leave it at a comfort item.

Four actions at a cost of \$76.00 (plus tax, of course), will potentially save \$308.00 per year. That means you can pay back your in-

vestment in about three months. Not too shabby. Now, I am obliged to insert the disclaimer, "Of course, your results will vary according to how your house performs and how you adapt to the new technology." There, that's out of the way. The real thing to take away from this article is that you can save some nice money with a minimum cost and some sweat equity. Pretty soon the winds of winter will be howling. Start today and save forever.

Tough Times . . . By Tracy McBride

Not wanting to be a "doom and gloomer," I'd still look silly if I didn't acknowledge that times are tough all over. We are seeing this in our collections. It is especially important within a cooperative to pay for services promptly since all costs are paid for by the members. In investor-owned utilities, when a bill is not paid, that loss comes from dividends. In a cooperative, it comes from neighbors, friends, relatives and the rest of the membership.

So, with this in mind, I want to review the payment and disconnection policies of your cooperative.

Electricity is billed in arrears. This means the member uses the product before they receive a bill. When the bill arrives, they have had the use of the product for thirty days or so. The bill is "technically" due upon receipt but in actual practice, the due date is

15 days beyond the billing date and we do not consider it past due until payment is more than 30 days late. When a member falls behind 30 days, the computer automatically generates a Disconnection Alert and sends a bill with a red header. Fifteen days later, the member will be subject to disconnection and additional fees.

If you are experiencing difficulties for any reason, please contact us to discuss the options available to you. Payment arrangements, public assistance, levelized billing are key alternatives at our disposal. We'll make an honest effort to help but in the end, the responsibility to pay for the service is with the member who received the service.

Should a problem arise, let us know as soon as possible so we can work out a manageable solution before the situation grows worse.



Let us know about changes

By Chuck Pike

When you make a major addition to your home's electric load, please let us know. What do I mean by major and why do we want to know? Let me tackle these two in order. Here are some things that I'd consider major additions: install a pool with the associated pumps, install central air conditioning, upgrade to a ground source heat pump, install a large spa, etc. Replacing an appliance or adding a window unit air conditioner are not in the category of major.

Next, why do we need to know? So we can provide you with the proper level of service quality and reliability. When a house is first built, we ask the builder for information concerning the load of that new home. We use this data to determine what size wire to use,

how large a transformer is needed, what size fuse will protect the equipment and so forth. There is a direct relationship to the size of the load and the size of the components we use. When load is added after the fact, this addition has the potential to exceed the ratings of these components. Overloading increases heat which is a serious enemy to our system. It can lead to outages and other quality problems.

Letting us know is easy and doesn't increase your costs. We will upgrade the components and make sure you have the most reliable service possible. Stop by, e-mail or contact Engineering with your addition and we'll do the rest. Don't take a chance that may cause your lights to go out.

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are bringing out an Internet bridge to eliminate this requirement.

Many people are familiar with the Kill-a-Watt, a device that tracks the use of a single appliance. Envi has the ability to track 9 individual appliances and will be bringing

out individual modules for this purpose later this year. I have put together a paper on the Envi and the two software packages that I'll gladly e-mail you. Just let me know at info@sussexrec.com.

So, what is the value to the user of such

devices? In a word (actually, three), awareness and education. We all recognize that being aware of the consequences of our actions is a powerful way to change our behavior and the Envi is outstanding at doing this. The Envi display sits next to my PC and I continually check it to see how I am doing on consumption. I take steps to turn things off if I am uncomfortable with the projected costs. My wife also follows the use of different appliances, calling up to me for a reading when she turns on the stove, dryer, etc.

When it comes to education, the Envi also shines. While it has the individual appliance monitoring capability, you can also demonstrate the effect of an appliance by turning it on, noting the use and then turning it off and recording the savings. For example, a spend-thrift child simply refuses to turn off the television when they leave. Have them look at the monitor with the TV on. Have them go turn it off and then observe the savings. As I have suggested before, make them a deal - they either turn off the TV or fund it via their allowance.

I am so happy with my Envi that I want to share the joy with a few other SREC members. I have seven (7) of the kits in stock and am selling them at our cost plus tax, or for \$116.63. I want to gather the experiences and reactions from these early adopters and see if this is something we should offer to all. Let me know if you wish to be one of the Magnificent 7 (*movie reference simply too tempting to not use*).

WANTED! FOR LOAD CONTROL



ELECTRIC WATER HEATERS \$25 REWARD

ADDING YOUR ELECTRIC WATER HEATER TO OUR LOAD CONTROL PROGRAM WILL EARN YOU THE REWARD PLUS INCREASE OUR ANNUAL SAVINGS. CONTACT US FOR DETAILS OR USE THE FORM BELOW TO ENROLL.

SIGN ME Up...

- I am interested in the Sussex Rural Electric load control program. Please contact me to schedule the installation.
- I already have a load control unit. Please contact me to schedule the upgrade.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Best time to call: _____

Remember, you will receive a one time \$25 bill credit for your participation.

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The power of human connections

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