

Currents

Your Link to Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative



High Voltage. . .



How to access your daily use data

By Tom Tate

For years, in my role as a marketing manager for electric companies, I have sought ways to make the bill customers receive more meaningful. Unlike the phone bill which details every call made, the typical utility bill is a lump sum. There is simply no indication of what, when and how much energy is used by the appliances and equipment in your home. Therefore, being able to provide access to detailed consumption data is something of the holy grail for me. So much so that I am tremendously enthused over our new capability to give SREC members just that capability.

By the time you read this, we will have in place the ability for you to access your account and see your daily electric consumption. Before my fellow tech and gadget enthusiasts get TOO excited let me tell you that it is not a real time capability, yet. I have something brewing there, so be patient. Every morning around 9:00 a.m. we will update the data with the previous day's readings. Think of it like buying day old bread without the stale part.

Okay, so how do you get at this wealth of data? Since it is all web-resident, you have to go to www.sussexrec.com and access your e-bill account. The account opens to the Summary page. Click the History link to access the data page.

ss/Description	Balance		
RE DRE HL3	\$32.10	Detail	History

At the top, you can specify any 90-day range you like. Or, you can scroll down a bit and click on one of the monthly usage totals to see the daily use for that month.

continued on page 3

Commentary by the President & CEO



Smart Grid at Your Fingertips

by Jim Siglin

Last month I gave you a brief overview of the smart grid and what it meant to you as a consumer. Much of the promise of the smart grid lies in the future, especially at the consumer level. However, since last month's article, we have had a new development with our automated metering system which brings a bit of smart grid functionality to you, today.

Research has shown when people are aware of how much energy they are using, as they use it, they are much better at controlling that use. Electric, natural gas, telephone, cable and other utilities are billed after the fact. Meaning you receive the bill after the product has been used. We have all had that surprise of opening one of these bills and seeing more use than we had expected. Before automated metering, there wasn't any option other than a dedicated member going out to the meter and reading the dials on a regular basis. Today, automated meter reading systems provide utilities with a wealth of

MARCH 2010 • Vol. XIII, Issue III

Your Cooperative's Offerings...	Page 2
NJ Clean Energy Programs Available	Page 3
Efficiency of Space Heaters	Page 4

information about consumption, typically on a daily basis and frequently by the hour. We've had 100% of our meters on just such a system for several years. Until just recently, though, the information was only available to our employees in the office. The the software to provide access to the information by our members was just not available.

That has changed with the software just being released which gives you, our member, the ability to see your daily consumption online. This is a great diagnostic and educational tool. If you find that your consumption was more than expected, you can now log into your account online and pull up your daily energy usage for specific dates. Comparing the high use days to activities in your home or other factors such as unusual weather can help you pinpoint the cause of the increased use and it can help you plan a strategy for reducing or avoiding it in the future. Another use is in demonstrating to your family the effect of conservation. Let's say you are attempting to get the kids to turn off the computer or television when it's not in use. Pick some days when they have left it on and compare it to days when it was off. They can then see the impact. Or, if you buy a new energy efficient appliance, you can check to see how much you save as a result. We are planning on adding daily temperature data with the daily usage to allow easier correlation between weather and electric usage. Also the addition of the hourly usage will be coming to the website providing greater detail of your electric usage. We'll let you know when these enhancements are in place.

If you are already an e-bill member, you simply log into your account and access the data. If

continued on page 4

Youth Scholarships

by Tom Tate

Every year, your cooperative along with those from Pennsylvania offer a number of scholarships to eligible students. If your parents or primary guardians are customers of Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, you are eligible to apply. All necessary information including applications are available on our website, www.sussexrec.com. Click on the News & Community Menu, select Youth Programs and get everything you need. Insert YT Nav.jpg here

There are two scholarships available from your electric cooperative. One, the Jody Loudenslager Memorial Scholarship is for previous Youth Tour participants - you know who you are. The other, the Matson Scholarship, is available to any child or ward of a Sussex REC member.

Applications are available online and are due by May 10, 2010. Please be sure to take advantage of these great scholarship opportunities!

Your Cooperative's Offerings...

Standby Generators

Protect your property and your loved ones with an Onan-Cummins generator from SREC Resources. We can tailor a whole house solution to meet your needs and your budget. Our Onan-Cummins 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 1 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!

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.

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 furnace 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.

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.

Security 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, send 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

Security 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)

- Emergency & 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
- Security Lights
- e-Bill and Bank Drafts

NJ Clean Energy Programs are Available to You for a Limited Time

By Tom Tate

RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



As mentioned in the January Currents, stimulus dollars allocated to the State of New Jersey make it possible for SREC and electric municipality customers to access select NJ Clean Energy programs. However, the dollars are limited and the programs are open only as long as the money lasts. So, if you are interested, act soon.

The Solutions page on our web site links to various other web pages where you can get all the information you want. If you want to go right to the source, surf to www.njcleanenergy.com. In the meantime, Here's a paper copy to help you pick the right program for your needs.

Three of the State's Residential Energy Efficiency Programs are available:

- ✦ Home Performance with ENERGY STAR
- ✦ HVAC Program
- ✦ ENERGY STAR Products Program

Home Performance with ENERGY STAR

Save up to 30% or more on your home energy costs and increase the comfort, safety and durability of your home by working with a contractor who is accredited by the Building Performance Institute, as part of New Jersey's Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program.

How does the program work? It's pretty simple. First, you need to select a certified contractor to perform the energy audit from the list on the State's website. This is called Tier 1. It will cost you \$125.00 which is refundable if you spend at least \$2,000.00 on Tier 3 work. Tier 2 is next where you are eligible for \$1,000.00 of free air sealing work. Finally, you can elect to implement corrective measures identified in the audit. Depending upon the amount you spend and your income, you become eligible for rebates.

As with any contracting process, check references and don't commit if you are uncertain. You can also get multiple quotes for the corrective measures identified.

Heating, Ventilating & Air Conditioning (HVAC) Program

This program is intended for use in emergency replacement situations although it can be used for any HVAC replacement work. For non-emergency needs, use the Home Performance program. Table 1 gives you a brief overview of the rebates.

ENERGY STAR Products Program

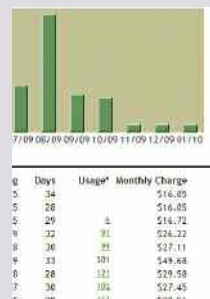
Select appliances are eligible for Energy Star rebates. As of this writing, the incentives are offered through retail distribution so check with your appliance dealer for details. Table 2 lists the eligible appliances and their rebates.

Commercial programs are also available so check the NJ website for more information there. Be sure to avail yourself of these programs while funding is available. For those interested in renewable energy, we are still ineligible for State rebates as Stimulus dollars were not allocated for these programs.

Daily Use *continued from page 1*



You can print the page for reference or click out of the application.



Wait, you say you don't have an e-bill account? You can create one in a couple of minutes. Click on the create an account link and fill in nine fields. The one bit of information you might have to look up is your SREC account number. All ready? Hit

the large, friendly Submit button and your request is processed. Before you can access your data (or pay a bill electronically - have I mentioned what a good idea this is?), you must sign out of the e-bill secure site and refresh your browser (just going to another site and come back to www.sussexrec.com works too). This gives the system time to update. Your data is now at your disposal.

Stay tuned for more news and additional capabilities. The quest is closer to being realized!

Equipment Type	Customer Incentive	Contractor Incentive
Central Air Conditioning or Air to Air Heat Pump (SEER 14.5 & EER 12, 8.5 for heat pumps)	\$200.00	\$200.00
Central Air Conditioning or Air to Air Heat Pump (SEER 15 & EER 12, HSPF 8.5 for heat pumps)	\$300.00	\$200.00
Geothermal Heat Pump - must be ENERGY STAR qualified	\$300.00	\$200.00

Equipment Type	Minimum Efficiency Level for units purchased on or after April 1, 2010.	Customer Rebate
Clothes Washers Rebate	MEF >= 1.8; WF <= 7.5	\$35.00
Dishwashers Rebate (5.8 Gal)	<=324 kWh/year & <= 5.8 gallons per cycle	\$25.00
Dishwashers Rebate (5.0 Gal)	<=307 kWh/year & <= 5.0 gallons per cycle	\$50.00
Refrigerators Rebate (20%)	20% better than Federal standard	\$75.00
Refrigerators Rebate (25%)	25% better than Federal standard	\$100.00
Refrigerators Early Retirement	Retire extra refrigerators early	\$50.00

THE EFFICIENCY OF SPACE HEATERS

By Brian Sloboda, CRN
Introduction by Tom Tate

We are all regaled and entertained with lavish, and often outlandish, claims of energy savings from electric space heating solutions. I have written from time to time about the issue and, on the heels of Winter, thought a refresher might be in order. This story came from our Cooperative Research Network, an excellent source of information that I tap on a regular basis. I tweaked his heating cost example towards the end to reflect our rates. His bottom line? Space heating can help reduce cost when used properly but other measures can save more. And, a final word to the reader, remember that a \$400 1,500-watt heater is no more efficient than a \$50 1,500-watt heater. So, when shopping for one, save some money and buy the less expensive model.

Space heaters are small, versatile, and generally good at warming a room, and many people consider purchasing one at some time or another. However, some manufacturers claim that their electric space heater can cut a home's heating bill significantly. Do these claims hold up?

Some basic facts about space heaters will help you get at the truth of the matter. Space heaters work best as a supplement to a furnace or heat pump—they rarely are used as the primary heating source. Three main types of space heaters are available: radiant heaters, convection heaters, and combination heaters. These usually can be purchased for \$30 to \$100.

Radiant Heaters

A radiant heater heats objects and people—not the air—in a room. Their best use is in rooms where those who want to be warmed are in the direct line of sight of the heater. Radiant heaters can be a good choice if you are in a room for a short period of time and want instant heat. They can pose a burn or fire risk, however, and should not be placed near furniture, drapery, pets, or small children.

Convection Heaters

Convection heaters are designed to heat the air—not people or objects—in a room. Hot air from the convection heater rises to the ceiling and forces cooler air to the floor. The cooler air is warmed by the heater and rises to the ceiling, creating a cycle that continues as long as the heater is on. These typically are either baseboard or oil- or water-filled heaters. The oil- or water-filled heaters

are the most efficient types and often look like a small radiator. These units generally become warm to the touch and, compared to a radiant heater, have a decreased fire and burn risk.

Combination Heaters

As the name implies, combination heaters try to merge the best features of the radiant and convection heaters. They often have an internal fan that aids in distributing heat throughout the room. These heaters are versatile. But they typically do not perform as well as radiant or convection heaters.

Before purchasing a space heater, you should determine how and where it will be used, and whether a radiant, convection, or combination heater will do the job best. Combination units are versatile, but you will more likely get better performance from a radiant or convection heater. Use a radiant heater if you want heat instantly and will stay in one spot. If you need to warm an entire room, a convection heater should do the trick.

So can using a space heater cut your home heating bill? Maybe. Most space heaters use between 600 and 1,500 watts of electricity. A homeowner using a 1,500 watt space heater 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, for a month (20 days), would spend \$26.88 for this additional electricity (using the Sussex Rural Electric residential rate). However,

Smart Grid *continued from page 1*

you are not an e-bill user, you'll need to set up an account. While you do not have to pay your bill electronically to access the data, it's a good time to consider the benefits of doing just that. It is safe, secure and efficient. And since you are online to check use and be more efficient, take the payment efficiency step too. Not only does electronic bill payment save you time and effort, it also reduces the cost to the cooperative when you pay with our system. Check the High Voltage sidebar for the details on how to set up your account, access your data and start being energy smart(er) today.

Your cooperative is making the smart grid a reality for its members today. And we will continue to make those investments that support our objective of providing the highest possible quality at the lowest possible cost.

space heaters can heat only a small space. You can save significantly if you use the space heater in this way: turn the thermostat of your central heating system down considerably (as low as 50 degrees in some cases). Place the space heater in a room occupied by people and close that room off from the rest of the home. This method of "zone heating" will save money.

Space heaters do have their place in warming a house, but they simply cannot replace energy-efficient central heating or weatherization improvements to the home. For example, all electric space heaters produce 1 unit of heat for every 1 unit of electricity consumed; in other words, they are 100% energy efficient. Those that use natural gas are 80% efficient. In comparison, geothermal heat pumps can produce more than 3 units of heat for every unit of electricity consumed, making them 300% efficient.

As with any technology, before purchasing a space heater, you should understand how the device is used, as well as the energy claims of the manufacturer. While it may be technically possible to cut your heating bill by 50% using a space heater, it is impractical for most people.

Brian Sloboda is a program manager specializing in energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The Cooperative Research Network monitors, evaluates, and applies technologies that help electric cooperatives control costs, increase productivity, and enhance service to their consumers.

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After Hours: 877.504.6463

SIDEBAR: Before You Buy

Before buying a space heater, it will be beneficial to take some easy and inexpensive energy-saving measures in your home. Any of these could solve your heating problems without any additional heating equipment:

- ▣ Add caulk and weather stripping around doors and windows
- ▣ Add insulation to attics and exposed walls
- ▣ Clean or replace furnace filters
- ▣ Move furniture or obstacles away from heat registers
- ▣ Insulate duct work
- ▣ Close blinds or curtains at night