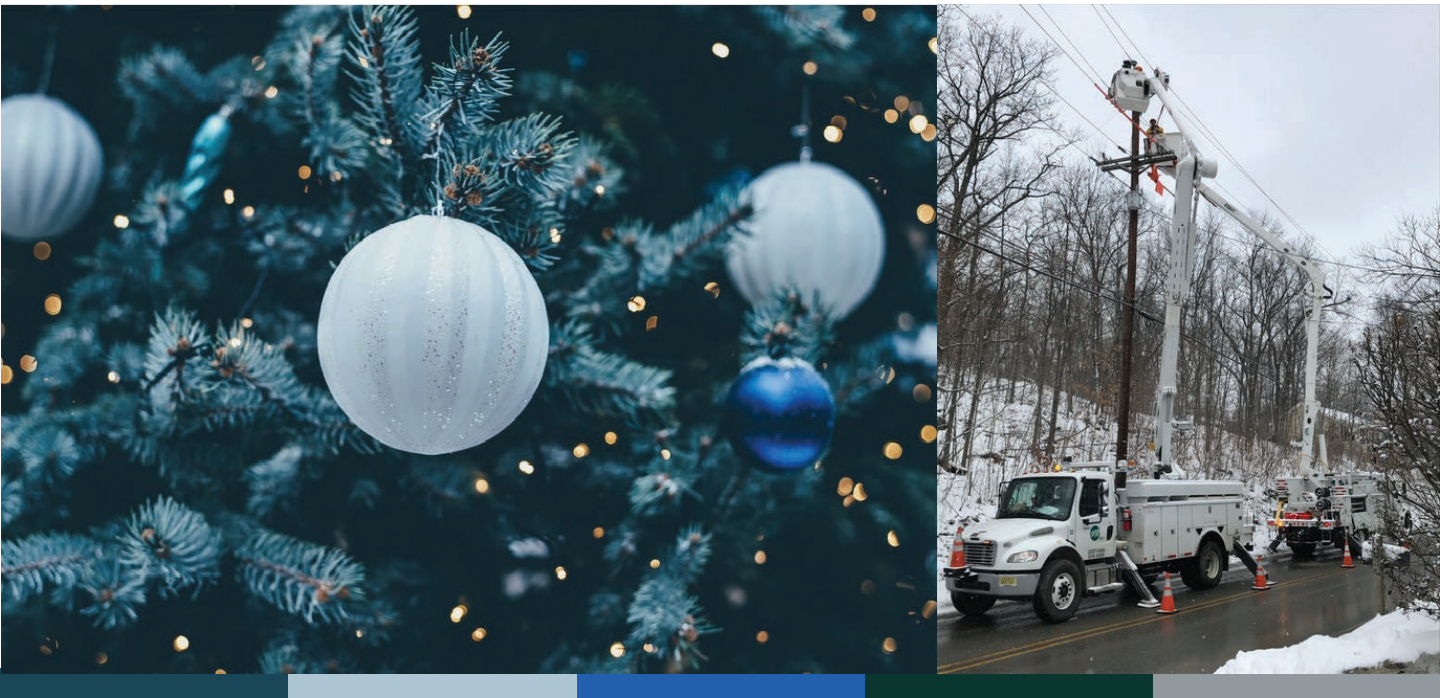


Currents

64 County Route 639, Sussex, NJ 07461 . p: 973.875.5101 . f: 973.875.4114

December 2019

www.sussexrec.com



The Spirit of Giving

We're caught up in the midst of the holiday season, a time that will ideally play out like one of those Hallmark holiday movies. But I'm sure we've all experienced how hectic this time of year can become when your focus is drawn toward travel plans, cooking elaborate meals, figuring out last minute gifts (why do I always wait?!), and the million other things that tend to pile up when December rolls around.

When everything falls into place, however, it truly is a wonderful time

of year. As stressful as holiday shopping can be (again, why must I always wait until the last minute?!), there is something special about finding the perfect gift for those you love most. It may seem cliché, but this "spirit of giving" really is what gives a reason to the season.

This same kind of spirit of giving is something that motivates all of us at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, during the holiday season and beyond. One of our core values is "Concern for Community," which

By: Chris Reese, President & CEO
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drives us to give back to and support our community however possible. Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative has a long history of doing just this, participating in donation drives for local charities, sponsoring businesses and youth sports teams, and offering a variety of educational programs for local schools to take advantage of.

The Spirit of Giving

>> CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

In 2019 we introduced an Employee Directed Giving program which puts the power to decide which community organization the Cooperative will support in our employees' hands. Sussex Rural is a utility that has always been intrinsically tied to this community. We were founded by and for members of this community over 80 years ago, and today we are staffed and managed by community members who are uniquely positioned to understand the needs of Sussex County.

“At Sussex Rural, the spirit of giving is something that motivates us all year, not just around the holidays.”

This new program gives our individual employees the opportunity to express that understanding of the community's needs while embracing the ability to give back. For the first time this year, employees had the option to donate one dollar of each weekly paycheck to their choice of one of many great 501(c)(3) charities in our community. The Cooperative would then not just match each employee's contribution, but bring the total donation up to an even \$250.

Through the Employee Directed Giving program, 24 of our employees were able to lend their support to some important causes. The following local organizations benefitted from this program: The Summer Blossoms 4H Club, Cycle for Survival, the Beemerville Fire Department, Father John's Animal House, Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice, One Step Closer Animal Rescue, the Wantage Animal Shelter, the Avian Wildlife Center, the Sussex Fire Department, American Legion Post 0213, High Point Regional High School, Sussex Help Center Inc., Family Promise of Sussex County, and the SCARC Foundation.

These are all fantastic organizations that do a lot of good for Sussex County. I am incredibly proud of these employees for opting to participate. Notably, members of our Engineering Department chose to coordinate their donations to go to SCARC, leading to SCARC receiving a total donation of \$1,500 from Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative's employees.

At Sussex Rural, the spirit of giving is something that motivates us all year, not just around the holidays. We highly encourage all of our members, if they are able, to support great local charities like these. Even if a monetary donation may not work for you, there are other ways to give back. We host a year-round food collection drive at our office for the Division of Social Services, as well as other charity collection drives throughout the year. If you're passing by our office, please consider making a contribution. Together, we can all make our community a better place.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and all the employees of Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, a very Happy New Year, and a fantastic season of giving!

Chris



To all our members: good news! You're on Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative's Christmas list this year (and every year)! As mentioned in last month's Currents, capital credit checks are set to be mailed out in the beginning of December. We'll be retiring \$400,000 from the years of 1999-2003 and \$400,000 from 2018. If you lived on our lines during any of those years, you can expect a gift from the Co-op very soon! Happy Holidays!



Youth Tour Opens Doors

By: Steve Sokolowski, Marketing Associate
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Youth Tour is an opportunity for high school juniors to take a free, weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., meet their elected officials, and bond with their fellow NJ Youth Tour students as well as students from over 45 other states.

It sounds fun, but did you know there are a lot of other perks to Youth Tour? In fact, participating in Youth Tour can be a great opportunity for building prospects for your child's future. Here are just some of the great things that can come from an experience with Youth Tour:

Scholarship Opportunities

SREC proudly offers several scholarships for local students bound for college or trade school. We also offer scholarships that Youth Tour alumni are uniquely eligible for! Each year, the Jody Loudenslager Scholarship offers \$1,000 to two PA/NJ Youth Tour alumni. There's also the Glenn English National Leadership Foundation Scholarship, which offers one \$10,000 scholarship and four \$1,000 scholarships to Youth Tour alumni from across the nation. Both scholarships can be awarded for any year of college or graduate school and can be awarded to the same students for multiple years of schooling. For more on our scholarship offerings, visit www.sussexrec.com/scholarships.

Professional Development and Networking

The Youth Tour experience has proven to leave a lasting impact on many Youth Tour alumni, extending past school and into their careers. Some move on to internships with their local co-ops or with our cooperative partners like the Cooperative Finance Corporation or the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Others develop an interest in our democracy, finding jobs with political offices and working with their representatives. Youth Tour is a great way to expand a student's prospects and passions. Even if your child does not follow these paths, Youth Tour opens up amazing networking opportunities among the group of 1,800 students who visit our nation's capital together. The long list of Youth Tour alumni over the decades includes senators and CEOs, even Apple CEO Tim Cook. You never know what kind of connections they'll make on the trip!

Youth Leadership Council - Great for College Applications and Resumes!

In addition to the great career opportunities the future may hold for Youth Tour alumni, each year one student from every state is selected to represent their state's co-ops as its Youth Leadership Council (YLC) student. Because SREC is the only electric cooperative in New Jersey, one student from our group is guaranteed to be selected as New Jersey's YLC student. YLC students have the opportunity to practice their leadership and public speaking skills at the NRECA Youth Leadership Conference. And of course, involvement with a program like this is a great addition to college applications and resumes!

All these reasons, along with the simple fact that Youth Tour is a valuable experience that any teenager would be lucky to participate in, should convince parents that Youth Tour is a worthwhile endeavor. As a member, your children are eligible to attend Youth Tour if they're a high school junior attending High Point Regional High School, Sussex County Technical School, Wallkill Valley Regional High School, Vernon Township High School, Pope John XXIII High School, or Veritas Christian Academy, or is homeschooled. If you know your child would be interested in participating in Youth Tour, or know another high school junior who would be, make sure to encourage them to apply at www.njyouthtour.com!



YOUTH TOUR 2020

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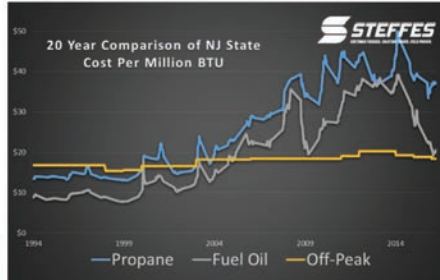


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For more information go to www.sussexrec.com or call 973.875.5101



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ALREADY DRIVE AN EV? FILL OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE!

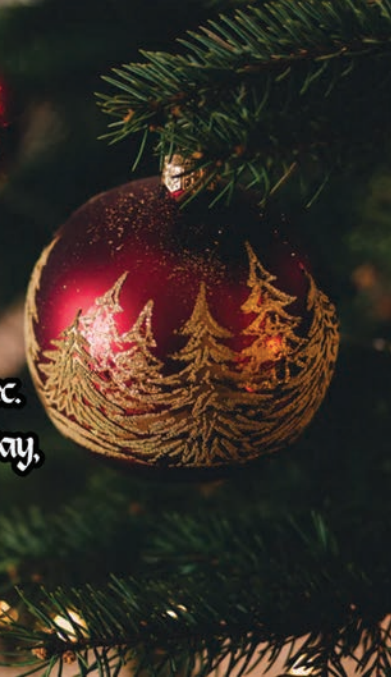


www.sussexrec.com/electric-vehicles

We at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative wish you and your family a happy holiday season

Our office will be closed on Tuesday, Dec. 24, Wednesday, Dec. 25, and Wednesday, Jan. 1 in observance of the holidays

In case of an outage or emergency, call 877-504-6463



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: energy.gov



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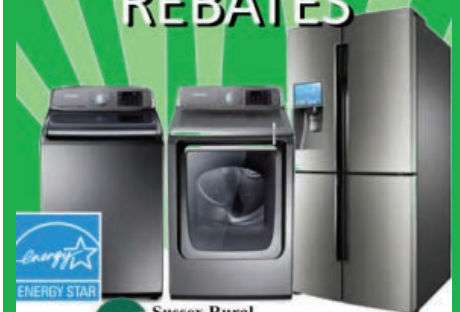
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