



**Sussex Rural
Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



P1 / ETS

P3 / Medical Alert

P3 / Scholarships

P4 / #Monday Money Savers

Currents

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

February 2019

www.sussexrec.com

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative was recently featured in a New Jersey Herald article regarding a new high school internship program SREC developed with High Point Regional High School. High Point senior, Nick Thomas, an aspiring engineer and SREC's Youth Tour Youth Leadership Student, spent three months with different SREC employees learning about staking, surveying, mechanical engineering, and the calculations involved with pole installation. The project culminated in Nick witnessing the project come to fruition with the setting of a new pole, as pictured in the background. SREC hopes to replicate this program and continue to work within our community to help establish vocational experiences available to our students. Pictured (from left): SREC Director of Engineering & Operations, Chuck Pike, Nick Thomas, HPRHS board member Deborah Anderson, and HPRHS Curriculum Director Seamus Campbell.



ETS Home Heating

If you are a loyal reader of Currents (and honestly, who isn't?) or have spent time browsing through our website, you may be at least passingly familiar with Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) heating. What you may not know is that ETS Home Heating is one of the most enduring programs we offer

our members, and one that has been a source of pride and excitement for us at Sussex Rural Electric as it has expanded and evolved since its introduction in 1991.

For those of you unfamiliar with ETS, I will give a brief rundown. ETS can

By: Chris Reese, President & CEO
contactthecoo@sussexrec.com



be described as a "thermos-like" furnace or heater, a system that allows heat to be stored until it is needed later. Whether it's a room unit or a furnace, once installed, ETS can significantly reduce the money a household spends monthly on heating*, all by taking advantage of off-peak billing hours. >> CONT. PAGE TWO

"...ETS can significantly reduce the money a household spends monthly on heating*..."

ETS

>> CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

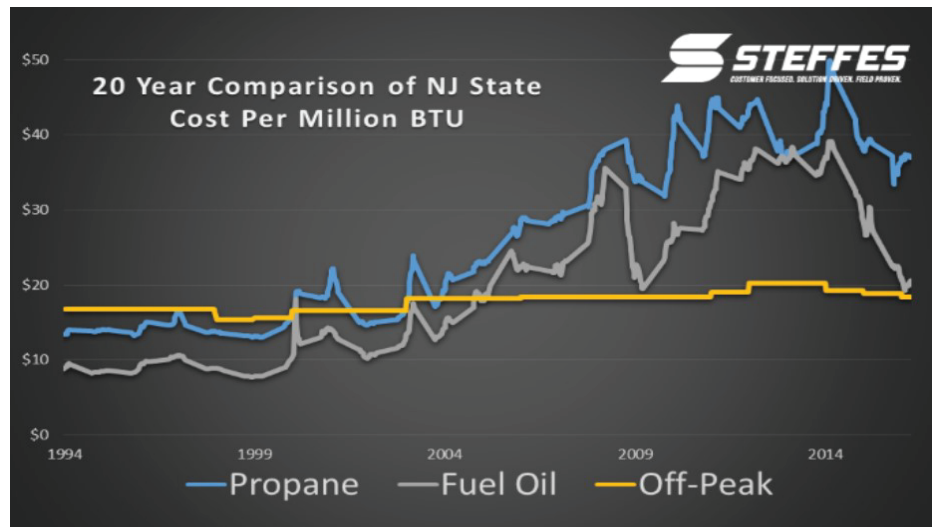
Typical peak hours for the heating season (mid-September to mid-May) are Monday - Friday, 7:00 AM - 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM. From mid-May to mid-September, the hours are noon – 7:00 PM. These hours are when our system's demand for electricity is highest, so ETS automatically charges itself outside these times, when the regular demand falls off.

That's the "magic" of ETS: heat is generated when we can provide electricity at cheaper rates (6.4 cents/kWH vs. the usual 10.9 cents/kWH), and is stored inside heat-retentive bricks in the core of the system. This heat is then released during the day to heat your home via your existing hot water baseboard system or forced-air duct system, without the cost of heating at regular rates.

The first Currents article on ETS was published way back in Volume 1, Issue 4 of the newsletter, in August of 1998. At that point, we had installed ETS room units in 68 homes, totaling 1,011 kW of power. Now, over 20 years later, these numbers have risen to 246 homes, totaling 5,819 kW.

I am very proud to say I live in one of those ETS homes. I installed my ETS furnace right before the "polar vortex" winter of early 2014, when heating oil was selling at close to \$4.00/gallon. At those costs, I estimate that I saved over \$1,500 that winter alone! Now I'm going into my fifth winter with ETS heat and I truly love this system. Besides the cost savings (and with heating oil at lower prices these days it's certainly not \$1,500 each year),

what I like most is that I don't have to look ahead at the weather forecast, wondering when the next cold spell is coming, if my oil tank needs to be filled, what the oil price is, and who selling the cheapest oil. I don't have to ration and ask everyone in the house to wear sweatshirts and extra blankets because I was hoping to go another week before oil prices were predicted to drop. Look at this graph of heating oil and propane prices vs. our ETS electric rate. I'm all for riding great roller coasters, but I don't like roller coaster prices:



Sussex REC's ETS heat rate has barely moved in 20 years! With ETS, I don't have to stomach the big price swings and try and time my tank fills around them. I can honestly say we actually keep the house a little warmer now. Plus, no more diesel smell, no more annual furnace service bill, and no more worry of having an oil storage tank. Plus, I was able to finance the installation for 5 years at 0% interest, knowing SussexREC installs these systems at cost with no markup. That's much better than the thrill of a roller coaster ride!

Your cooperative has put a lot of effort into spreading the word about ETS. In

June of 2018, we introduced the ETS Refer-A-Friend Program. In addition to the standard \$1,000 rebate offered with all new installations of ETS, purchasing an ETS system based on a friend's referral will earn both you and the person who referred you a \$150 bill credit. Seven new ETS systems have been installed under this program and we're happy to say this has had a chain effect, spreading the word of the money saving magic of ETS to even more people.

While the benefits of ETS speak for themselves, we know the value of hearing recommendations from trusted peers within the community. If you are curious about ETS and know someone who has a model installed in their home, please reach out and learn how it has benefited them. And if you currently have ETS, let your friends know. It can end up saving you both money.

* Household's saving percentage based on home's heating bill and current price of heating oil or propane

Medical Alert

By: Claudia Raffay
Manager of Marketing & Member Services
craffay@sussexrec.com




Power outages often occur at the most inopportune times, which is why it is always smart to prepare!

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative maintains a Medical Alert Listing of members that require the use of life-sustaining medical equipment. Medical Alert status simply means that members will be notified with reasonable notice before intentional or planned disruption of service to allow them time to secure back-up power for their medically essential equipment or make alternate arrangements.

Emergency power failures due to natural causes and system problems cannot be predicted, so customers on the Medical Alert program cannot receive prior notification when this occurs. In these instances, it is the member's responsibility to have a back-up system in place to power their essential medical equipment as well as to have an action plan for proceeding to the nearest medical facility.

Medical Alert status does not guarantee an uninterrupted, regular, continuous power supply, or faster restoration of power in the event of an unplanned outage. It also does not waive responsibility for payment of your account. If electricity is a necessity, you must make arrangements for on-site back-up capabilities or other alternatives in the event of loss of electric service.

We are currently updating our records and a letter has been sent to members currently on the Medical Alert list for confirmation. If you or a member of your family should be included on our Medical Alert list, please contact our office at 973-875-5101.



A variety of scholarships are available to students who reside in Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative territory 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 students as members of Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative.

NEW IN '19 - Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative announces it will award two scholarships for high school seniors seeking trade school education

The reality is, not every student wants to go on to college. This is not a choice that should be met with judgement from parents, teachers, and peers. Not every CEO went to college and no mortarboard or degree guarantees a big bank account. Some high school graduates seek job training or a technical school education that places them in the workforce and opens their future up to very lucrative jobs in the trades. Unfortunately, students seeking technical, trade, and vocational school educations do not always have a lot of opportunities for financial aid and scholarships. Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative announces a new scholarship program for high school seniors seeking to pursue trade school education.

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative will present two \$1,000.00 scholarships to high school seniors seeking any trade school program or certification. High school seniors who reside in a home receiving electric service from Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative are eligible to apply for the scholarship at sussexrec.com. Scholarship applications must be received by March 15, 2019.



It's not magic, it's ETS Heat!

The "magic" of the cost effectiveness of
Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) is the ability to store heat during
off-peak billing hours for use during higher priced on-peak billing hours.

An ETS furnace offers several distinct advantages:

- ⇒ No oil tanks or fuel deliveries to worry about.
- ⇒ No wide price fluctuations that make budgeting difficult.
- ⇒ No burners to maintain or fumes to vent.
- ⇒ Quieter operation—practically no sound.

A variety of furnace sizes are available to fit your
home ranging from 19.2kW—45.6kW.

For more information go to

www.sussexrec.com or call us at 973.875.5101



ETS Furnace
(cutaway view)



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: energy.gov



CURRENTS is published monthly by
Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative
64 County Route 639 p: 973.875.5101
Sussex, NJ 07461 f: 973.875.4114
website: www.sussexrec.com
email: currents@sussexrec.com

Board of Directors

Chairman.....Jack S. Haggerty Jr.
Vice Chairman.....William Kovach
Sec/Treasurer.....Raymond Cordts
Barbara Miller Thomas Madsen
Ronald Dupont Brad Sparta
Richard Wetzel Michael Hopkins
President & CEO: Christopher P. Reese

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.



- Carry all of a typical home's load.
- Automatic transfer for worry free operation day or night.
- Very quiet, neighbor-friendly.
- Commercial quality construction for years of dependable service.
- Propane or natural gas fuel options.
- Support you can count on: 24 hours a day – 7 days a week



generators@sussexrec.com

973-875-1365



**SREC
RESOURCES, INC.**

64 COUNTY ROUTE 639 SUSSEX NJ 07461 NJ LICENSED ELEC CONTRACTOR # 15375A
A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF SUSSEX RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**Cummins
Generators
starting at
\$7,250.00 installed**

**Prefer the
inbox over
the mailbox?**

Choose your option and
sign up today to go
paperless!



www.sussexrec.com

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative is proud to announce the beginning of our #MondayMoneySavers program. This initiative is aimed at using social media to promote energy efficiency and spread awareness of ways members can reduce their monthly electric bills.

Like the name implies, every Monday throughout 2019 a new money saving tip will be posted on SREC's social media pages. We encourage you to share these useful posts with family and friends.

If you haven't already liked us on Facebook (@sussexrec.com) or followed us on Twitter (@SussexREC), now is the time to do so! You don't want to miss out on these easy-to-follow tips designed to protect your wallet!

