



Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

CURRENTS

How can we better serve you in 2018?

By Chris Reese

contactthecoo@sussexrec.com

It's amazing what we learn through listening and observation.

New products and services are more likely to gain the satisfaction of consumers when their introduction follows market research.

Here at Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, we will be providing our members with an app for phones and tablets, enabling you to check the status of your electric bill, and also receive updates on your energy use. Currently, this technology is available on the mobile version of our website, but watch our future Currents issues for when the SREC app can be downloaded from the Apple and Google Play stores.

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative members can use the app to conduct routine business with us, like making online bill payments and viewing real-time outage updates. These mobile services are just new ways of connecting with us, like the member services representatives you reach when you call us, or greet you from behind the counters at our office. They help us achieve part of our mission — the highest quality of service.

One of our goals is to find ways to help you control energy costs. That's why we communicate with you about energy prices and ways we can work together to help ease the burdens on your wallet.

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative also offers a ["Beat the Peak"](#) program designed to help avoid high-cost energy by reducing overall demand during peak use periods. Signing up your water heater or central air conditioner will give you a bill credit every month. You will also qualify for a \$100 or \$50 one-time bill credit for signing up. If you haven't signed up, ask us about it—we're ready to listen!

Listening improves understanding, builds trust, strengthens relationships and fosters cooperation. It's also crucial to collaboration and success.

So, how will we serve you better in 2018? The same way many of us try to serve community, society and family better, each day—by listening. In our offices, on telephones, through social media exchanges and in our face-to-face meetings, we're ready to listen.

When you have questions about energy efficiency, your electrical service or any of our products or services, please, just ask us. When we know just what you want, we're in a better position to deliver successful results. So, whether you drop in and see us, or connect with us on [Facebook](#), we're always glad to hear from you!

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year!



JANUARY 2018

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CURRENTS

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Building the next generation of

LEADERS

Whether it's teaching grade-schoolers about energy efficiency, sending teens to Washington, D.C. for [Youth Tour](#), or sending graduates off to college with a scholarship, Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative is actively helping to build the next generation of community leaders.



Attention High School Juniors

★ *We Want You!* ★



Youth Tour 2018

June 9-15, 2018

More than 1,700 students from 43 states all across America take part in the Youth Tour experience each year, and so can you! Travel to Washington, D.C., where you will meet your U.S. Representatives and Senators. This unique trip will give you the opportunity to watch history come alive as you explore the museums, memorials and monuments with students from New Jersey and Pennsylvania. You will meet student leaders from nearly every state and hear dynamic leaders on Youth Day. Bottom line, you will make friendships that will 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. Three Juniors will be chosen by Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative for a trip of a lifetime to Washington, DC.

Apply now at www.sussexrec.com. All applications and required information must be received no later than February 2, 2018. Finalists will be sent a follow-up questionnaire that must be returned by February 19, 2018. Youth Tour participants will be announced on March 2, 2018.



Tree Trimming On The Line

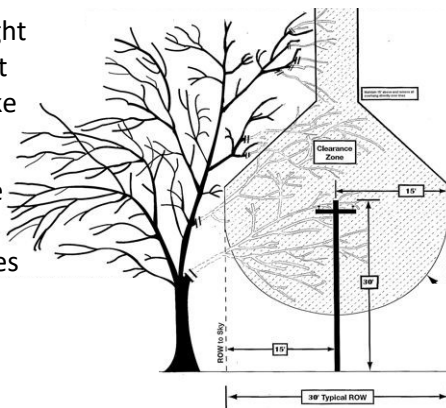
By Claudia Raffay

We have been receiving phone calls in the office regarding tree trimming and I wanted to pass on some information from a recent territory tour I took with our tree trimming contractors, Asplundh Tree Experts, Inc.

Our service territory is trimmed every four years in cycles. When they trim a tree they take many factors into consideration; the type of tree, the growth rate of the tree, the type of service wires in the vicinity, etc. Along with all this, they have to maintain OSHA and ANSI standards which strictly mandate how much a tree can be trimmed before it is taken down.

The image on the right illustrates what most mature trees look like after pruning.

Tree trimming is one of the many ways your cooperative uses to prevent outages.



The Cost of Providing Power

By Claudia Raffay

The Facility Charge on your electric bill is a charge that every Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative member pays to help cover the basic cost of bringing electricity to their specific location. This charge covers such things as the utility poles, wire, transformers, trucks, tree-trimming, and other equipment needed to build and maintain the electric distribution system. It also covers the labor to build and maintain the lines, the cost of insurance, interest, and taxes. These are expenses the cooperative must pay, regardless of how much electricity each member uses.

All co-op members benefit from having electrical power available any time they need it. A facility charge also ensures that every member pays a fair portion of the co-op's basic costs to make that electricity available and delivered to the member. SREC serves a diverse membership. Some of our members use a lot of electricity all year long, and some may use electricity for just short periods of time each year. Some may even use electricity only at night or on days when there is no sunshine. Whether you use a lot or a little, for a few days or every day of the year, the cost to get the electricity to your home is the same. That's why your residential electric bill has two constant charges: the facility charge for the basic costs, and the per kWh (energy) charge for the actual amount of electricity used.

After careful review of the cost of service, the management and Board of Directors have determined that the current residential facility charge is no longer effectively covering the cost of service due to rising costs of equipment and labor. Beginning with the bill you receive in January, it will increase by \$2.00 each month. At the same time, however, an adjustment has been made to the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) charge on your bill due to lower than budgeted purchased power costs in 2017. Also beginning with the January bill, this PCA will be changing from a flat \$0.00 to an actual credit of -\$0.0021945 per KWH. For the average residential member this will result in a credit of about \$2.00, which should effectively negate the facility charge increase for 2018.

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit www.ArborDay.org.

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Oak
- Spruce
- Pine
- Birch
- Sweetgum
- Linden

MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

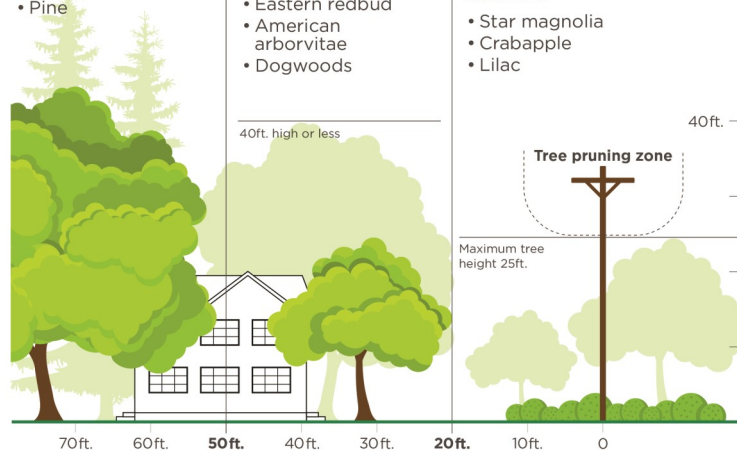
- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenrain tree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



It's not magic, it's Electric Thermal Storage Heating

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.

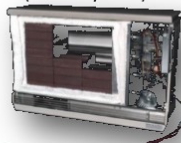
An ETS furnace offers several distinct advantages:

- ⇒ 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 available ranging from 19.2kW—45.6kW.

For more information go to www.sussexrec.com or give us a call at 973.875.5101

ETS Room Unit
(cutawayview)



ETS Furnace
(cutaway)



MADE IN THE
USA



Prefer the inbox over the mailbox?

Choose your option and
sign up today to go
paperless!



www.sussexrec.com

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for an easy way to make your home cozier? Try using an area rug to increase the insulation levels of your floors. Area rugs are stylish and can keep cool air from entering through your floors. Your toes will thank you!



Lightning was powering through the clouds outside. Thanks to your planning, their story time, and life as you know it, continued inside.



Cummins Connect Series
home standby generators

Safeguard against power line failure with a Cummins standby generator. Call your authorized Cummins dealer today so you are prepared for when the next storm arrives.

Powering your life.



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RESOURCES, INC.**

RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL GENERATORS

NJ Licensed Electrical Contractor #15375A

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Breaking News...

Congratulations to Michael Hopkins on his appointment to the Board of Directors, filling the vacant seat of Robert Untig.

Michael is a dentist, a real estate developer, and a BMW motorcycle retailer. He has served as Branchville Rotary President, and on the Frankford Park Commission, along with the Baseball and Basketball Boards.



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We're Proud to Power YOU.

Local, Safe, Reliable Electricity.
For all the ways
you live.

