



Currents

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

November 2019

www.sussexrec.com



Our Way of Saying "Thank You"

2019 has been a whirlwind of a year. It feels like only yesterday we were ringing in the New Year, but now we're already in November with Thanksgiving approaching fast. For some, like me, this is a chance to indulge in turkey dinners, football, and... leftovers and more football. These are all wonderful, but I think we should also all agree that this time of year is for being thankful, gathering with family and friends, and reflecting on what's truly important.

At the Cooperative, we express our

thankfulness to our members in many ways. From the moment this Cooperative was founded 82 years ago, its mission was to provide our members with the highest quality of service at the lowest possible cost. Created by the members, for the members, our not-for-profit nature allows us to focus on meeting the needs of our community instead of putting money in the pockets of investors.

In fact, the profits that we do make end up being returned to each member as capital credits. You

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



could say that capital credits are the most direct way that we express to our members how thankful we are to them for this relationship we're able to maintain.

This year, we will be retiring a total of \$800,000 to members both old and new, past and present. Half of the capital credit retirements this year will come from the years of 1999-2002 plus some of 2003,

Our Way of Saying "Thank You"

>> CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

while the other \$400,000 will come just from 2018. Whether you just moved into a house on Co-op lines last year or your home has been powered by SREC for three decades, we want the end of the year to bring with it a small reward for using our service.

If you aren't clear on what exactly capital credits are, we are always happy to explain because it is one of the most distinguishing differences between our business model and that of other utilities. Unlike investor-owned utilities which provide electric service for a profit, Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative is a member-owned organization that returns profits, called "margins" in the cooperative business, back to its members. We hold onto these margins and reinvest them toward improving and expanding our electric system and meeting our other capital needs, all while recording how much in capital credits each individual member is owed for their contributions to the Co-op in a given calendar year.

Our board of directors evaluates the financial state of the Cooperative and, when it's financially prudent for the Co-op, we officially retire capital credits and send them out to our members. Previously, these were applied to current members' accounts as bill credits but, as of last year, we have begun sending physical checks to our members' homes. This is our way of saying "Thank you" for your membership and your support of the Cooperative.

You can expect your capital credit check to make its way to you in the beginning of December, after we've all hopefully recovered from the Thanksgiving holiday. We at the Co-op will never let go of that spirit of thankfulness, which we believe should last all year rather than being contained to a short time in November.

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative's employees never lose sight of what powers us - the members that we work so hard to

serve. So this Thanksgiving and beyond, please savor your time with your loved ones, enjoy a nice meal (with hopefully many leftovers), and take stock of what it is that you're most thankful for. At Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, we're most thankful for you. Happy Thanksgiving!

Chin

Families now comprise 35% of the homeless population. One out of every five people who is homeless is a child.
-according to the Family Promise of Sussex County Website

Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative is once again collecting toys for the children of Sussex County who have or will experience homelessness this holiday season. In an effort to *Shine a Light* on this issue, SREC will give LED lightbulbs to anyone who participates in this worthy cause.

Family promise is collecting toys and gift cards for children ages 1 through 19. They are also collecting adult hats, gloves and coats. Bring a new, unwrapped item to our office before November 27th to receive your free LED lightbulbs.

 **Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

 **Family Promise of Sussex County**

SREC in the Community



SREC's Engineering & Operations department donated \$1,500 to SCARC as part of our Employee Directed Giving Program



For National Voter Registration Day, SREC helped Youth Leadership Council student Caroline Reese set up a voter registration booth at High Point Regional High School



SREC had a table at Wantage Day, complete with a model bucket and utility pole backdrop so attendees young and old could feel like a lineman



At PREA's Communications Institute, SREC's article from June's Currents, "New and Improved," received an honorable mention for the category of "Best News Story."

Embracing New Technology

By: Steve Sokolowski, Marketing Associate
ssokolowski@sussexrec.com

In the energy sector, constant advancements in technology are offering more options for both utilities and consumers. Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative has been able to leverage some of these advancements to secure more reliable and efficient service for our members. SREC is the most technologically advanced utility in the state, thanks to our Outage Management System that integrates technologies like 100% automatic-read electric meters and SCADA, a cutting-edge system to remotely control and manage our power grid. We are always keeping our eyes on new developments in energy and technology and assessing how we can use them for the benefit of our members.

One way we can do this is through strategic partnerships. We recently announced we would be collaborating with Sussex Solar Gardens, LLC in their creation of New

Jersey's first community solar array. Over the years, we have received many calls from members inquiring about rooftop solar installation. While this has not been a service we've ever offered, we've taken note of the large amount of interest from our membership. Sussex Solar Gardens presents an opportunity exclusive to Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative members to take part in solar power without the burden of rooftop solar installation and maintenance. We do not own, operate, or control their solar array, but we will note the kWh generated by each members' panels and offer them an equivalent credit on each month's bill.

We also have our eyes on other types of technology that will inevitably impact how we do business as an electric utility. For instance, we've been interested in electric vehicles, or "EVs," for quite a while. Infrastructure to support EVs locally (i.e. public charging stations) is not particularly developed in rural areas as of yet, but adoption nationwide is growing. In the US last year, there were over 1 million electric cars on the road. As price continues to decrease, electric vehicles will become more accessible and commonplace.

Because we provide the electricity people would need to use to power these vehicles, we want to begin to get a better sense of how EVs have already impacted our membership. For this reason, we've decided to invite members who already own EVs to share with us some details of their experience. At www.sussexrec.com/electric-vehicles, we invite members to fill out a short survey on their experience with EVs so far. If you drive an EV and have a couple of free minutes, we would greatly appreciate your input to help shape our policy for the future. As EVs become more and more widespread, be sure to watch Currents and our social media pages for an announcement about an "EV friendly" rate very soon.

YOUTH TOUR 2020

Youth Tour is a free, week-long trip to Washington, D.C. available to local high school juniors who live in homes powered by Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative.

- ★ Experience the sights of our nation's capital
- ★ Meet and speak with your elected representatives
- ★ Form lasting friendships with your fellow NJ Youth Tour students and students from across the country



Apply at www.njyouthtour.com
Deadline is January 15th



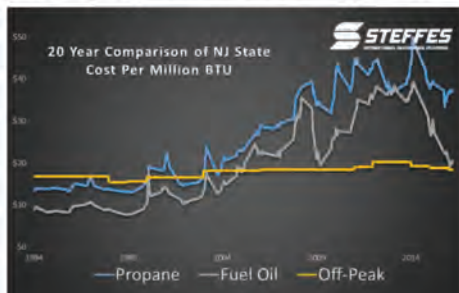


It's not magic, it's Electric Thermal Storage Heating

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.

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 973.875.5101



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
Michael Hopkins Joseph Barca
President & CEO: Christopher P. Reese



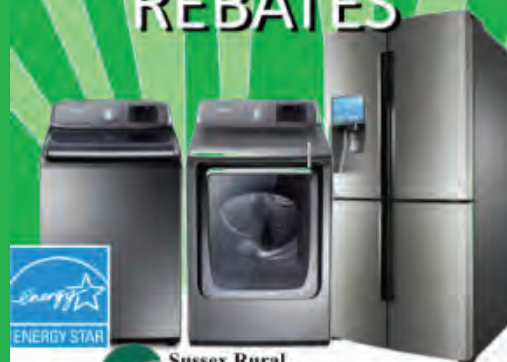
Our office will be closed on
Monday, Nov. 11 in honor
of Veterans Day

We will also be closed on Thursday,
Nov. 28 and Friday, Nov. 29 for
the Thanksgiving holiday



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

APPLIANCE REBATES



Sussex Rural
Electric Cooperative, Inc.
A Touchstone Energy Company

\$50.00 Rebate for Appliances

For a list of eligible appliances, go to
www.njcleanenergy.com

Prefer the inbox
over the mailbox?

Sign up today to go paperless!



www.sussexrec.com

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Trim your holiday energy costs by
choosing energy efficient LED lights!
LED holiday lights use less energy
and can last up to 40 seasons.
They're also easier to install - you can
connect up to 25 LED strings without
overloading a wall socket!

Source: energy.gov



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.



SREC
RESOURCES, INC.

RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL GENERATORS
NJ Licensed Electrical Contractor #15375A

973.875.1365

generators@sussexrec.com

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME REMINDER

Don't forget to fall
back on November 3!
Set your clocks back
by one hour.

