
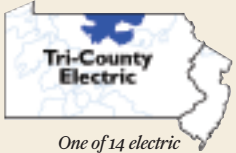


Tri-County
Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric
cooperatives serving
Pennsylvania and
New Jersey

Tri-County REC
22 North Main Street • P.O. Box 526
Mansfield, PA 16933
Mansfield — 570/662-2175
Coudersport — 814/274-8740
Web site:
www.tri-countyrec.com
E-mail:
trico@tri-countyrec.com
For Emergencies Call:
1-800-343-2559

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Gerald A. Kite
Vice Chairman
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STAFF

Annette Bender, Executive Assistant
John Lykens, Director,
Engineering & Operations
Barbara Johnson, Director,
Financial Services
Bryan Berguson, Director,
Member Services

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

GUEST COLUMN

Seeing the light



by Bryan Berguson
Director of Member
Services

THE JOB of every employ-
ee at Tri-County is to pro-
vide you, the member, with
safe, reliable electric service.

In order to deliver elec-
tricity to your home, camp,
or business, we rely on a
diverse and well-trained
workforce. Some employees
build the lines, some read
meters, others make sure the
bills go out to members in a
timely fashion. Those of us

in the member services department are
charged with the task of helping members
get the most out of the electricity they
purchase from Tri-County.

Last April, I wrote a guest column in
this space that outlined the many benefits
of geothermal heating. While I know that
geothermal is the most cost-effective,
energy-efficient, environmentally friendly
heating and air conditioning system you
can install, I also know the market for
geothermal is limited to those who are
replacing existing heating systems or
those building new homes. That's a very
tiny portion of our membership.

On the other hand, installing compact
fluorescent light bulbs, or "CFLs," is
something every member can do to con-
serve energy and reduce electric bills. In
fact, you can expect to save \$40 to \$70 in
energy costs over the life of each compact
fluorescent bulb you install.

CFLs use fluorescent technology to cre-
ate the same amount of light output as
their incandescent cousins while using
about one-fourth the amount of electricity.
CFL bulbs, which can be used in any stan-
dard lighting fixture, should be installed in
areas of your home where the lights are on
the most — living room, family room, din-
ing room, kitchen — in order to maximize
energy savings. They are ideal for that
lamp that is always glowing in the living
room or the light above the kitchen sink
that remains on until bedtime.


In addition to their energy-saving ben-
efits, CFLs generate about 70 percent less
heat than incandescent bulbs, making
them safer to operate. And they can last
up to 10,000 hours — about 13 times
longer than the traditional bulb with an
electric filament.

There have been many improvements
in CFLs over the past few years. Most
brands employ "FastStart" technology,
which allows them to light up immedi-
ately, without the flickering and delay associ-
ated with fluorescent tube lights and earli-
er versions of the CFLs. Today's compact
fluorescent bulbs will also start and oper-
ate in much colder conditions than first-
generation bulbs, so you can use them in
outdoor light fixtures as well.

Prices for compact fluorescent bulbs
are continuing to come down, while avail-
ability is increasing. You can buy a three-
pack of bulbs for as little as \$7.50 at places
like Wal-Mart, Lowe's and Home Depot.
The bulbs are available in a variety of
styles and wattages, too. You can find
CFL floodlights, decorative globes, yellow
bug lights, and daylight spectrum bulbs.

If you would like to see the lighting
output of these various types of compact
fluorescent bulbs, I invite you to visit Tri-
County's Mansfield office and take a look
at our CFL lighting display board, which
features nine different styles and sizes of
CFLs.

And if you have doubts about the ener-
gy-savings benefits being touted by the CFL
manufacturers, we have another display
board in the lobby that should lay them to
rest. This display consists of a strip of four
CFLs and a strip of four incandescent bulbs
that run through separate meters. When
both strips of lights are turned on simulta-
neously, you can easily see that the meter
for the incandescent bulbs spins about four
times faster than the CFL meter.

After viewing these displays, we think
most members will see the light and make
the switch to compact fluorescent bulbs. 

Tri-County awards scholarship

TAMI HEYLER, a sophomore at Mansfield University, has been selected to receive a Claverack/Tri-County Rural Electric Scholarship for the 2006-2007 school year.

Tami is the daughter of Tri-County members John and Sue Heyler of Morris, Pa.

A 2005 graduate of Liberty Junior-Senior High School, Heyler is a music education major, with a violin emphasis. She participates in the university's orchestra and Festival Choir and is a member of the Tau Beta Sigma band sorority.

Heyler also sings in the St. Paul's United Methodist Church choir and performs with the Wellsboro Town Band.

"I would like to thank Tri-County for this award," she said. "I definitely appreciate it, and am honored to have been selected."

Tri-County and its partner cooperative, Claverack REC, jointly endowed the scholarship fund at Mansfield University in January 2000. The first Claverack/Tri-County Scholarship was awarded in 2002.

Any full-time student at Mansfield

University who is a member of Tri-County or Claverack REC, or whose parents are members of either cooperative, is eligible to compete for a scholarship award. Selection is based upon meeting established academic criteria and demonstrating the highest traits of leadership, citizenship, and character.

Scholarship winners receive funds every semester for up to eight semesters, provided they maintain full-time enrollment status at Mansfield University and meet specified scholarship standards.

It is anticipated that two students will be chosen to receive Claverack/Tri-County Rural Electric Scholarships each new academic year. In addition to Heyler, Steve Hakes II of Orwell Township, Bradford County, was named as a co-op scholarship winner for the 2006-2007 school year. His parents, Sheila and Steven Hakes Sr., are members of Claverack REC.

For more information about the scholarship, visit Tri-County's Web site, www.tri-countyrec.com, or contact Bryan Berguson, director of member services, at 1-800-343-2559. ☀



AND THE WINNER IS... Tri-County board chairman Jim Davis (left) and President and CEO Craig Eccher congratulate Tami Heyler of Morris for being selected to receive a Claverack/Tri-County Rural Electric Scholarship award at Mansfield University.

Watch out for utility imposters

LAST SPRING a pair of burglars gained entrance to an elderly couple's home in Susquehanna County by posing as utility employees and made off with several hundred dollars in cash.

Tri-County advises residents to be suspicious of individuals who attempt to get inside your home by stating they work for the cooperative.

Normally, the only Tri-County employees with routine business in your neighborhood are the cooperative's meter readers and servicemen.

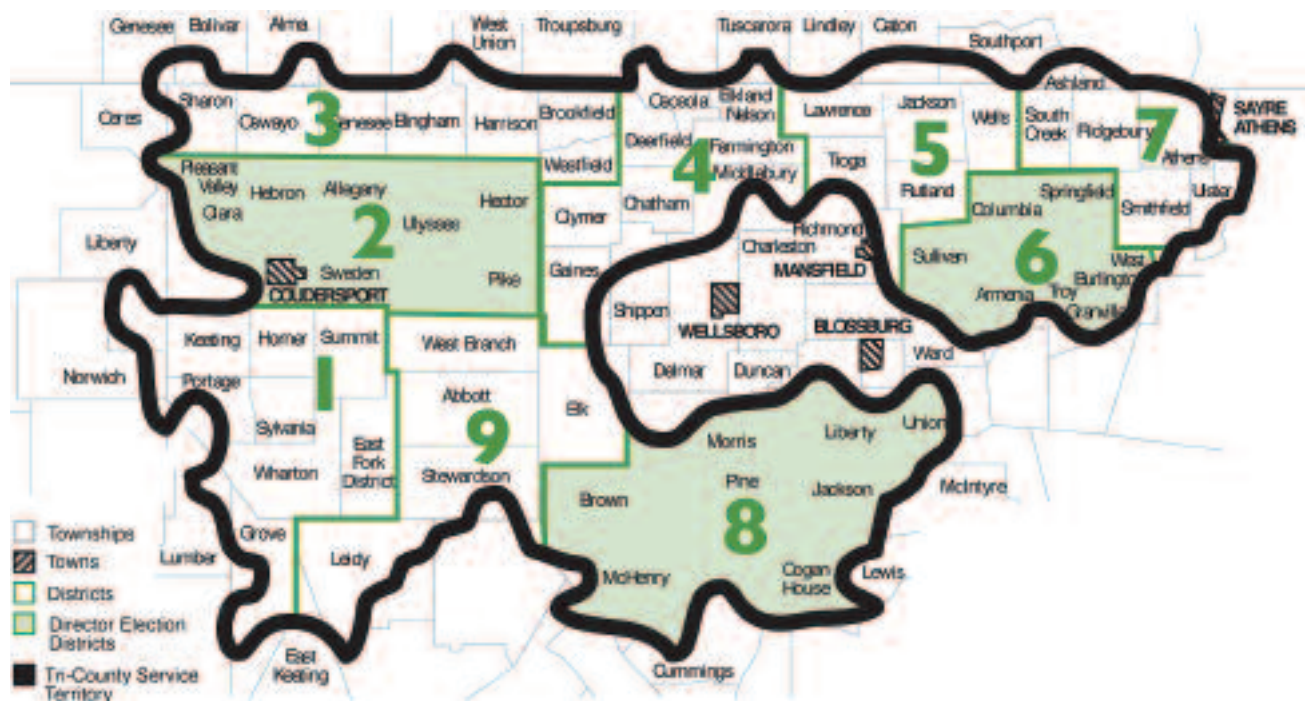
"Tri-County workers do not perform repairs on household wiring systems," says Bryan Berguson, director of member services. "In fact, our employees have instructions not to enter customers' homes unless it is an emergency or for pre-arranged visits for services such as conducting energy audits."

Each Tri-County employee carries a laminated plastic identification card with his or her photograph, signature, and employee identification number. Employees drive vehicles that are clearly marked with Tri-County emblems on the doors.

If someone you do not recognize comes to your door and states he or she is a Tri-County employee, protect yourself by:

- ▶ Asking to see identification.
- ▶ Calling Tri-County at 1-800-343-2559 to verify work and employee identity if there is any doubt.
- ▶ Looking for clearly marked service vehicles.
- ▶ Reporting any suspicious activity to the police. ☀





Official Notice of Director Elections

Candidates Sought For Districts 2, 6, and 8

Election by majority — it's what makes America a democratic nation. It's also one of the hallmarks of membership in a rural electric cooperative.

As a member, you may take an active role in democracy at Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative by running for a seat on the cooperative's board of directors. Or you can exercise your democratic rights by simply voting in your district's election.

During the cooperative's annual meeting each July, a portion of the membership has the opportunity to vote for directors to represent the district in which they reside.

This year, Tri-County will hold director elections for districts 2, 6, and 8, currently served by directors Ferd Irish, Al Calkins, and Don Blackwell, respectively.

If you reside in one of these districts and wish to run for a seat on the board, contact the cooperative's Mansfield office. We will send you a director candidate information packet. It contains the forms and instructions necessary for filing your candidacy.

Duties of a Director

Directors are responsible for developing cooperative policies and long-range plans. They voice members' concerns and make recommendations to Tri-County's management staff.

Nine directors comprise Tri-County's board. Each board member represents a specific area within the utility's service territory, as the map on this page illustrates.

Directors serve three-year terms. Elections take place on a rotating basis, with three of the cooperative's nine districts voting each year. Board members meet regularly at Tri-County's headquarters in Mansfield on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

To be eligible for director candidacy, you must meet the following criteria and all other guidelines listed in the cooperative's bylaws:

- ▶ Receive electrical service from the cooperative at your principal residence.
- ▶ Be a member and a bona-fide resident of the district you seek to represent.

- ▶ Not be in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or business selling electrical appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the cooperative.

Election Procedures

To register as a candidate, you are required to file an official petition and personal statement of qualification for director. Both documents must be submitted to Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 526, 22 N. Main St., Mansfield, PA 16933. The filing deadline is 4 p.m., Friday, April 13, 2007.

For your name to appear on the official ballot, you must secure at least 15 signatures from members of your district.

Remember, joint memberships have only one vote; so husband and wife signatures count as a single signature.

If you have any questions regarding director elections, please direct them to Bryan Berguson, Tri-County's director of member services. You can contact him at 570/662-2175 or 1-800-343-2559.

Remember: Director candidate petitions are due by April 13, 2007. 🗳️

Co-op responds to new energy policy standards

The federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 established several amendments to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA). These amendments include several standards that must be considered by state regulators and certain non-regulated electric utilities, such as electric cooperatives. These standards are: generation interconnection procedures; time-based rates and smart metering; net metering; fossil-fuel generation efficiency; and fuel diversity.

While Tri-County is not required to consider these five PURPA standards due to its level of energy sales, we believe it prudent to inform our members of our response to these standards. A short description of each standard is listed below. All cooperative policies including policies relative to interconnection and net metering can be viewed at the cooperative's main office between normal business hours, Monday through Friday. Copies of these policies are also available upon request. Tri-County members are welcome to submit comments regarding these issues. Member comments will be reviewed by the board of directors.

1. TITLE XII, SUBTITLE E, SEC. 1254: INTERCONNECTION

A. Energy Policy Act of 2005 Standard

- ▶ Requires certain electric utilities to provide interconnection services, on request, to electric consumers with on-site generation. The interconnection must be based on IEEE standard 1547. The state regulatory authority must begin to consider these standards within one year of enactment and must complete consideration within two years. In Pennsylvania, the state regulatory authority is the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

B. Cooperative Response

- ▶ The cooperative initiated a review of its interconnection policies and developed a revised policy on alternate energy production systems that is consistent with the Energy Policy Act requirements. In addition, a supplement to the policy on alternative energy production was revised to accommodate updated safety requirements. The title of the supplement is "Safety & Interconnection Requirements for Alternate Energy Production." The cooperative proposes to implement this standard as set forth in these policies.

2. TITLE XII, SUBTITLE E, SEC. 1252: SMART METERING

A. Energy Policy Act of 2005 Standard

- ▶ Requires utilities to offer customers, and customer classes, time-based rates.
- ▶ Time-based rates and the metering technology to support them provide energy users with incentives to switch electricity consumption to off-peak periods.
- ▶ Normally, time-based rates can range from simply offering differing rates per season to offering a schedule of multiple rates throughout a given day.
- ▶ The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission may determine standards for time-based rates. The new federal energy policy also directs utilities and state utility commissions to study and evaluate methods for implementing demand response programs.

B. Cooperative Response

- ▶ The cooperative has reviewed the time-based and smart metering requirements of the Energy Policy Act and has concluded that, through ownership of its wholesale electricity supplier and associated baseload generation assets, currently there is no significant benefit to be gained by implementing additional or expanded time-based rates and smart metering programs. The cooperative currently implements direct real-time control using its Coordinated Load Management System to manage peak load, which yields a direct reduction in both wholesale rates and rates to cooperative members, and defers the need for new generation. In view of this program, and the low level of interest by cooperative members for new and/or expanded time-based rates and smart meter programs, the cooperative proposes to take no further actions on time-based rates and smart metering at this time.

3. TITLE XII, SUBTITLE E, SEC. 1251: NET METERING AND ADDITIONAL STANDARDS

A. Energy Policy Act of 2005 Standard

- ▶ Utilities shall provide net metering service for electric energy

generated by a consumer from an eligible on-site generating facility and delivered to the local cooperative distribution system.

- ▶ Facility generation may be used to offset energy provided by the utility on a kWh (kilowatt-hour)-for-kWh basis.
- ▶ State consideration of these standards must begin within two years of enactment, with a final determination completed within three years.

B. Cooperative Response

- ▶ The cooperative has developed a net metering rate schedule and policy that allows members to interconnect renewable energy distributed generation systems with a nameplate capacity rating of 50 kW (kilowatts) or less for residential and 200 kW or less for other rate classes. The rate schedule allows members to receive credit against their monthly energy and capacity use. If excess electricity is generated by the member's facility and delivered to the cooperative's system, the amount may be applied against the member's electric use in the billing period at the site of the generator or other accounts in the member's name within two miles of the property on which the generator is located. Within the monthly billing period, if any credit for energy remains on the member's retail account, the member will be paid at the wholesale supplier's avoided cost for an equivalent amount of energy. Therefore, the cooperative proposes to adopt this standard as set forth in its net metering rate schedule.

4. TITLE XII, FOSSIL FUEL GENERATION EFFICIENCY

A. Energy Policy Act of 2005 Standard

- ▶ Each electric utility must develop and implement a 10-year plan to increase the efficiency of its fossil fuel generation.

B. Cooperative Response

- ▶ The cooperative's wholesale supplier of electricity does not own or control any fossil fuel generating units. The cooperative's wholesale supplier of electricity owns only nuclear and hydroelectric generating assets. Any remaining requirements are purchased on the market and cannot be controlled. Accordingly, this standard is not relevant to the cooperative's situation at this time and will not be adopted.

5. TITLE XII, FUEL SOURCE DIVERSITY

A. Energy Policy Act of 2005 Standard

- ▶ Each electric utility will be required to develop a plan to minimize dependence on one fuel source to ensure the utility can rely on a diverse range of fuel sources and technologies, including renewable technologies.

B. Cooperative Response

- ▶ The cooperative's wholesale supplier of electricity currently utilizes nuclear and hydroelectric fuel in its own generating resources and other fuels as a result of purchases from other generating sources. The cooperative is not subject to significant risk from fuels that are subject to political, supply, or environmental concerns. The cooperative, therefore, is not overly dependent on a risky source of fuel, and it is minimally dependent on fossil fuels. Therefore, the cooperative meets this standard and no further efforts are required relative to this standard.