
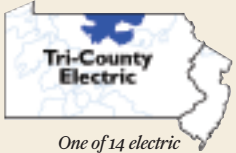


# Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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- Gerald A. Kite**  
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- Nicholas Reitter**
- Barbara J. Seeley**

**Craig Eccher**  
President & CEO

**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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

## Ahead of the curve



by Craig Eccher

**MANY OF US** have heard by now of Gov. Rendell's energy conservation and alternative energy initiatives.

What some may not know is that under current Pennsylvania law, known as Act 213, regulated utilities are now required to purchase or produce 2 to 3 percent of their generation supply from alternative

energy sources such as solar, wind, or biomass. This percentage is mandated to escalate to 18 percent over the next 15 years.

Although cooperatives in Pennsylvania are not required to achieve the benchmarks of Act 213, we are already doing so through our ownership of the Raystown Hydroelectric Generation Station. The Raystown plant is owned and operated by Allegheny Electric Cooperative (Allegheny), the generation supplier owned by the 14 electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

We are also ahead of the curve with load management, which Tri-County and the other cooperatives in the state have been promoting for years. The load management system includes the residential water heater load control and electric thermal storage heating programs, as well as peak-shaving programs developed in cooperation with some of our industrial consumers.

These programs can help control generation costs by reducing peak demand on our system. By shedding load when electric demand peaks, Allegheny is able to avoid purchasing pricey peak generation. This not only saves money, it has also helped stave off the need to construct new generation plants.

Tri-County has also been very active

in putting together its own policies to help implement and promote alternative energy use.


Tri-County has drafted an interconnection standard that allows the interconnection of member-owned alternative generation sources to the cooperative's electric grid. The cost of interconnection is based on the size and type of generator a member seeks to connect to our grid.

For instance, a member seeking to install an inverter-based windmill of up to 50 kilowatts will incur very minimal expense from Tri-County for the interconnection. The member would, however, be responsible for the cost of constructing any new power lines required for such a project.

Tri-County has also adopted a net metering policy that enables a member with an alternative generation source to "spin the meter backwards" any time they are sending excess alternative generation onto our grid.

I applaud anyone who wants to do their part to help to protect the environment and reduce our dependence on traditional energy sources. However, I would strongly recommend that those interested in alternative generation first gain a solid understanding of the costs involved, as well as the length of the payback period.

We have heard some overly optimistic payback projections for some of these projects. We really don't want to see our members get well into the process and then realize the economic benefits may not be as rewarding as they were initially led to believe.

If you are considering installing alternative generation, please don't hesitate to call us for assistance or further information. Your cooperative is here to help. 

# Tri-County director in a league of her own

BY JEFF FETZER

**TRI-COUNTY DIRECTOR** Barbara Seeley speaks softball and carries a big stick — a 34-inch Louisville Slugger to be exact.

At 71, the lifelong Roseville resident adheres to the notion that diamonds are a girl's best friend, especially when they contain four bases and a pitcher's mound. For it's the ball diamond where Seeley enjoys spending her time once the grass greens and the weather warms each spring.

"It's in my blood, I guess," says Seeley. "I just like to play. I can still run, still throw, so why not?"

In a few weeks, Seeley will travel to York to try out for the Pennsylvania Fillies, the state's over-65 women's slow-pitch softball team that will compete in the Summer National Senior Games — The Senior Olympics in Louisville, Ky., June 22 through July 8.

Over 12,000 male and female senior athletes from across the United States will compete in 18 different sports within separate age divisions during the 15-day event. Athletes must be age 50 or older and must qualify at their state's Senior Games to participate. The Summer Games have been held in odd-numbered years since 1987.

Seeley, a pitcher who has played on the Pennsylvania Fillies in every summer Senior Olympics since 1995, says she fully expects to be back on the mound when the games begin in Louisville this summer.

She notes the competition to make the Pennsylvania squad isn't as stiff as it was when she first earned a spot on the team 12 years ago. Then, the team competed in the over-50 age bracket.

"Tryouts aren't much use anymore, because there aren't more than 20 people trying to make the team," she says, explaining that the team carries a 20-woman roster comprised mostly of women in late their 60s, along with a few septuagenarians like Seeley.

But that doesn't mean the team isn't competitive. In the 2005 Senior Olympics, held in Norfolk, Va., the Pennsylvania Fil-

lies finished fourth in the nation in their age bracket.

Seeley's teammates hail from all areas of the state, and she knew none of them before becoming involved with the Pennsylvania Senior Games. The team practices in the Harrisburg area, which can sometimes pose a challenge for Seeley, who continues to operate a dairy farm with her husband Bob.

Since she still pitches in the Tioga County Church Softball League, Seeley points out that she gets enough softball action through the spring to keep sharp for the Senior Games.

She says she became involved in the Pennsylvania Senior Games after reading about the games in the local newspaper.

"It's been a lot of fun, and I've been able to meet new people," says Seeley. "But the main reason I tried out is because I still enjoy playing softball."

It's a passion that began when she was a child, growing up in the small community of Roseville in northern Tioga County.

"There wasn't anything else to do," she recalls. "So the neighbor kids would get together and play ball."

Seeley says she got her first ball glove when she was 14 and began pitching for the Roseville girls' softball team.

Though she never had the opportunity to play high school softball — it wasn't offered at her alma mater, Mansfield High School, when she was a student there — she played organized ball on area women's softball teams from her teen-age years until the 1990s.

For most of her career, Seeley played



**SENIOR SLUGGER:** Roseville resident Barbara Seeley readies for a pitch. Although her favorite aspect of softball is pitching, she carried a lifetime batting average of over .600 at the time she was inducted into the Tioga County Sports Hall of Fame in 1988.

modified fast-pitch, which she still prefers over the high-arc slow pitch version of the game that is played at the Senior Games.

Her skills as a pitcher and a hitter did not go unnoticed. She was inducted into the Tioga County Sports Hall of Fame in 1988, at which time it was noted she maintained a batting average of over .600.



**TEAM PLAYER:** The Pennsylvania Fillies, the women’s softball team that has represented the state at the Summer National Senior Games – The Senior Olympics for more than a decade, celebrates a second-place finish in a warm-up tournament in 2005. Tri-County member Barbara Seeley, kneeling at far left, has pitched for the team in every Senior Olympics since 1995.



**NUMBER ONE:** Tri-County director Barbara Seeley kneels in her PA Fillies uniform in front of scores of medals and trophies she has won during the course of 50-plus years as a softball player and, more recently, a Senior Games competitor. The 71-year-old expects to be pitching for the Pennsylvania women’s softball team when the 2007 Senior Olympics come to Louisville, Ky., this summer.

In 1990, the Roseville women’s softball team, with Seeley, then 55, as their ace hurler, placed third in the nation in the Class A modified competition at Keene, N.H.

Seeley says she never kept track of her personal accomplishments on the ball field. She didn’t keep her own batting average or maintain records of her pitching performance.

Although she could play anywhere on the field, Seeley says she mostly pitched, which was her preferred position. When asked if she had ever thrown a no-hitter, generally considered to be one of the toughest feats for a pitcher, she pauses, then says, “I’m sure I did, but I never paid any attention to things like that.”

Her attention, she says, was focused on the team effort — and victory.

“I liked to win — still do,” she says. “But now, if you don’t win, that’s OK too.”

These days, Seeley says she’s thankful for the ability to still be out there playing the game she loves.

“I’ve just been lucky, I guess,” she says. “I don’t think anything of going out and playing ball. I’d like to play more, but I have such a busy schedule.”

In addition to playing church league games once a week and participating on the Pennsylvania Senior Games softball team every other year, Seeley continues to help out on the farm she and her husband have operated since 1958. She has been an active Tri-County director since 1993, and is heavily involved in the youth activities and the ministries at the Roseville United Methodist Church.

She also competes annually in the Elmira Senior Games, participating in events including the softball throw, softball hitting, 100-meter dash, and horseshoes. Between the local, state and national Senior Games, Seeley has earned more than 40 gold and silver medals over the years. Although she hasn’t participated in individual events at the National Senior Games since the late 1990s, Seeley says she plans on trying out for several individual events this year.

The grandmother of seven, who stays in shape by exercising at her church several times a week, says she has no intention of slowing down any time soon.

“I probably should,” she says with a laugh. “But I plan on playing until I can’t do it any more.” ☀

# Change a Light, Change the World

**SAVING** \$40 or more, and protecting the environment, is as easy as changing a light bulb.

If every American household



changed a single light bulb to an Energy Star bulb, it would provide enough power to light more than 2.5 million homes, while saving consumers money.

To encourage people to make the switch from incandescent light bulbs to energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs), Tri-County is promoting the “Change a Light, Change the World,” campaign on the home page of its Web site, [www.tri-countyrec.com](http://www.tri-countyrec.com).

The “Change a Light, Change the World” campaign is an initiative of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal Department of Energy that encourages Americans to replace a conventional bulb or fixture in the home or workplace with one that has earned the government’s Energy Star label for energy efficiency.

“The Department of Energy encourages all Americans to answer President Bush’s call to be more energy efficient,” said Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman. “Taking small and easy steps, such as replacing light bulbs with newer, more efficient compact fluorescent bulbs, can add up to real, substantive savings.”

Energy Star-qualified bulbs and fixtures use about one-third the energy of traditional models and last up to 10 times longer. In fact, consumers can save more than \$30 in utility costs over the lifetime of one bulb. Replacing the most frequently used lights at home will yield the most savings.


Individuals who pledged to change a light during last year’s campaign will prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to nearly 3,000 vehicles and save \$2 million in energy costs.

The less energy consumers use, the less energy electric utilities must generate, and less demand means fewer

greenhouse gas emissions. If homeowners change just one bulb to an Energy Star-qualified bulb they will prevent the release of more than 450 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, according to EPA estimates.

Products that have earned the Energy Star label save energy and prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by EPA and DOE. The Energy Star program works with more than 8,000 pri-

vate and public sector organizations.

Tri-County members are invited to join the nearly 400,000 people who have pledged to replace at least one light at home with an Energy Star bulb, and see the positive difference even small energy-saving actions at home can make. To sign the pledge, visit Tri-County’s home page, [www.tri-countyrec.com](http://www.tri-countyrec.com), and click on the words “Change a Light, Change the World Campaign” listed under the News and Info section on the left side of the screen. 

## Display sheds light on bulb efficiency

An innovative lighting display has led to some national exposure for Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative.

A photo and write-up about the display, the brainchild of Bryan Berguson, director of member services for Tri-County, was recently featured in *Electric Co-op Today*, the national weekly newsletter of the National Rural Electric



**LIGHTING THE WAY:** Tri-County Director of Member Services Bryan Berguson, right, and member services representative Steve Salada pose with a lighting display they constructed to illustrate the energy-saving ability and lighting quality of compact fluorescent light bulbs.

Cooperative Association, as well as *Rural Electric (RE) Magazine*, the NRECA’s monthly magazine.

Berguson and member services representative Steve Salada designed and constructed the display so that people could see for themselves how much less energy compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) use than incandescent bulbs.

The display features a strip of four CFLs and a strip of four incandescent bulbs that run through separate electric meters.

“Everyone always claims how much less electricity CFLs use than incandescents,” says Berguson. “I wanted to compare them side by side and prove it.”

The display, located in the reception area of the co-op’s Mansfield office, does just that.

When both strips of lights are turned on, the meter for the incandescent lights spins about four times faster than the CFL meter.

“It’s very visual. People can see the difference for themselves,” Berguson says.

He says a number of co-op members have indicated they planned to switch to compact fluorescent bulbs after viewing the display.

To show members the variety of lighting options available with today’s compact fluorescent bulbs, the department also constructed a display board that features about nine different sizes and styles of CFL bulbs, including floodlights, decorative globes, yellow bug lights, daylight spectrum bulbs, and three-way bulbs.

To learn more about the energy-saving advantages of CFLs, stop by the co-op’s Mansfield office or call the member services department at 1-800-343-2559.