

Claverack Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

CLAVERACK REC

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1-800-326-9799

Email: mail@claverack.com
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Robert R. Faux, Zone 2

Chairman

570-574-3531

Angela S. Joines, Zone 3

Vice Chairman

570-756-4979

Danise C. Fairchild, Zone 1

Secretary/Treasurer

570-265-3599

Timothy T. Tewksbury, Zone 6

Vice Secretary/Treasurer

570-833-2320

Charles R. Bullock, Zone 7

570-280-8470

Robert W. Fearnley, Zone 5

570-278-2288

Gary L. Hennip, Zone 4

570-250-2200

Charles R. McNamara, Zone 8

570-553-4385

Anthony J. Ventello, Zone 9

607-765-2615

Steve Allabaugh

President & CEO

STAFF

Annette Koder, *Executive Assistant*

Nick Berger, *Sr. Director,*

Engineering and Operations

Kylie Slater, *Interim Director, Finance*

Brian Zeidner, *Director, Member Services*

OFFICE HOURS

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

Jeff Fetzer, *Local Pages Editor*

New rates to take effect in new year



WHEN DECEMBER ROLLS AROUND, the days get shorter and the snow starts to fly. It's a time when I tend to slow down for just a bit and take a look back at the past year.

2022 certainly has been a challenging year. Just when you thought things were returning to normal and the COVID-19 pandemic was becoming less unpredictable, a war breaks out in Ukraine, supply chains become more like supply log jams, and the world economy goes off the rails!

We've had big challenges close to home, too. Claverack experienced the worst storm in our history in April; our scuffle with the emerald ash borer has become a fist fight; and soaring inflation within our industry has us paying so much more for our materials and equipment, it makes me think the stuff should be gold-plated when we take it out of the box! 2022 has definitely been a bumpy ride.

Unfortunately, we're in for some more bumps in 2023. Inflation shows no signs of waning, and rising prices continue impacting everything you spend money on.

As we had announced on our website and I addressed at our annual meeting in August, Claverack is certainly not immune to this inflationary environment. Rising prices over the past two years have dramatically increased the cost to operate your cooperative.

We've been able to hold the line on our rates through 2022 by employing cost-saving measures, such as reclaiming and reusing transformers and delaying some projects, but increases in our cost to purchase power from our generation and transmission supplier, steep material and equipment inflation, and increased right-of-way expenses have negatively impacted our financial health.

Our management team and board of directors — all ratepayers just like you — are tasked with the responsibility of meeting the co-op's financial requirements and maintaining reliable electric service while keeping rates affordable.

Claverack rates have risen little over the past decade, trending well below even the modest inflation we experienced during that time. In fact, the average Claverack residential customer using 980 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month paid \$124.34 back in 2012. In 2022, that same member's bill would be \$131.09, a \$6.75 increase over 10 years. A Penelec customer today spends about \$166 for the same amount of electric use.

Unfortunately, today's rapid increases in the cost of doing business, as well as the steep rise in generation prices, have made it clear that a rate increase will be needed to maintain the financial integrity of the cooperative.

We are nearing completion of a comprehensive rate study and anticipate implementing new rates, effective Jan. 1, 2023, that will be reflected on members' February electric bills. We will be sharing more detailed information about the rate change and how it will affect electric bills soon. In the meantime, we wanted to give you advance notice so you could prepare for the increase.

We know increasing costs are a hardship for our members, and we encourage those struggling to keep up with their energy bills to contact our office to learn about available programs and assistance options.

I know this is certainly not news anyone wants to hear, and I sure wish I didn't

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A penny won't buy much these days – unless you're paying for power

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN “PENNY candy” actually cost a penny? What does a penny buy these days? Not much. The government can't even make a penny for a penny anymore. According to the U.S. Mint, it now costs 1.5 cents to produce one.

About the only thing of value you can still get for a penny is electricity. The cost of electricity, for the value you receive in return, is about as good as it gets.

Let's say the average rate for a kilowatt-hour (kWh) of electricity is 15 cents. Put another way, if you use 1,000 watts (1 kilowatt) for 60 minutes, that would cost 15 cents; and 70 watts of electricity would cost you just a single penny. That is enough to power a 9-watt LED lightbulb, the equivalent of a 60-watt incandescent bulb, for nearly 8 hours, all for only a penny. Where else can you get that kind of value?

How many eggs will a penny buy? How much milk, bread, coffee or medicine? How far would you get with a penny of gas with the high prices we are seeing now? Based on today's prices, that penny's worth of gas wouldn't even get you up a long driveway.

And what about your smartphone? Using an average 15 cents per kWh, you can fully charge your iPhone about seven times for a penny. That means you can charge it once every day of the year for about 52 cents total.

How much electricity does the United States use in a year?

We are fortunate electricity is such an excellent value because we have a huge appetite for it. Electricity is not expensive. It's that we use it for so many different things: lighting, heating, cooking, cooling, refrigeration, cleaning, washing, working, entertainment, communication and even transportation these days.

Despite energy efficiency advancements, the average household uses more electronic gadgets and needs more power to operate them yearly. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the United States used 3.9 trillion kWh of electricity in 2021. That's 13 times more electricity than was used in 1950!

How much does electricity cost per month?

According to the EIA, the average U.S. household used 10,715 kWh of

electricity in 2020, which equates to 893 kWh per month. The average Claverack residential consumer uses slightly more, about 980 kWh per month.

Clearly, our appetite for electricity shows no signs of slowing down. So, the next time you flip a switch, turn on your television or run your washing machine, remember the value electricity holds. And know that employees at your local electric cooperative are looking out for you by working together to keep electric bills affordable, controlling costs through innovation and putting you, our members, first.

Learn to save energy and money

Claverack works hard to keep your electricity safe, reliable and affordable. But you play a role in the price of your power. Just as you might cut back on eggs if your budget is tight, we can work with you to reduce your monthly electric bill. For more energy-saving tips, please visit our website at claverack.com, select the “Your Bill” tab and click on “Save Energy and Money.”

PENNY POWER



Look what you get for a penny's worth of power

- 8 hours of reading using a 9-watt LED bulb
- 30 minutes on a 125-watt desktop computer
- 1.5 hours of television on a 40-watt, 32-inch LED TV
- 7 full charges of an iPhone

*Based on a rate of 15 cents/kWh

Program offers help with heating bills

IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE PAYING your heating bills or have a heating emergency, help may be available through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

LIHEAP helps families living on low incomes pay their heating bills in the form of a cash grant. Households in immediate danger of being without heat can also qualify for crisis grants.

A cash grant is a one-time payment sent directly to the utility company or fuel provider and credited on your bill. These grants range from \$300 to \$1,000 based on household size, income and fuel type. These grants do not have to be repaid.

Crisis grants are available to help those who have emergency situations in which they are in danger of being without heat. Those situations include: having broken heating equipment or leaking fuel lines; lack of fuel; having utility service terminated; or being in danger of not having fuel or having service termi-

nated. Crisis grants are sent directly to the vendor or utility.

If you have a heating emergency, or want more information about LIHEAP, call your county assistance office or the toll-free LIHEAP hotline at 866-857-7095.

You can apply for energy assistance directly through COMPASS, the state's online health and human services benefits application site, by visiting compass.state.pa.us.

Below are the income guidelines for acceptance into the program:

Household Size	Maximum Income (before taxes)
1	\$20,385
2	\$27,465
3	\$34,545
4	\$41,625
5	\$48,705
6	\$55,785
Add \$7,080 for each additional member of the household	

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

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have to deliver it, especially around the holidays, but it's simply necessary. Be assured we will do everything we can to minimize the impact and keep rates as low as possible while we continue to invest wisely in your cooperative.

While I feel a bit like the Grinch Who Stole Christmas with news of an impending rate increase, a lot of good things happened in 2022, too — with more planned for next year.

I am most grateful for the fact that despite frequent storms and extended overtime hours, our employees worked safely and went home to their families safe and sound every day. Claverack Communications, our broadband subsidiary, made great progress on its fiber internet project in 2022, and we are well on our way to beginning to provide top-notch Revolution Broadband service to our members.

We held our first in-person Claverack annual meeting in three years at the Wyoming County Fair, and it was a great success. We are planning to do it again in 2023.

Also, this past year we were able to support our local community by contributing over \$60,000 to a multitude of local charitable organizations using unclaimed funds that otherwise would have been returned to the state. Our HOPE program helped dozens of Claverack members experiencing financial hardship pay their electric bills, too.

And, as always, our employees showed the dedication, determination and commitment to serving our members that makes me proud to come to work here every day.

I hope you and yours have a healthy, joyful holiday season. 🎄

STEVE ALLABAUGH
PRESIDENT & CEO

Season's greetings from all of us at Claverack

PRESIDENT & CEO:

Steve Allabaugh

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Charles Bullock, Danise Fairchild, Robert Faux, Robert Fearnley, Angela Joines, Gary Hennip, Charles McNamara, Timothy Tewksbury, Anthony Ventello

EMPLOYEES:

Rebecca Allen, Jim Altemus, Stacey Ammerman, Bernie Barrett, Joshua Baublitz, Larry Beebe, Maria Belcher, Elijah Bennett, Nick Berger, Bucky Camburn, Ryan Chamberlain, Brennan Coates, Isaac Dibble, Shane Dodge, Troy Ely, Karen Evangelisti, Leonard Fowler, Matt Franklin, Justin Franko, David Gardner, Brandon Griffiths, Eric Henry, Rich Herman, Nathan Hoke, Paul Huffman, Steve Huston, Lynn Jennings, Liz Johnston, Aidan Joyce, Tanner Keeney, Annette Koder, Austin Kriner, Kyle Lane, Jeremiah Lund, John McKernan, Lisa Milne, Nicole Newton, Shawn Robinson, Scott Rockwell, Johnny Rodriguez, Allen Scott, Kylie Slater, Neal Snyder, Nate Stoddard, Greg Wilcox, Cole Wilson, Brian Zeidner

Holiday closings

Claverack's offices will be closed for the holidays Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26 — Christmas Monday, Jan. 2 — New Year's

Looking Back with Claverack



TEAM CO-OP: Claverack sponsored a men's basketball team that competed in the Towanda Community Basketball League in 1953. In its first season in the adult recreational league, the REA Co-op team from Claverack captured the runner-up title, losing in the championship game to a team sponsored by Sylvania. The Claverack team consisted of, front row, from left, J. Allen, R. Butts, F. Kellogg, and back row, from left, R. Barrett, A. Ingerick and B. Hubbard. Also on the team, but not photographed, was G. Hoagglund. The man holding the basketball, Robert Butts, was the editor of Claverack's monthly customer newsletter, *Claverack Chatter*, at the time of the photograph. He would later serve as the general manager of Tri-County Rural Electric Cooperative. A. "Red" Ingerick served as operations director at Claverack for many years.

Delivering on our promise to bring you fast, reliable internet

We may have started Phase I of our fiber-to-the-home network construction later than we planned, but we've made incredible progress.

In the Lime Hill and Herrick substation areas, four Henkels & McCoy fiber construction crews have been steadily working for the past six months — keeping the plan to deliver internet services next spring on track.

HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF ALL WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED:

- **Installed 100+ miles of fiber**
The approximate distance from Wysox to Syracuse, N.Y.!
- **Installed 125+ miles of strand and 5 miles of buried line, passing 700 homes**
- **One hut site and one cabinet site prepared for installation**
The electronic equipment used to bring high-speed internet to your home will be housed in these units.

Our Phase II project will include the Litchfield substation area.

We'll install 205 miles of mainline fiber and pass close to 1,000 homes.

"Make-ready" will begin in December, and we anticipate mainline fiber construction to start next spring. (See our *November Penn Lines* "Working hard to bring you a better internet experience" article for more details on the construction process.)

Interested in blazing fast, reliable Revolution internet? Register your interest at revolutionbroadband.net. We'll contact you when services are available in your area. We can't wait to connect with you!

REVOLUTION
BROADBAND

revolutionbroadband.net | 570-268-1349 | 888-907-8655

