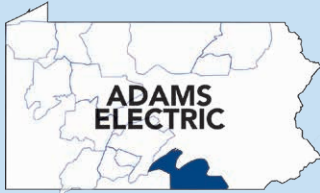




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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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It's Not Always the Meter



Occasionally we receive a bill from a utility and think, "this cannot be right." Our mind then begins to come up with all the reasons it can to show that it is someone else's mistake. At Adams Electric, we regularly hear from our members that nothing in the home has changed and there must be something wrong with the meter. In the past 10 years, I have only seen one meter incorrect. So, while not impossible, it is extremely rare.

In my role as an energy use specialist, I regularly visited our members' homes to determine if a high bill issue was really a meter issue, billing error or a member not realizing their general energy consumption was well beyond what they thought it was.

The conversation usually starts with "I'm not doing anything different than I've done every other year." That proclamation is typically made while we are still on the phone, and I'm looking up your account to review your daily use. I can see each day's consumption and search for any days that look out of place when compared to others. Usually, I will find a day in the billing period where the use pattern has changed.


Sometimes I hear, "my son just got home from college for winter break." But are they holed up in their room playing the PS5 with the window cracked and a space heater running?

Other times I have heard, "Oh, that's when our energy-efficient hot tub was delivered." Even if a hot tub claims to be energy efficient, it is still going to increase your electric bill. Did you know the average hot tub uses approximately 450 kilowatt-hours (kwh) each month? On our residential rate that equates to \$49.95 a month extra on your bill.

More often, we find that something in the home is not operating correctly. We find heating system thermostats not properly set and running on back-up, heating systems just not working properly causing them to run more often, water lines that are leaking and causing a well pump to run nonstop, and of course the ever-infamous space heater left to run 24/7 because the full-page newspaper ad claimed it was energy efficient. *(Side note, a standard space heater uses 1,500 watts of electricity. When left on 24/7, that will cost you an additional \$119.88 a month.)*

The literature I use most often when diagnosing high bill concerns is the "Your Kilowatt-Hours" brochure. We can send you a copy, or you can download it yourself from our publications page at adamsec.coop. We show the typical energy-consuming items in a home and estimate their operating cost based on our regular residential rate.

You could do these calculations yourself, too. Find the wattage listed on your most frequently used electric-run appliances and multiply that number by the number of hours per month the appliance is used. Then, take that number and divide by 1,000.

If you are noticing high-consumption items running up your use, consider joining the co-op's U-Shift, U-\$ave program. This does take a commitment on the part of the member to install a subpanel off your main electric panel box, but the appliances powered here then receive about a 45% rate reduction for any electricity that runs through the subpanel. The upfront costs could make up the difference in what you could save in the long term. However, keep in mind these items need to be able to be interrupted and power shut off to them during times of peak electricity demand. 

MIKE JOHNSON

SAFETY/KEY ACCOUNTS/ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Main Street Hanover Suggests What to do this Winter

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

IT'S DATE MONTH, AND WHETHER you are taking your spouse, your family or your best friend, Downtown Hanover might be your new go-to destination.

Main Street Hanover has been on a mission to help revitalize the center-square community by hosting events, attracting and promoting new businesses, and undertaking beautification efforts.

"Downtown Hanover has grown and changed," says Noël Soisson, Main Street Hanover marketing, events & development coordinator. "We've worked hard to make the area more attractive, and visitors need to see the new opportunities we can offer here."

Adams Electric has long been a sponsor of Main Street Hanover's revitalization projects, including the Heart of Hanover walking trails. But with the winter months bringing colder weather, there's also much to do indoors.

You could destroy something at the Break Down Rage Room or build something at the COB51 Art Studio. You could get lost in the Escape Confusion escape rooms, stretch something at Life in Balance Yoga or throw something at Kickin' Axe.

"We even have one of the only rock-climbing gym-type businesses in the area, Rock Bottom Climbing," says Soisson. "It's a great place for kids to get the wiggles out in the winter."

If you want a more relaxed atmosphere, downtown Hanover has several breweries within a block of each other, including Something Wicked, Zeichen des Pferdes Bierhaus (Sign of the Horse) and Fat Bat — each taking pride in its own special craft products.

"And I hear there could be another one early this year," Soisson mentions.

After a few beverages, find a new hot spot for local dining,

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAIN STREET HANOVER



THE FINER THINGS: The Hanover Area Arts Guild has classes, art shows and gallery tours available year-round.

like the more upscale McAllister's on York or the family-friendly Oak with wood-fired pizzas. Just looking for coffee and pastries? Try the new coffeehouse, Ikigai. Maybe you prefer to visit a longtime town staple? There are still two "hot dog shops" flanking opposite ends of the Hanover Square.

"If you don't mind the walk, you can park and enjoy so many different varieties of shops and businesses within five to 10 minutes of Center Square," Soisson says. "Everyone in town is so friendly and kind. It's not a place you have to be afraid to wander around and explore."

Even history buffs can find their niche, just by appointment only. The Hanover Historical Society can provide tours of Hanover's hidden gems: the Warehime Mansion and the Neas House.

"You can also preview our Heart of Hanover walking trail online and hover over the historical markers you would find on the actual trail," says Soisson.

As the weather eventually starts to warm up, you will find other activities coming about, like a "Second Saturday" event in March, where Main Street Hanover will be hosting a themed, family-friendly event: a book crawl. In June (and again in October), get advance tickets for the wildly popular Sip & Stroll, where ticketholders get a drink at each participating stop on their downtown tour.

"It's one of our biggest events and often sells out," says Soisson.

If you want to learn more about events and activities in Downtown Hanover, contact Main Street Hanover at 717-637-6130 or visit the website, mainstreethanover.org. A business directory is also available to find and contact a business directly. 📍

PHOTO COURTESY OF MAIN STREET HANOVER



IN GOOD SPIRITS: Hanover breweries like Zeichen des Pferdes Bierhaus offer food, drink and entertainment for the winter wanderer.



Five Ways to Fight Winter Chill and Save Energy

WE ALL HAVE OUR FAVORITE season. Some people love crisp, cool weather and bundling up under a favorite blanket, while others prefer the warm temperatures summer brings and all the fun outdoor activities that go with it.

But there's one thing we can all agree on: High winter bills are never fun. Here are five tips to help increase your home's energy efficiency this winter:

1. Mind the thermostat. This is one of the easiest ways to manage your home energy use. We recommend setting your thermostat to 68 degrees (or lower) when you're home. When you're sleeping or away for an extended period of time, try setting it between 58 and 62 degrees; there's no need to heat your home when you're away or sleeping and less active.

2. Button up your home. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates air leaks account for 24% to 40% of the energy used for heating and cooling a home. Caulking and weather stripping around windows and doors are

other simple, cost-effective ways to increase comfort and save energy. If you can feel drafts while standing near a window or door, it likely needs to be sealed.

3. Use window coverings wisely. Open blinds, drapes or other window coverings during the day to allow natural sunlight in to warm your home. Close them at night to keep the cold, drafty air out. If you feel cold air around windows, consider hanging curtains or drapes of a thicker material; heavier window coverings can make a significant difference in blocking cold outdoor air. You could also consider using shrink wrap to block air out of windows you don't plan to open through the winter months.

4. Consider your approach to appliance use. When combined, appliances and electronics account for a significant chunk of our home energy use, so assess how efficiently you're using them. For example, if you're running the dishwasher or clothes washer, only wash full loads. Look

for electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not in use, like phone chargers or game consoles. Every little bit helps, so unplug them to save energy.

5. Think outside the box. If you're still feeling chilly at home, think of other ways to warm up — beyond dialing up the thermostat. Add layers of clothing, wear thick socks and bundle up under blankets. You can even add layers to your home! If you have hard-surface flooring, consider purchasing an area rug to block cold air that leaks in through the floor.

If you're taking steps to save energy but continue to see major increases in your bills, give us a call at 800-726-2324. Adams Electric's energy specialists can help identify factors impacting your home energy use.

Winter months often bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. By being proactive about saving energy, you can increase the comfort of your home and reduce monthly bills. Visit our website at adamsec.coop for additional energy-saving tips. 🏠

Adams Recognized As ODIN Participant

DURING A DECEMBER WHITE HOUSE Electrification Summit, Adams Electric Cooperative was one of nearly 150 electric utility vendors and providers recognized for committing to the Outage Data Initiative Nationwide (ODIN). The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy issued a request earlier in the year for utilities to share power outage data with ODIN, implementing a national power outage map for the U.S. Department of Energy.

There has been a growing number of commitments from utilities since the call to action, as well as outage

management system vendors. Adams was named an "early adopter," for being among the first 100 utilities to "take steps in making the power sector more resilient and ready for an electrified future," according to the announcement.

"Early adopters of ODIN ... helped build the momentum needed to implement real-time, standardized, and transparent power outage data nationwide," the statement says. "These commitments will advance data interoperability and transparency and are a step toward a more effective

emergency response and a more reliable, more resilient electric grid."

Real-time power outage data is essential to improving electricity reliability and ensuring that American communities can benefit from a more electrified future.

According to Chad Thoman, manager of engineering – electrical for the cooperative, "The ODIN system adds another platform to help with coordination of mutual assistance resources for utilities during major storm events, which are becoming more and more frequent these days." 🏠

Co-op Names New Lead Linemen

CONGRATULATIONS TO the following union employees who were awarded lead lineman positions, effective Dec. 23, 2022:

Mark Cramer of Shippensburg, journeyman first class, will fill an open lead lineman position at the Shippensburg District. He started with Adams as a second-year apprentice in 1998 and was promoted to journeyman in 2000.

Jon Fetter of Shippensburg, a line serviceman, will fill the other lead lineman position open at the Shippensburg District. He started with Adams as a first-year apprentice in 2001 and was promoted to journeyman in 2004. He was awarded line serviceman in 2014.

Both will report to Shippensburg Line Superintendent Mike Chamberlin. The positions opened following the December retirements of longtime Shippensburg District linemen Bill Collingsworth and Brian Atherton.

Craig Mummert of Spring Grove, journeyman first class, will fill an open lead lineman position at the York District. He will report to Shawn Dehoff, York District line superintendent. Mummert started with Adams as a first-year apprentice in 2003 and was

promoted to journeyman in 2007.

Eric Altice of Hanover, journeyman first class, will fill the open lead lineman position at the Gettysburg District. He will report to Guy Gorman, Gettysburg District line superintendent. Altice started with Adams as a first-year apprentice in 2007 and was promoted to journeyman in 2011. He replaces longtime Gettysburg lineman Jay Kroeze, who retired in November.

These employees began their lead lineman duties Jan. 2, to include instructing and evaluating other lineworkers assigned to their work crew, taking trouble calls and responding to emergencies, and performing the duties of all lesser job classifications. 📍



Mark Cramer



Jon Fetter

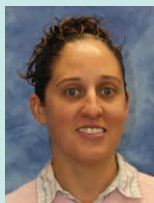


Craig Mummert



Eric Altice

Co-op Hires Risk Management Coordinator and Cybersecurity Specialist



Heather Holt

HEATHER HOLT AND KENNEDY MUCHIMBA were hired in December 2022 by Adams Electric Cooperative.

Holt, of East Berlin, was selected as the risk management coordinator in the safety/key accounts/accounting department. Her new role includes expanded planning, implementing, and conducting of safety programs and inspections according to OSHA and co-op safety

standards. Before coming to Adams, she worked as a production process specialist, covering 51 locations for Cintas Corporation. Holt earned a digital electronics degree through the U.S. Navy, in which she also served as a sonar technician and fire control systems operator/technician.

Muchimba, of Reading, was chosen to fill an open cybersecurity specialist role in the information technology department. His role includes implementing additional systems to further protect and ensure the integrity of the cooperative's electric system and protected data. Before coming to Adams, he worked as a security analyst, handling security audits, vulnerability scanning/assessment and network flow analysis for Threshold Rehabilitation Services in Reading. Muchimba earned a certificate in cyber defense security from Reading Area Community College, and he is currently working toward his Bachelor of Science degree in computer science and cybersecurity from the University of Phoenix.

Each will work out of the headquarters building in Gettysburg. 📍

Co-op Promotes Union Personnel

Effective Dec. 12, 2022, **Noah Staub** of Hanover was promoted to staking technician B within the engineering-mechanical department at the Gettysburg District. He joined the co-op Feb. 14, 2022.

Effective Dec. 19, 2022, **Jason Stanley** of East Berlin moved to journeyman third class in the York District. He started with Adams Sept. 23, 2019, as a first-year apprentice in the operations department. 📍



Noah Staub



Jason Stanley

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