



The Energizer

AUGUST 2020 | STEUBEN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Bath District Office
9 Wilson Ave
Bath, NY 14810
(607) 776-4161
(800) 843-3414

Cherry Creek District
5966 South Rd
Cherry Creek, NY 14723
(716) 296-5651
(800) 883-8236

OFFICE HOURS

Bath District Office
Monday - Friday
7:30 am - 4:00 pm

Cherry Creek District Office
Monday - Friday
7:00 am - 3:30 pm



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 - James McCormick
District 2 - Janice Hoad
District 3 - Joseph Hauryski
District 4 - Gary Brockway
District 5 - Gerald Chase Jr.
District 6 - Gordon Foster
District 7 - Robert Nichols
District 8 - Randy Stankey
District 9 - William Moss III

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Outage Status Notifications by Text/Email Now Available!



Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SREC) has recently made significant changes to its outage management system that we would like to make you aware of. Members may now track the status of power outages in various ways.

The Cooperative now has an interactive outage web map that will display outages by township. To view this web map, simply visit www.steubenrec.coop and select "Outages" from the menu bar. Please note that there is a 5-minute refresh period for this web map.

In addition to the outage web map, members may now track the status of and report outages through their SmartHub account. SmartHub can be accessed through a web browser, by visiting the Cooperative's website and

selecting "Online Bill Pay" from the icons on the home screen. Once you are logged into your SmartHub account, simply select "Track Issue Status" from the "Contact Us" drop-down menu. SmartHub is also available as an app for your mobile phone.

Finally, members may also enroll in text/e-mail notifications to alert you when a power outage occurs and when power has been restored. To enroll in this messaging feature, simply visit SmartHub, select "Manage Contacts" from the "Notifications" drop-down menu and add a mobile device or e-mail. Please note that if enrolling a mobile device in text messaging, "Receive Text Messages" must be selected or checked. Once selected, there is a brief activation process which re-

quires you to receive/confirm a security code on your mobile device. Once you sign up for outage notifications, you will begin receiving them as soon as they're available.

During outages SREC relies on members to notify us that power is out, however, you may receive a text notifying you of an outage if you are a part of a larger outage and others have already notified us. It is important that members who receive a power restored message and are still without power, report this to SREC.

We hope that these recent developments are found to be helpful. At SREC, we strive to provide the best service possible to our members. If you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at (607)776-4161.



Have you ever wondered how birds perch on the lines without being shocked? While it is safe for a bird to sit on an overhead power line, it is not safe for people to be near overhead power lines. Safe Electricity reveals insights into the “bird on a wire” phenomenon.

In order for an electrical charge, or electrons, to move from one spot to another, it must be in contact (or sometimes close proximity) with the conductive material that has at least two different points of potential. Electrons will move toward lower potential. That is why it is said that electricity is always looking for a path to ground (lower potential).

A bird remains safe because it is sitting on a single wire and is at one point of contact and consequently one electrical potential. If the bird

sitting at this one potential was to also make contact with another object of different potential, that bird would be completing a path to ground, causing severe electric shock or electrocution. For larger birds with wider wingspans, reaching and touching another cable is a real hazard.

SREC linemen are trained to work on energized lines using proper safety equipment and procedures. It is vital that safety equipment is regularly tested as even non-conductive materials, such as rubber, wood, or plastic, can conduct electricity if damp, dirty, or damaged.

You won’t see linemen perched on a line, but you can find them using their skills and knowledge to operate and maintain the electric system safely in order to provide reliable power to our members daily.



Electrical Safety While Working From Home

Whether you are working from home due to COVID-19 measures, or work from home regularly, follow these electrical safety tips to keep you and your home safe from electrical hazards.

- » Avoid overloading outlets.
- » Unplug appliances when not in use to save energy and minimize the risk of shock and fire.
- » Regularly inspect electrical/extension cords for damage.
- » Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis.
- » Never plug a space heater or fan into an extension cord or power strip.
- » Never run cords under rugs/carpets, doors or windows.
- » Plug-in smartly. Make sure extension cords do not become tripping hazards.
- » Make sure you use proper wattage for lamps/lighting.
- » Keep papers and other combustibles at least three feet away from space heaters.

Residential Weatherization Rebates

Program Objectives

- » To continue the Cooperative’s long history of promoting energy efficiency.
- » To reduce cost burden on our members related to energy efficiency improvements to their homes or rental properties.

Incentives Offered

- » The Cooperative is offering a 50% rebate on materials for each of the following: Energy Star Certified Replacement Windows, Energy Star Certified Replacement Exterior Doors, Spray Foam Insulation and Attic/Wall/Floor Installation.

Other Conditions

- » Materials must have been purchased after June 1, 2019.
- » Limited to \$3,000 per member per year (\$6,000 total investment).
- » Landlords are eligible. However, each landlord is limited to a \$1,500 rebate per



year (\$3,000 total investment) and must file a joint application with tenant.

- » To be eligible for the rebate, proof of installation must be provided. The Cooperative reserves the right to physically inspect the installation.
- » Members must complete the residential weatherization rebate form located on the Cooperative’s website and submit the completed application to the Cooperative’s Bath District office by mail or in person.
- » Attach receipts showing the date of purchase and installation.

ENERGY SAVING TIPS



When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During the summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.

Source: energy.gov



Herbicide and Integrated Vegetation Management

It is that time of year again when the Cooperative's vegetation management contractors are in full swing. As such, we thought it would be a great time to provide some additional information on our program. We have also received several questions regarding the program, and specifically, herbicide application. The Cooperative uses an Integrated Vegetation Management ("IVM") program to maintain rights-of-way. IVM implements a combination of management strategies tailored to the specific needs of the Cooperative's members and infrastructure. The result is the most cost effective, safe, and environmentally friendly approach to utility vegetation management.

Our IVM program is overseen by a degreed system Forester/ISA certified Arborist. Our methodology involves implementing forestry procedures to selectively designate trees for removal and tree trimming.

Manual tree trimming and removal techniques are combined with mechanical clearing techniques, mainly comprised of mowing, to provide the most efficient means of removing undesirable vegetation from the system. The Cooperative's Forester and our contractors make every effort to contact and inform property owners prior to performing work. Only certified contractors perform routine right-of-way tree work.

Low volume, selective herbicides are utilized, whenever possible, as the most cost-effective way to minimize regeneration of undesirable species within the rights-of-way. This targeted approach focuses in on invasive and fast-growing species during this selective process, instead of a broadcast application. Many studies have shown that the proper use of herbicide promotes biodiversity and allows more native animals and plants to thrive, which is beneficial in many ways. Low growth, beneficial, utility friendly vegetation is encouraged to replace invasive and aggressive species that negatively impact the utility. All herbicide applications are performed by a certified contractor. These contractors only utilize herbicides that have been pre-approved by

the Cooperative after careful consideration. For more information on the herbicides used in our program or to obtain a Safety Data Sheet, please contact our office.

A successful IVM program, like the one we have at SREC, is a long-term program that requires less vegetation management over time. Every decision made in our Integrated Vegetation Management Program considers the impact to member's bill and reliability. The Cooperative's goals of the program coincide with the mission of the Cooperative which is to improve the quality of rural life by providing our members with low cost, reliable electricity and related services in a safe manner.

Operations Update

In the upcoming months, the Cooperative will be reconductoring a 15-mile section of line that feeds County Route 10 and neighboring areas in the Towns of Bath and Cameron. This project is necessary to ensure reliability of our system in the surrounding areas. BNF Powerline Construction has been contracted to complete this work.

Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative will also be rebuilding nearly 6 miles of sub-transmission line from our Bath substation to our Quarry substation. This rebuild is necessary to ensure the reliability of the Quarry substation, which serves the Towns of Bath, Howard and Cameron. A construction bid has been awarded and the project is expected to begin upon the completion of the reconductoring project mentioned in the preceding paragraph. BNF Powerline Construction has also been contracted to complete this work plan project.

The Cooperative and the contractor will make every effort possible to notify property owners prior to commencing construction on their land. If you have any questions, please contact the office at (607)776-4161.

COVID-19 Update

As you are likely aware, the Cooperative's branch offices have both been closed to outside traffic for payments and non-emergency related walk-ins. This is a decision that is reevaluated on a regular basis

between management and our Board of Directors. Relevant factors that are involved in the decision making process that have led to continuing the closure of these offices to outside traffic are:

- » Confined spaces in both offices would make it challenging to comply with State restrictions;
- » Safety of our members and staff; and
- » Ability to conduct transactions in a variety of ways.

At this time, we plan to leave our front offices closed to outside traffic until restrictions are lifted and we feel that we can accommodate the additional traffic in a responsible manner that does not expose our members and employees to unnecessary risks. We thank you for your patience and cooperation as we navigate through these unusual times. As a reminder, payments for electric service can be made in the following manner:

- » Secured automated phone system by calling (607)776-4161 or (800)843-3414.
- » The Cooperative's SmartHub account management system by visiting: <https://steubenrec.smarthub.coop>.
- » Using the Cooperative's SmartHub mobile app.
- » Cash payments using the drop box at either office location.
- » Check payments through the drop box or by mail.

New Hire

Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative is pleased to welcome Taylor Parsons to the Cooperative's line department.

Taylor joined the Cooperative team on April 20, 2020 as a 2nd Class Lineman in the Bath District. Taylor is a 2013 graduate of the Northwest Lineman College in Denton, Texas. Taylor resides in the Bath area.

Please join us in welcoming Taylor to the Cooperative.

THE TRADING POST

For Sale: Four adult full tailed Indigo Blue Peacocks - \$125.00 each or all four for \$450.00. Call Faith Walk Ministry at 607-698-4346.

For Sale: 1995 Ford 4 wheel drive, 6 cylinder, standard truck, straight 6 rebuilt Ford motor; 20" Robie chainsaw; 1986 Yamaha moped - \$550.00. Call 607-527-8891.

For Sale: Rockwell Jointer 4" - \$10.00; tailgate for 1985 Ford pickup - \$20.00; cultivators for Minneapolis Moline UB - \$40.00; 8' Drag - \$25.00. Call 607-566-8310.

For Sale: New Low-E exterior door and frame - \$175.00; new Low-E window - \$100.00 or best offer. Call 607-527-3037.

For Sale: Excalibur crossbow, 350 fps - cocking device, scope & accessories - \$500.00. Call 607-356-3632 or 716-433-0319.

For Sale: Sturdy 14 ft. aluminum boat in good condition, no trailer - \$400.00. Call 716-684-9117.

For Sale: International 300 tractor has chains, wheel weights and loader, runs good, needs work - \$1000.00 or best offer. Call 585-384-5514.

For Sale: Animal lures & baits, deer lures & cover scents, hunting/trapping supplies. Supply catalog - \$1.00. Bill Russ Trading Post Store, 25 William St, Addison, N.Y.

For Sale: Trapping supplies. Grandview Fur Center in Bradford, N.Y. Call Bill Bowdoin at 607-583-4600.

Wanted: Raw fur and deer hides. Grandview Fur Center in Bradford, N.Y. Call Bill Bowdoin at 607-583-4600.

Wanted: Golden Eagle Compound Bow and/or spare parts (wheels, modules, strings, cables). Call 607-776-5121 or 607-536-0151.

Who may submit ads? Only members of SREC may submit ads. Submit ads by the 20th of January, April, July and November to be printed in the next issue of The Energizer. You can submit ads by mailing them to Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, 9 Wilson Ave, Bath, NY 14810 or by email to kcleland@steubenrec.com.

Disclaimer: Items in the Trading Post are published at the request of our members. SREC does not endorse, recommend or assume any responsibility for the products advertised. The co-op also reserves the right to edit material for content and/or space as necessary. 885900



Meter Replacement Program

Technology is ever changing; think about your cell phone and its constant upgrades. Now consider Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative (SREC) with over 6,255 meters, and how meter technology has improved over the last 15 years - that's how long our automated meters have been in place.

SREC has started its roll out of our meter replacement program. We anticipate completing this program by the end of 2025. We are currently in the Towns of Bath, Urbana and Bradford in our Bath District and the Towns of Leon and New Albion in our Cherry Creek District.

The meter replacements will cause minimal

disruption to members but will cause a brief loss of power. There is no charge for member's receiving replacement meters.

Installation work will be performed by a contractor for SREC. The contractor will be carrying photo identification and driving a vehicle marked with the SREC logo.

Prior to replacing meters in an area, we will send out an automated phone call to the phone number we have on file for you. The automated phone call will occur approximately one week before your meter is replaced. It is very important that we have your updated phone number on file.



September 7 - Labor Day
October 12 - Columbus Day
November 11 - Veterans Day
November 26 - Thanksgiving
November 27 - Thanksgiving

THIRD PARTY NOTIFICATION

In accordance with the provisions of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative is required to permit a residential customer to designate, in writing, a third party to receive a copy of every notice of discontinuance of service to the customer, provided that such third party indicated in writing a willingness to receive such notices. If you wish to designate a third party to receive these notices, please contact the main office at (607) 776-4161 for a copy of the applicable paperwork.



\$10 IS HIDING IN THIS ISSUE

Please read your newsletter carefully. If you spot your account number hidden in this newsletter, please contact Steuben Rural Electric immediately to claim a \$10 credit on your bill!

