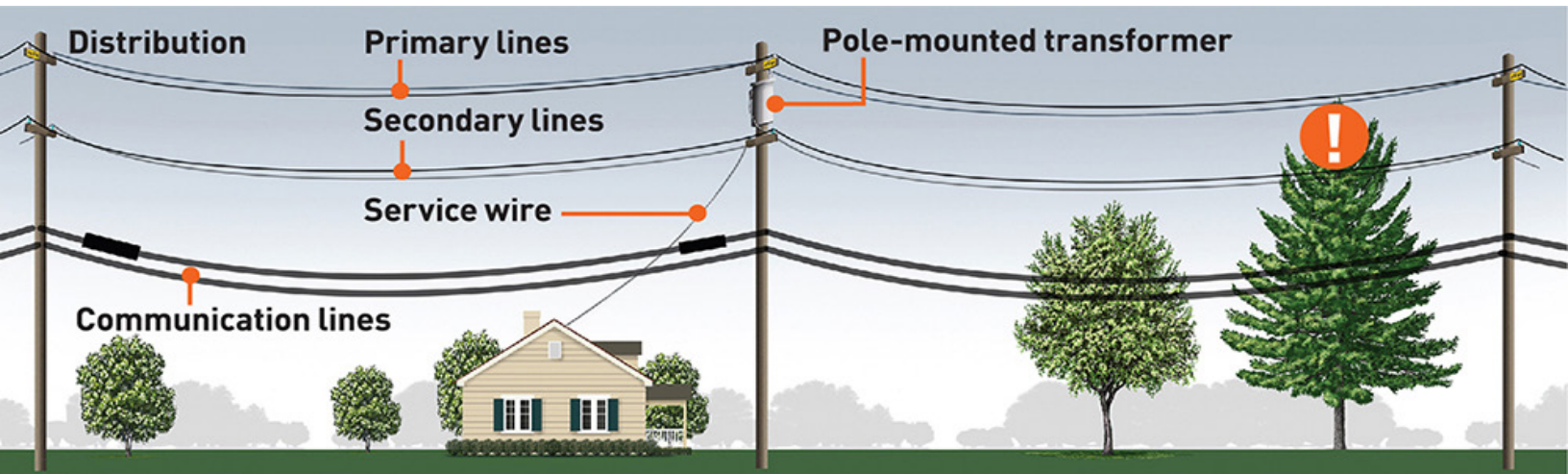


# THE ENERGIZER



Quarterly Newsletter

[www.steubenrec.coop](http://www.steubenrec.coop)

## Play it Safe Around Power Lines

*Practice outdoor electrical safety with these simple tips*

Hazards associated with electricity outdoors primarily arise from accidental contact with overhead electric conductors. Being safe means paying attention to where power lines are located and what you are doing that might provide a path for electricity to travel through you to the ground.



### Overhead Dangers

One of the easiest rules to remember is to simply look up! To avoid electrical hazards, stay away from overhead power lines. Accidents do occur and below are typical situations.

### Tree Hazards

Trees and power lines are not a good combination. The leading cause of accidental contact with power lines is tree trimming or trees falling on power lines. Common sense steps can prevent accidents:

- Look up! If you see a wire in the work area, don't take chances. Call SREC at 607-776-4161. We can help you assess the situation.
- Tree pruning can be dangerous. We recommend you contact a qualified arborist who is specially trained to do the job correctly and safely.
- Children should be warned not to play in trees with overhead power lines nearby. Remember, the tree limbs contain water and can conduct electricity. Electricity can pass through a branch touching a line, shocking the victim and causing serious injury or even electrocution.
- Metal ladders and equipment like antennas are excellent conductors of electricity. Look up and make sure you keep equipment at least 20 feet away from overhead lines.

### Work Near the Home

- Always call 811 before you dig so that underground utilities can be marked. It's the law and could prevent a dangerous accident.
- Never attempt to open an underground transformer cabinet or enter an electrical substation. Stay clear of any damaged underground facilities and equipment just as you would an overhead problem.

### Work Away From the Home

- Stormy weather brings the possibility of downed power lines. If you see any downed power lines, stay at least 33 feet away and call SREC at 607-776-4161.

### Other Safety Tips

- If a power line falls on your car, stay in the vehicle until help arrives and the power is turned off. You should be safe as long as you remain in the vehicle. If you try to get out and touch the ground and the electrified car at the same time, you will complete the circuit to ground for the electricity and you could be electrocuted. This is known as touch potential. If you have to get out of the vehicle due to fire, jump clear of the car with both feet together at all times, shuffle or hop far away from the vehicle and power line.
- Kites and power lines do not mix. Warn children to never climb poles or a tree that is near wires to rescue a kite. Call SREC for help.

# Save the Date: Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, October 14th

As a member-owned electric cooperative, we take pride in the fact that we are different than other types of utilities. Whether you're a new member of SREC or you've been with us for decades, we want to make sure you understand that electric cooperatives are unique. We make a habit of sharing this information because we're proud of what it means to the members we serve and the communities in which we live and work.



While there are dozens of ways electric cooperatives differ from other utilities, everything we do revolves around our unique business model, our commitment to our members, and our local, not-for-profit structure. The annual meeting provides a great opportunity to report to the members on the past years financial and operating results. It also gives our members the opportunity to participate



by voting on director elections and any other business that needs to be acted on. We want to encourage all of our members to join us to learn more about your Cooperative and to visit with our employees and directors. As a member-owned cooperative, the more engaged our members are, the stronger our organization will be. Look for information on the annual meeting in the September Newsletter.



## Why does the power blink?

No one likes blinking lights, resetting the microwave, or momentary outages, but those minor annoyances are a good thing! Blinking lights or momentary outages are the result of a disturbance that has been detected on the electric system. The cause can range from an automobile accident to a tree limb. When lights blink, it is an indication that SREC protective devices are operating properly. When something contacts an energized line, it creates a fault or short circuit. If the fault or short circuit is temporary, power is restored in an instant and a lengthy outage has been avoided. In some cases, the protective device will operate more than once to clear the line of the disturbance and avoid a prolonged outage. If the line is not cleared, it will be de-energized to protect equipment from damage and ensure safety.

## Know the Signs of an Utility Scam

By: NRECA's Straight Talk

It's no secret that consumers with electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but scammers have changed their tactics since the Covid-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment. Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the "power company," in today's more connected world attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email, phone or text.

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment so you don't have time to think clearly. If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact



us to check the status of your account. Remember SREC will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice. Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information for identity theft. If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future calls. If this scam attempt occurs via email or by text, do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible block the sender. When in doubt, contact us.

SREC wants to make sure you avoid any and all types of utility scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. When in doubt, call us.

# Inflation and Your Cooperative

The impact of inflation is very real, especially for electric cooperatives and the members we serve. Our members are experiencing staggering, 40-year high, increases in the cost of food, fuel, housing and everyday supplies. At the same time, the Cooperative is experiencing material shortages and unprecedented inflation on everything from vehicles, to transformers, to poles and wire. Since 2019, a 10kVA transformer (standard residential transformer) has increased in price by 74%, a 40-foot wood pole 135% and 1/0 conductor (wire) 111%. Every day material has become exorbitantly more expensive.

In addition to material shortages and inflation, skilled labor is increasingly difficult to obtain, especially qualified lineworkers. Becoming a qualified lineworker takes years of dedication and training. With broadband expansion, federal funding, and infrastructure replacements, it has proven to be extremely difficult to find qualified lineworkers.

Accountable for your electricity, we are managing these economic and operational challenges to the best of our ability. The Cooperative has successfully navigated the current economy with minimal impacts to the rates paid by our members while still maintaining our commitment to updating our infrastructure and providing reliable service. Consumers of other local utilities are seeing double digit rate increases, some upwards of 20%.

Our Board of Directors and management team are members of our community and truly understand the impact that inflation has had on our area. Cooperative board members take budgeting very seriously, which has led to our recent success in ensuring that we maintain affordable and reliable electricity. That being said, there may come a point in time where it is necessary to make adjustments and adapt. If, and when, this comes to fruition, we can assure you that we will do our best to minimize the financial impact of any changes during these difficult times.

## Operations Update

Projects slated for the 2023 construction season are well underway. Beginning this fall, the powerline contractor, BNF Powerline Construction, Inc., will be tasked with pole replacements and reconductoring a 12-mile section of line in the Town of Thurston from Mail Route Road to County Route 333, along County Route 12. This particular line section currently serves 130 members. Vegetation clearing was conducted in the area within the previous calendar year. Pole testing and design followed the vegetation management crews.

Immediately ensuing this 12-mile line rebuild, BNF Powerline contractors will be performing similar tasks on the north feeder of our Connor Hill substation, which services the Towns of Freemont, Cohocton, Howard and Avoca. In total, this second project is 15-miles of line that is scheduled to be updated.

Contracted vegetation management crews, Asplundh Tree Experts, LLC and Strauss Tree Service, Inc., are well into the 2023 vegetation management program year. Manual clearing efforts have been focused in our south feeder on our Bath substation, which services the Towns of Bath, Thurston, Cameron and Rathbone in our Bath District. In our Cherry Creek District, manual clearing was focused on the north feeder of our Milestrip Road substation in the Towns of Villanova, Hanover and Arkwright. Mowing, performed by Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC, has commenced in Cherry Creek District in the Towns of Conewango, Napoli, New Albion and will begin in the Towns of Tuscarora and Lindley before the end of the season in the Bath District.

It is our hope that these infrastructure upgrades and our persistent commitment to maintenance will prevent future reliability issues and preserve the quality of service our members expect.

## 10 Bad Energy Habits to Break

Some habits are so ingrained that we don't even realize we should break them. When it comes to wasting energy, here are 10 no-brainers from the Alliance to Save Energy that could save energy and money on your electric bill.



1. Leaving the lights on in an empty room. Turning them off when you leave a room will save energy and help your light bulbs last longer.
2. Burning old incandescent light bulbs. LEDs are safer, more efficient and longer-lasting, and they screw into almost any lamp or overhead fixture that you already have.
3. Leaving electronics plugged in when you're not using them. Plug TVs, computers and phone chargers into power strips that make it easy to turn off multiple appliances at once.
4. Running an extra freezer that's empty. Unless you really need it for overflow from your main refrigerator/freezer, unplug it.
5. Holding the refrigerator door open while you decide what you want out of it. Decide what you want to eat or drink before opening the door.
6. Running the dishwasher when it's not full. Wait until it's full before hitting "start."
7. Choosing hot water for clothes washing. Unless your clothes are soiled with oil or grease, switch to cold water, which will get them plenty clean.
8. Setting the water heater too high. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends 120 degrees, not the 140 degrees that many water heaters default to.
9. Keeping the thermostat too high in the winter and too low in the summer even when the house is empty. A programmable thermostat will automatically adjust the temperature when everyone leaves the house, returns home, goes to bed and wakes up.
10. Forgetting to change the air filters in your HVAC systems. Filters trap dust, pet hair and other airborne particles. Once they're clogged, your heating and air conditioning system has to work harder to keep your home comfortable.



## Board of Directors

District 1	: James McCormick
District 2	: Janice Hoad
District 3	: Edward Borkowski
District 4	: Walter Longwell
District 5	: Gerald Chase Jr.
District 6	: Gordon Foster
District 7	: Robert Nichols
District 8	: Randy Stankey
District 9	: William Moss III.

## Holiday Closings

September 4	: Labor Day
October 9	: Columbus Day
November 10	: Veterans Day
November 23	: Thanksgiving
November 24	: Thanksgiving

## Steuben Rural Electric

MAIN OFFICE  
9 Wilson Avenue  
Bath, NY 14810  
(607) 776-4161  
(800) 843-3414  
Monday - Friday  
7:30 am - 4:00 pm

BRANCH OFFICE  
5966 South Road  
Cherry Creek, NY 14723  
(716) 296-5651  
(800) 883-8236  
Monday - Friday  
7:00 am - 3:30 pm



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!

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 member to designate, in writing a third party to receive a copy of every notice of discontinuance of service to the member, provided that such third party indicated in writing a willingness to receive these notices, please contact the main office at 607-776-4161 for the paperwork. 524217

## The Trading Post

### For Sale:

Lionel Train Set 2111 WS 671 Loco & Tender  
2411 Pipe Car, 3469 Coal Dump Car 6 Wheel  
Crane Car 2420 Work Caboose - \$175. Call 607-566-8310.

American Flyer S GA Trains as a lot: 282 Loco  
& Tender 303 Loco & Tender 650 Pass Car 377  
Diesel - 718 Mail Pickup Car & Activator Track  
769 Beacon w/box 730 Bumper, track plus extra  
cars to fix or part out - \$250. Call 607-566-8310.

Lionel Pre-war Trains 435 Power Station with  
a B Transformer \$95; 252 Electric \$125; 150  
Electric Green \$75; 150 Electric Brown \$75;  
Ive's 3252 Electric \$75. Call 607-566-8310.

Ceramic molds circa 60's - 70's, 44 - selling as  
a lot, as is - \$250. Norman Ceramic Company  
Kiln, 29" x 29" - \$100. Call 607-566-8310.

"Angus Ground Beef" grass fed, non-certified  
organic, very lean, no fat added. Reasonably  
priced at \$4.50/lb. "Healthy Food Healthy You".  
Call 585-728-5243 or 585-991-9173.

(3) 10"x10" and (1) 10"x5" cast iron drain pipe  
- \$350 cash for all. Call 607-324-9408 or 716-302-9181.

Trading Post Rules: Only members of SREC may submit ads. Ads must be submitted by the 26th of November in order to be published in the December newsletter. You can submit ads by mailed them to SREC, 9 Wilson Avenue, Bath NY 14810 or by email to [kcleveland@steubenrec.com](mailto:kcleveland@steubenrec.com). All ads must be typed or printed clearly. Include your name and account number on all submissions. Ads are not allowed to be automatically repeated. They must be resubmitted for each issue. The cooperative reserves the right to edit material for content and/or space as necessary. Ads are published on a first-received basis with no guarantee your will appear. SREC does not endorse, recommend or assume any responsibility for the products advertised.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: Dept. of Energy  
577400



SAVE THE DATE  
SATURDAY  
**OCTOBER 14, 2023**  
for our  
**ANNUAL MEETING**