



Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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GETTYSBURG DISTRICT

1338 Biglerville Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325

YORK DISTRICT

200 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408

SHIPPENSBURG DISTRICT

10 Duncan Road
Shippensburg, PA 17257

DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
7 a.m. - 5 p.m.*
*By appointment only

Check out adamsec.coop

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LOCAL PAGES EDITOR:
Kami Noel, CCC

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Market-Driven Increase on the Horizon



STEVE RASMUSSEN

BETWEEN NOT HAVING A CONSISTENT national energy policy for many years, electricity demand outpacing new resources and transmission costs continuing to rise, there isn't a lot of good news to report on how your 2026 electric bill will be impacted.

Actual numbers will not be known or communicated until next month, but current estimates are that the average residential electric bill will rise by about 14% in 2026 because of significant increases in the market and transmission costs for electricity.

There are two main reasons for this: One, cooperatives in Pennsylvania have been protected by a long-term transmission contract that ended recently, and even after negotiating new contracts, the cost for transmission is much higher now. And two, the interaction between supply and demand for available power has drastically increased the cost of electricity available for peak times. The only good news is that these costs are paid by our wholesale power supplier, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), on our members' behalf.

Adams Electric receives most of its energy from Allegheny, which we own with 12 other rural electric cooperatives in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey. Because Allegheny is a cooperative, it is operated in a manner that keeps costs as low as possible, even when market conditions like these exist. Adams Electric keeps that cooperative philosophy going and passes costs on with no mark-up, which also keeps rates as low as possible for our members.

While the energy supply side of your bill is expected to increase, the costs of distributing that power to you should remain flat in 2026. Members will likely see a slight change in the access charge, which is the cost of maintaining our infrastructure. We estimate we will have to increase that cost slightly, but we plan to reduce the storm reserve by the same amount. These two charges will net to a zero-dollar change on the distribution portion of your bill for members on the co-op's regular residential rate.

After final numbers are known and approved by your board of directors, these changes will take effect on the bills you receive in February 2026 for January 2026 energy use. In the January issue of *Penn Lines*, we will provide a line-by-line mock-up of the changes, using the average residential cooperative member's 1,250 kilowatt-hour bill as an example. If the 14% increase holds, the average member will see about a \$27 increase per month.

Even with these changes, your electric bills will still be less than the average investor-owned utilities' monthly bills. While that may take some sting out of this news, we also recognize our anticipated increase is larger than normal. In fact, this is the highest increase I can recall in the 26 years I have worked at Adams Electric. As I explained, the increase is market driven, and while we are doing what we can, there isn't a lot we can do to avoid the increase.

There are two major things that you can do to help: One, reduce your electricity use, and two, adjust when you use electricity. We have plenty of resources to assist with those efforts. Please visit our website, adamsec.coop, or call the cooperative at 800-726-2324 to learn how to reduce electricity use or how to join the U-Shift, U-\$ave program. In 2026, we will also be introducing updated incentives for new U-Shift, U-\$ave participants, so check your January bill insert for news on that.

In the meantime, just know we are doing our best to keep rates as low as we can and please read next month's *Penn Lines* for the final status on rates for 2026. 📺

STEVE RASMUSSEN
CEO/GENERAL MANAGER

'Tis the Season for Christmas Tree Sales

KAMI NOEL, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR

IT'S LIKE A SCENE FROM a Hallmark movie — sometimes, minus the snow — as local families exit their cars and wander into fields of trees in search of the perfect fir. At Warner Christmas Tree Farm in Spring Grove, families have been carrying on the tradition for 17 years, picking among Douglas, Canaan and Korean.

"We mostly sell Canaan fir now," says Philip Warner, who owns the business with his wife, Carole. "They just seem to handle the seasons here better."

At the family's 5-acre farm, located among Adams Electric Cooperative's lines in York County, the average tree is about 8 feet tall, and this year, thanks to a great growing season, most are very full.

"A good rain spurts growth," Philip says. "You can get 10 inches to a foot in a year with the right weather."

Watching trees and families grow

The Warners are one of just a handful of remaining Christmas tree growers in the area. In Spring Grove, there used to be three, but now Philip says he's the only seller remaining.

"It can be a tough industry, and not a lot of new growers are getting into it," he says. "The only real down time is January to March. Then, it's time to plant seedlings and

fertilize. A month later, you're spraying up to five times within a season for tree disease and insects. Plus, there's things like mowing and trimming. If you don't keep up, you'll stunt the crop."

Philip says his tip for keeping bugs away after a tree is cut is to "just take the garden hose and wash it off."

He has lots of other tips for families who are going the old-fashioned route of cutting their own Christmas trees. His pointers include giving a freshly cut tree lots of water, up to three times a day for the first several days, "because you don't want the sap to close the pores."

He also suggests keeping the tree in a room with cooler temperatures. Finally, he notes that if you aren't going to put the tree up right away, you should soak the stump in a 5-gallon bucket of water until you're ready and then give the base a fresh cut before putting it in a stand.

"This business is as much about selling trees as it is about watching families grow up," Philip says. "We see them from babies until college, then we lose them for a while and when they come back, they have families of their own."

Carole and Philip have been married for 50 years and have four grown children. Carole helps with tree sales, but also sells handmade wreaths as well as

other homemade merchandise, like candles, crafts, and holiday arrangements.

"It gives the place that Hallmark feeling," Philip says. "It's what keeps people coming back."

"Although on Hallmark," he adds, "you don't see them losing their cell-phones in the fields or locking their keys in their cars like we do here."

Warner Christmas Tree Farm is on Rocky Ridge Road and sells its trees for a flat fee of \$70 each. For more information, call the farm at 717-259-9906 or visit sites.google.com/site/warnerchristmastreefarm/home. 📍



GREEN GIANTS: Philip and Carole Warner stand among the tallest of their Canaan firs on their 5-acre Christmas tree farm in Spring Grove. The couple was blessed with a strong crop this year after a wet growing season.

Adams Electric Cooperative Launches Redesigned Website

ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE LAUNCHED A new look for its website, adamsec.coop, with improved features last month. The changes include a system upgrade and easier mobile viewing.

The homepage received the biggest facelift, as it now provides easier access to the parts of the site that are searched or visited most often. Users can now access information on cooperative current events, outage updates and bill payment options much quicker than before.

Additionally, users will find an interactive bill with explanations and definitions as well as interactive rate and kilowatt-hour use calculators. An embedded Facebook



MOST REQUESTED: Adams Electric Cooperative launched a new website Nov. 3. The site's most-searched pages are now more prominent on the homepage, which also features news, the co-op's Facebook feed and links to interior pages.

feed allows those without social media accounts to see the cooperative's latest posts.

The new platform also includes increased security monitors and accessibility features. 

BILL REDESIGN COMING SOON

A year-long comprehensive electric bill redesign is nearing completion. Focusing on the user experience, Adams Electric Cooperative has changed the color scheme, layout and information provided on your monthly electric bill.

Putting our members' needs first, we hope the new bill will become a tool that educates and empowers our consumers, rather than something that only requests a payment. One such tool is a QR code; when scanned with the camera on your phone, it will take you to an interactive bill with clickable links that explain billing terms and definitions.

Also, based on members' requests, the "Total Due" will be more prominent on the bill. In addition, we've included more infographics to help members visualize their energy consumption.

Thanks to the input of our Member Engagement Group, all members will see a new electric bill in January, which covers their December use.



Make a Bid for the Board

ADAMS ELECTRIC IS SEEKING MEMBER-CANDIDATES to run in the annual director election. Candidates must meet all membership qualifications as set forth in the co-op's bylaws. Now is the time to get engaged in the director election process if you are a cooperative member in good standing and live in Zones 3, 4, or 9.

The board of directors is responsible for setting rates, participating in strategic planning, offering insight on political and environmental issues, and meeting members' expectations.

Each director candidate must complete a petition packet, including a personal profile and statement of candidacy, among other requirements. Candidates must also secure signatures and addresses from at least 15 Adams Electric members on an official petition.

Candidate packets may be picked up by appointment only at any Adams Electric office, beginning Dec. 1. All required paperwork must be "actually and physically received" at the co-op's headquarters office in Gettysburg before the close of business on Jan. 29, 2026.

Learn more about being a co-op director at adamsec.coop/director-responsibilities or contact the co-op's communications department at 800-726-2324. 

High School Scholarship Process Opens Jan. 1

ARE YOU AN ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE member and the parent of a high school senior? Adams Electric offers \$1,500 in continuing education scholarships to high school seniors whose parents or guardians are cooperative members. The cooperative works in partnership with the Adams County Community Foundation to administer these scholarships.

Scholarships for high school seniors

If you are a high school senior and your parents receive service from Adams Electric, you are eligible to apply.

Category A: Students at Bermudian Springs, Biglerville, Big Spring, Chambersburg, Dallastown, Dover, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Kennard-Dale, Littlestown, New Oxford, Northern, Red Lion, Shippensburg, South Western, Spring Grove or Susquehannock only.

Category B: Students in cyber, private, home school, or other public schools in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Perry or York counties.

Category C: Students studying in career/trade/technical programs, specifically pursuits at vocational-technical

schools leading to certificates or degrees related to but not limited to building/construction trades, cosmetology, culinary arts, or vehicle technology.

All applicants can apply online through the Adams County Dollars for Scholars web portal at adamscountydfs.org. Applications must be submitted between Jan. 1 and March 15 to be eligible for review and selection. Students must include the account number of the Adams Electric member with whom they reside.

For more information, visit adamsec.coop or call 800-726-2324.

Scholarships are funded by unclaimed Ownership Rewards and do not affect rates. 



GIVE THE GIFT OF ELECTRICITY

MAKE HOMES BRIGHTER THIS SEASON AND GIVE THE GIFT OF ELECTRICITY THROUGH A PRE-PURCHASED GIFT CERTIFICATE.

TO: Joe A. Member

FROM: Kris Kingle

CALL 1-800-726-2324
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PURCHASE



Add a Dinner Date to Your March Calendar

JOIN US IN MARCH FOR DINNER and information at one of Adams Electric Cooperative's annual district meetings.

The meeting dates are as follows:

- **Tuesday, March 17:** Wyndham Garden York, 2000 Loucks Road, York, PA 17408
- **Thursday, March 18:** Wyndham Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA 17325
- **Tuesday, March 31:** The Beistle Company, 1 Beistle Place, Shippensburg, PA 17257

Learn how Adams powers connections to the important things in your life. Connect with cooperative board members and staff as we update you about rates and how they compare with neighboring utilities. Members will also learn more about what the co-op is doing to bring you safe, reliable energy.

Director candidates will be introduced and given time to speak, if requested. **The meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m.; doors will open at 5 p.m.** *Please note: Seating will not be available until the doors open. Please do not arrive before 5 p.m.*

Your official invitation will be included with your February bill. Return your registration by mail or register online as early as Jan. 1, 2026, at adamsec.coop. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and space is limited at some locations. Directions to each location are also available at adamsec.coop; click on the "Member Meeting" icon. 📍

