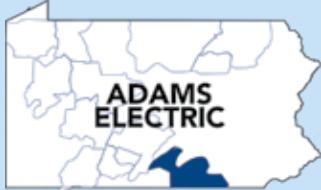




# Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

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**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 [adamssec.coop](http://adamssec.coop)**

**Like us on Facebook at**  
[Facebook.com/AdamsEC](http://Facebook.com/AdamsEC)

**LOCAL PAGES EDITOR:**  
**Kami Noel, CCC**

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# COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

## The Co-op Difference and Grid Stress



**STEVE RASMUSSEN**

**RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES RUN ON** a promise: deliver reliable power to members at the most competitive cost. But right now, forces beyond our control are testing that commitment in ways we haven't seen before.

At a minimum, it's a math problem, but the math isn't adding up. Electricity demand in our region is climbing faster than new supply can come on-line. Across the 13-state PJM Interconnection (PJM) region, which includes Pennsylvania, supply and demand for electricity have become unbalanced.

On one side of the equation, supply is shrinking. Policy shifts have accelerated the retirement of coal and natural gas plants, while promoting growth in intermittent sources like wind and solar. Many of the reliable, always-available plants that powered the region for decades are gone, and replacement resources are not being built fast enough. New projects are stuck in permitting or delayed by the same supply-chain disruptions that co-ops have struggled with for years.

On the other side of the equation, demand is exploding. Electricity consumption is skyrocketing, and it's not just population growth or electric vehicles driving the surge. The real disruptor is artificial intelligence (AI). Across our PJM region, tech companies are racing to build massive, AI-driven data centers — facilities that consume as much electricity as entire cities. Industry forecasts show this demand accelerating over the next five years, with no sign of leveling off. This data center demand is constant and fundamentally changing how much power our region needs.

As a result, we're watching an alarming gap widen between how much electricity people need and how much the grid can deliver. The gap between these two forces is what's driving costs higher across the entire PJM region.

While cooperatives strive to provide power at the lowest cost possible, these market forces are pushing costs upward, making a rate adjustment unavoidable. But cooperative ownership gives us tools that other utilities don't have.

Adams Electric purchases all of its energy from Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), the wholesale power provider we own with 13 other rural electric co-ops in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Through Allegheny, we've invested in generation resources, including nuclear and hydroelectric plants, formalized long-term power-purchase agreements, and even secured millions in federal grant funding to boost our supply of affordable nuclear power. This strategy insulates us — and you — from the worst of the market chaos. Through long-term planning, Allegheny continues to deliver some of the most stable, affordable generation rates in the PJM region to cooperatives, even as market prices spike elsewhere.

Cooperation amplifies our impact. Through Allegheny and the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association, our statewide advocate, we pool resources such as joint purchasing, shared training and coordinated planning to reduce costs. We also work directly with you to manage peak demand — those times when the system is stressed — which helps keep everyone's rates lower.

Safe, reliable, affordable electricity remains our core commitment. While we can't control regional supply shortages or soaring demand, we can control how we respond. That means making smart decisions to shield our members from the worst of these market pressures and the uncertainty ahead. Our focus will always remain on our members. That is the cooperative difference. 

**STEVE RASMUSSEN**  
**CEO/GENERAL MANAGER**

## Musical Tribute Pays Homage to Upcoming Anniversary

**KAMI NOEL**, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

**AMERICA250 IS A NONPARTISAN INITIATIVE** coordinating celebrations and public engagement activities leading up to the 250th anniversary of the United States of America. July 4, 2026, is known as the semiquincentennial, which aims to reflect on our nation's past, present and future.

America250PA is the state commission planning the commemoration of the 250th anniversary to highlight Pennsylvania's integral role in our nation's history. Groups across the Commonwealth are hosting projects and initiatives to draw attention to the celebration.

One such production is the stage show, "Hats Off to America: A Musical Journey Through History," performed by longtime Adams Electric Cooperative member Ray Owen of Orrtanna.

"It's an interactive, engaging, fun show that celebrates history, primarily through music and historical backstory," Owen explains.

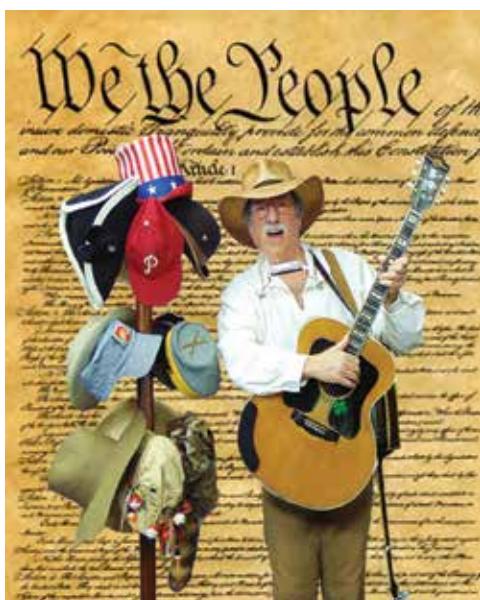
### An ode to America

Owen, 73, has a repertoire that includes some 900 songs, ranging from classics to original songs, and adds a touch of comedic entertainment to his performances. He's a Grammy nominee, singer/songwriter, storyteller and a national recording artist.

"Hats Off to America" is a musical journey through history, with Owen donning different period hats for each song. The show has traveled and expanded from a school assembly program to an all-ages county-fair favorite.

"I once got a nice letter from the elder [George] Bush when he was president that his grandkids enjoyed the show when they watched it years ago," Owen recalls. "It's evolved even more since then."

**ENGAGING AND FUN:** Ray Owen's tribute, "Hats Off to America," takes listeners on a journey through history. Owen, a Grammy nominee, is a member of Adams Electric Cooperative.



The show, which is growing in interest and demand as the anniversary arrives, includes early American ballads like "Yankee Doodle" and "Oh! Susanna," as well as 20th-century American classics like "This Land is Your Land."

"It even includes every kid's favorite, 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm,' with interactive parts with every farm animal and animal sound you can think of," Owen says. "This little dose of comedy is the glue between the music."

### An ode to Pennsylvania

The show isn't Owen's only nod to America and the semiquincentennial; he's also making a run for author of the new state song. State House members passed a resolution in April 2025 to create a commission to study whether it's "proper or timely" to change the state's official song.

The official song now is "Pennsylvania," written by Eddie Khoury and Ronnie Bonner. It was adopted in 1990.

Owen penned his own song, "Pennsylvania," in 1982, which was a contender for the state song the first time a decision was made. If there's a call for new entries this time around, Owen hopes his entry is again in the running.

"I'm proud of the lines, the references to our state flag, our steel, lumber, agriculture and hard-coal industries," Owen says. "It has a good, strong chorus that really weaves together the verses."

The pianist in Owen's version of "Pennsylvania" is John Tschop, and you can listen to their performance of the song at [pa-mag.com/statesong](http://pa-mag.com/statesong).

To learn more about Owen and attend one of his shows, visit [rayowenmusic.com](http://rayowenmusic.com).



**ON TOUR:** Ray Owen and Christine Bass perform together as Christine and the Harvest King or Christine and the Road King, depending on the season. See them around Adams County this spring at the Apple Museum in Biglerville, this summer at the Adams County Arts Council's Oasis Stage in downtown Gettysburg, or this fall at Boyer Nursery in Biglerville.

# Bills Received in February Include Rate Increases

**SARAH FRANK**, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR

**SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN THE ENERGY MARKET** and in transmission costs are affecting utilities across the country, and your cooperative is no different. To ensure the financial stability of the cooperative, the board voted in November to raise rates on Jan. 1.

For the past few years, the cooperative has done all it can to keep rate increases minimal. Its ability to do so was partly due to a long-term transmission contract that has ended. The cooperative, however, continues to invest in generation resources, including nuclear and hydroelectric plants, through its partnership with Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), its wholesale energy supplier. This has also helped shield Adams Electric and our members from the energy market's volatility.

Unfortunately, due to the increase in electricity demand and transmission costs, this year's cooperative rate increase is larger than normal. For the average residential consumer-member who uses 1,250 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per month and is served under rate class RES-01, this will amount to a \$23.75 per month increase. This adjustment could be higher or lower individually, depending on your electric use.

Even with the rate adjustment, the co-op's rates are comparable to or below other neighboring utilities, which would range from \$223 to \$282 for the same 1,250 kWh usage. Members are encouraged to consider how they may be able to control their own energy expenses. We offer tips for saving energy on our website, *adamsec.coop*, and we can also provide printed resources on energy-efficiency incentives and money-saving programs, like U-Shift, U-\$ave. Learn more about the revamped U-Shift program on page 12D.

The changes will first appear on your billing statement received in February and include an increase in energy supply. While you may notice adjustments on the distribution side of the bill, these changes will net to zero for members in the standard residential rate class (RES-01).

Energy supply is the cost for electricity being generated or purchased and transmitted to the cooperative. This is a direct pass-through with no markup. The per-kilowatt-hour charge will increase to 10.7 cents.

The wholesale power cost adjustment, which the co-op uses each year to re-balance the over- or under-collection of energy charges for the previous year's billed amount, will remain the same at 0.1 cent per kWh per month.

The distribution portion of the bill correlates to the cost of delivering electricity from the co-op to each member home or business in addition to the cost of maintaining reliable poles, wires, and equipment. The monthly service connection charge (previously referred to as the access charge) will increase by \$1 per month for members served on RES-01. This reflects the equipment cost the co-op incurs to maintain your electric connection to the power system, regardless of how much electricity you use.

The per-kWh charge will stay the same as last year at 3.3 cents. The storm reserve will decrease to 25 cents per month for all accounts.

We understand this is not the rate news members were hoping for, but we will continue to work hard to keep future rate adjustments to a minimum. Find information about lowering your electric bill or participating in energy-efficiency programs, such as U-Shift, at *adamsec.coop*. 

Rate Increase	Bill in 2025*			Bill in 2026*			Difference
Energy	1250 kWh	\$0.088	\$110.00	1250 kWh	\$0.107	\$133.75	\$23.75
WPCA	1250 kWh	\$0.001	\$1.25	1250 kWh	\$0.001	\$1.25	\$0.00
<b>Total Energy Supply</b>			<b>\$111.25</b>	<b>\$135.00</b>			<b>\$23.75</b>
Service Connection			\$42.00	\$43.00			\$1.00
Storm Reserve			\$1.25	\$0.25			-\$1.00
Distribution	1250 kWh	\$0.033	\$41.25	1250 kWh	\$0.033	\$41.25	\$0.00
<b>Total Distribution</b>			<b>\$84.50</b>	<b>\$84.50</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Electric Services</b>			<b>\$195.75</b>	<b>\$219.50</b>			<b>\$23.75</b>

\*Average based on 1,250 kWh for RES-01 rate class.

**THE AVERAGE INCREASE:** For the average residential consumer-member who uses 1,250 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month and is served as rate class RES-01, the rate increase will amount to about \$23.75 a month. This adjustment could be higher or lower individually, depending on your electric use.

## Add the Switch that Saves You Money

**KAMI NOEL**, CCC, COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER RELATIONS COORDINATOR

**IN SEPTEMBER, ADAMS ELECTRIC APPLIED** to the statewide Local Energy Efficiency Program (LEEP) for a one-year grant that helps cooperatives develop energy-efficiency and conservation programs for consumer-members.

Supported by Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), the co-op's wholesale power provider, the funding will enable Adams Electric to roll out an enhanced U-Shift, U-\$ave program this year for members new to the program.

The LEEP program was born out of Act 129, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act, with the first funds being disbursed in 2016. Cooperatives can reapply every year. Since 2016, Allegheny has awarded more than \$1.2 million in LEEP grants.

With the grant request approved in October, the co-op's board acted in November to increase the one-time credit for U-Shift switch installations, effective Jan. 1, 2026. Each switch type is part of our demand response program and interfaces over the power lines with the cooperative.

Members who allow the installation of a new electric water heater switch will receive a \$200 bill credit. Members with newly installed air conditioning switches will receive a \$100 credit, and members who install a U-shift-controlled panel with an interruptible meter will receive a \$500 bill credit. Members who install a level II electric vehicle car charger and allow it to be connected to a U-Shift switch or controlled panel will continue to receive a \$300 bill credit.

To receive any of the one-time credits, a member must sign up for switch installation before May 31 and be active in the program through at least Sept. 30. Installation credits will be applied on your November 2026 bill. Anyone dropping out of the program early will forfeit the credits. Please note that not all electric water heaters and



A/C units are compatible with all switch styles and may be ineligible to participate based on equipment capabilities.

In November, the board also voted to increase the monthly program credits for all participants. Those with a switch on a heat pump water heater will receive a \$7.50 bill credit each month. Those with interruptible U-Shift switches on standard electric water heaters will now receive \$15 every month as a bill credit for continued active participation. Those with switches cycling their central air conditioning will also receive \$15-a-month credits for active controls during June, July, August, and September — payable on bills received in July, August, September, and October.

Want to learn more about the U-Shift programs? Register to attend a district meeting in March, where a new U-Shift informational video will be unveiled. If you have questions now, check out the new U-Shift Q&A page, under "My Energy Savings" and "My Programs" at [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop). If you are ready to sign up, fill out an interest form at [adamsec.coop/u-shift-u-save](http://adamsec.coop/u-shift-u-save). A co-op representative will then reach out to you. ☎

### NOTICE OF UNCLAIMED OWNERSHIP REWARDS

Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc. is a member-owned organization, and members as well as former members may receive retired patronage capital credits, known as Ownership Rewards. As a member or former member of Adams Electric, you may have previously been issued Ownership Rewards by the co-op.

As members move off our lines or relocate, we ask that they continue to update their mailing address in case they're entitled to Ownership Rewards. Some of these funds, however, remain unclaimed.

Therefore, in an effort to return unclaimed funds to the correct consumer-member before they are turned over to the state and then used under applicable law, the cooperative has posted a list of eligible recipients on [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop). If you find your name on the list, please call 800-726-2324 or email [billing@adamsec.coop](mailto:billing@adamsec.coop).

### CO-OP NEWS

Congratulations to **Ryan Gelnett** of Shippensburg, who was promoted Nov. 15, 2025, to journeyman first class in the Shippensburg District. Gelnett started with the co-op in 2019 as an apprentice.



Also, welcome aboard **Chelsea Stouffer** of Shippensburg, who was hired Nov. 3, 2025, to fill an open member services representative position in the Shippensburg District. Stouffer is a graduate of Shippensburg Area High School and a former UPS dispatch supervisor.



ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE



HIGH SCHOOL  
SCHOLARSHIPS



# HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN OF ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

Adams Electric awards scholarships in the amount of \$1,500 each to high school seniors who are children of co-op members. The cooperative works in partnership with the Adams County Community Foundation to administer these scholarships. The co-op awards a minimum of one student per school attending each of the following:

- Bermudian Springs, Biglerville, Big Spring, Chambersburg, Dallastown, Dover, Fairfield, Gettysburg, Kennard-Dale, Littlestown, New Oxford, Northern, Red Lion, Shippensburg, South Western, Spring Grove and Susquehannock.
- Up to five high school seniors attending **cyber, private, home schools and other public schools in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Perry and York counties.**
- Up to five high school seniors with plans to attend a post-secondary career or trade school. **This scholarship program specifically benefits pursuits of vocational-technical school students who must become accepted in educational programs leading to certificates/degrees related to building/construction trades, cosmetology, culinary arts, or vehicle technology.**

*For detailed scholarship descriptions and application guidelines, please contact the co-op at 800-726-2324 or visit [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop).*



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