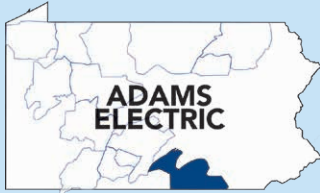




# Adams Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## ADAMS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

1338 Biglerville Road  
P.O. Box 1055  
Gettysburg, PA 17325-1055  
1-800-726-2324

## 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](http://adamsec.coop)

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

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## Guest Column Big Plans Ahead



**CHAD THOMAN**

**PLANNING IS IMPORTANT TO ENSURE** the Adams Electric Cooperative system meets the needs of its members during peak load times, extreme weather and everything in between. The cooperative's engineering and operations teams work closely together to perform planning studies in several different ways.

Long-range planning can look ahead as far as 30 years to see where we may need new substations or projects based on load forecasts. Four-year construction plans are prepared periodically to get a more focused view of the immediate future to address reliability, capacity and power quality issues. These two plans are redone every five or

six years and reviewed, analyzed, and adjusted as the budget for the upcoming year is prepared. Projects are selected from these plans based on current system needs and conditions. Our goals are to address the most critical issues and keep us working toward a system that can handle member needs well into the future.

We ask ourselves: Where do we have issues with reliability? Where are we running out of capacity and need to upgrade the conductor or a substation? Where are we seeing voltage issues during peak loads? We select each project to address system inefficiencies in a specific way. Some work is simply done because parts of the system need to be replaced due to age.

Wire size is increased to provide additional current-carrying capability and reduce losses. "Multi-phasing" projects increase the number of wires (each pole has one to three phase wires and a neutral wire) in a section of line to balance the load and reduce losses and stress on one or more of the existing phase wires. Voltage regulators and capacitors are installed to maintain proper voltage and power quality. Larger station transformers, new substations and feeders are added when there is not enough capacity on the distribution system. Lines can be relocated to improve accessibility and reliability in an area.

In 2025, we've scheduled several projects in each district to address these needs. **In the Shippensburg District**, three large projects are planned. A 1975 vintage transformer at the McCrea substation will be replaced with a new larger capacity unit; a 2.3-mile tie-line between the Shippensburg and Fairgrounds substations will be constructed to provide an additional backfeed for those stations; and a 2.3-mile section of the 23-kilovolt (kV) line to the Bloserville substation will be replaced with new poles.

**In the Gettysburg District**, a 1.4-mile reconducting and pole-replacement project is scheduled for Bakers Watering Trough Road between the co-op's East Berlin and Lake Meade delivery points. In addition, a 1.1-mile section of 115-kV transmission line, which was built in 1978 and located between the co-op's Orrtanna breaker station and Fairfield substation, will be replaced.

**In the York District**, 1.5 miles of old copper weld conductor will be replaced along Bull Road near Dover, and a 1.8-mile multi-phasing project is scheduled in the Glenville area, south of the Brodbeck's substation, to add a third phase wire to that stretch of line.

Planning is critical to the cooperative's goals of providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to the members we serve and the communities we support. We do so by constructing projects each year to meet current needs while keeping an eye on what the system will need in the future. 📍

**CHAD THOMAN**  
MANAGER, ENGINEERING-ELECTRICAL

## For the Love of Stamps

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

**THE CROSS KEYS VILLAGE BROTHERS** Home Community (Community), a retirement home in New Oxford, Adams County, offers residents numerous clubs, from billiards and line dancing to railroading and gardening. But the 19-member Canceled Stamp Group is in a league of its own.

“You can get addicted,” says group leader Linda Sipe, who’s been a participant for the last 10 years.

A portion of the Community resides in Adams Electric Cooperative’s service territory. When Sipe moved there, her mom was a stamp sorter for the group. Her mom, now 93, still lives in an apartment in the Community and remains a part of the club.

“When my husband (Terry) and I retired, we bought a home here, and my mom got me involved as a packer,” Linda recalls. “I’m now 75, and the oldest in the group is 96.”

The all-volunteer organization meets weekly to “stamp.” The process includes trimming the stamps to size, sorting them by “Scott number,” an identifier unique to each stamp, packaging and shipping. Sometimes older stamps must be soaked first so they

can be removed from their backing and properly dried before processing.

“We process about a million stamps a year,” Linda says. “We have trays and trays of stamps in storage ready and just waiting for a buyer.”

This past year, the group processed stamps from 13 states and a few foreign countries. As they are sorted, each stamp is counted and stored in a specialized glassine envelope. The oldest stamp still in storage has a Scott number in the 100s. Current stamps are numbered up to the 6,000s.

“We sell all of our stamps to a wholesaler in New Jersey who then sells stamps to collectors all over the world,” Linda says. “Each year, they send us a list of Scott numbers they are buying, and then we ship them our collection.”

The group uses the profits of their hobby to support other needs of the retirement community. This year, the group raised \$5,000 to purchase a Yamaha Clavinova for the new Lifespring Day Services and Memory Support Resource Center.

“It’s a fancy electronic piano they wanted that wasn’t in the budget,”

Linda explains. “So, we bought it for them. Last year, we bought the memory care group raised metal flower beds because their old ones rotted. Over the years, we’ve bought hand chimes for the bellringers, wheelchairs, AEDs, and even paid to put a chair lift in at the beauty shop on campus.”

The group collects canceled stamps from other members of the retirement community, as well as government agencies, local businesses and organizations. They had a “thank-you” list of 107 contributors last year. The group receives boxes of empty, opened envelopes addressed to the Cross Keys Village stamp group and the club members take it from there.

The group has been in operation since 1981, when then-Brothers Home advisory member Spurgeon Rohrbaugh asked to start a stamp collection club.

“I took the reins after Carl (Pease) passed away a few years ago,” Linda says. “But Dwight Monn is the real brains behind the operation. He’s the true collector and knows everything, about everything, about stamps.

“Last year, I spent my whole year looking at flag stamps through a microscope attached to the computer because he taught me that each one is different each year,” she adds. “Some have rounded corners, and some are square. Some have 10 perforations, and some have 12. That means that each has a different Scott number, and each has to be sorted separately.”

Why do they do it?

“We just love stamps,” Linda says. “Some of these members’ lives revolve around stamps. One stamper can put in a full 40-hour week; we’re just that into it.”



**STAMP SORTING:** Members of the Canceled Stamp Group at the Cross Keys Village Brethren Home Community gather for their final meeting of 2024. Participants include group leader Linda Sipe, back row, third from the right. At that time, the group had tallied more than 5,600 combined hours processing stamps.

# Understanding Factors that Impact Your Energy Bills

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

**FEBRUARY BRINGS SOME OF THE** coldest weather of the year, and as our home heating systems work harder and longer to keep us warm, we typically see higher energy bills.

There are a few key factors that affect electricity prices, as well as a few ways you can make a meaningful impact on home energy savings.

When you receive your monthly bill from Adams Electric Cooperative, you're provided with a summary of how much electricity you used during the billing cycle. You can even see how electricity use may have spiked on a particularly chilly day or when relatives were staying with you.

But you might be surprised to learn that beyond your monthly energy consumption, there are external factors that can impact the cost of electricity.

Adams Electric purchases electricity from Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Allegheny), our wholesale power provider, then delivers it to our local communities. The cost of fuels used to generate that electricity, such as natural gas and coal, fluctuate based on supply and demand. While these fluctuations can impact the cost of electricity for homes and businesses, we work closely with Allegheny to help stabilize prices for our members.

While we can't control the weather, we can review weather patterns and forecasts to prepare for extreme cold or heat when we know the demand for electricity will increase. But when temperatures become extremely cold and the demand for electricity spikes, the price of electricity can also increase.

To cover the costs associated with providing electricity to your home or business, co-op members pay a monthly access charge. This flat fee ensures the cost of equipment, materials, labor and daily operations is covered for all members in our service territory. To ensure the reliable service you expect and deserve, we must maintain the local grid, including power lines, substations, and other essential equipment.

Federal energy policies and regulations can also have a profound impact on electricity costs. As energy generation shifts to the use of more renewable sources and stricter regulations are implemented for traditional, always-available fuel sources, such as natural gas and coal plants, utilities must implement costly upgrades and technologies. These additional costs are ultimately passed on to consumers.

U.S. power consumption is expected to double by 2050. Across the country, electric cooperatives are working with members of Congress to advocate for smart energy policies that reliably power our communities. As a group, we're also urging the Trump Administration to take concrete

steps to repeal the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's power plant rule and bolster the long-term reliability of our nation's electric grid.

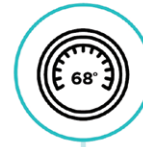
While many of the external factors that impact electricity costs are out of our control, we all have the power to manage our energy use at home. The most effective way to lower use is thermostat management. Since heating and cooling account for a major portion of home energy use, adjusting the thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting can help you save energy and money. Remember to service your heating and cooling system annually, too, and replace dirty filters as needed. Also, consider participating in the co-op's money-saving U-Shift, U-\$ave initiatives.

You can also reduce energy use by taking advantage of off-peak periods when the demand for electricity is lower. Reserve energy-intensive chores for these off-peak times, such as early in the morning or later in the evening. Be sure to seal air leaks around windows, doors and other areas where gaps are possible. This will help your heating and cooling system work less and improve the overall comfort of your home.

Adams Electric is your trusted, local energy partner, and we're here to help. Visit [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop) to learn about our efficiency programs designed to help you save. As always, we will continue working diligently to provide you with reliable power at an affordable cost. 🏡

## EFFECTIVE WAYS To Lower Home Energy Use

Outside factors, such as fuel and equipment costs and extreme weather, can impact electricity prices. But you have the power to control home energy consumption by taking proactive steps to reduce energy use.



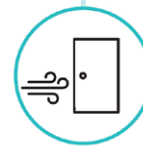
### Thermostat Management

The thermostat is one of the best places to lower your energy use because heating and cooling account for a significant portion of home energy consumption. During winter months, adjust your thermostat to the lowest comfortable setting to reduce energy use. The Dept. of Energy recommends 68 degrees or lower.



### Utilize Off-Peak Energy Times

Plan energy-intensive chores and tasks, such as running the dishwasher or washing clothing, during off-peak energy hours, when the demand for electricity is lower. Off-peak times are early in the morning or late evenings. By scheduling these activities during off-peak periods, you can help keep rates lower, reduce demand and relieve pressure on the grid.



### Seal Your Home

According to ENERGY STAR®, about 20% of heated or cooled air that moves through a home is lost due to lack of proper insulation and air leaks. Ensure your home has sufficient insulation levels and seal air leaks around windows and doors with caulk and weatherstripping. This is a simple, effective way to lower energy use and improve indoor comfort.



### Maintain Equipment

The health of your heating and cooling system is essential for comfort and can greatly impact energy bills. Maintain your system by regularly replacing dirty filters and scheduling annual inspections for maintenance and necessary repairs.

## High School Scholarship Process Now Open

Are you an Adams Electric Cooperative member and the parent of a high school senior?



Adams Electric offers \$1,500 continuing education scholarships to students 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 senior in high school and your parents receive service from Adams Electric, you are eligible to apply in one of the following school categories:

- ▶ **Category A:** 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.
- ▶ **Category B:** Cyber, private, home school, or other public schools in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Perry, or York counties.
- ▶ **Category C:** Career/trade/technical, especially pursuits of vocational-technical programs leading to certificates or degrees related to, but not limited to, building/construction trades, cosmetology, culinary arts, or vehicle technology.

All applicants should apply online through the Adams County Dollars for Scholars web portal at [adamscountydfs.org](http://adamscountydfs.org). **Applications must be submitted before March 14** to be eligible for review and possible selection. Applicants must include the account number of the Adams Electric member with whom you reside.

For more information about eligibility and applications, visit [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop) or call 800-726-2324.

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

## LINEMAN EARNS STEP UP

Congratulations to Dru Hartman of York, who earned a promotion to third-year apprentice in the operations department at the York District, effective Nov. 25, 2024. Hartman joined the cooperative in January 2023.



DRU HARTMAN

## Member Meeting Registration Available

**WE'RE PLANNING A CELEBRATION** – and you're invited! Join us in March to kick off the cooperative's 85th anniversary at a district meeting.

The meeting dates are as follows:

- ▶ Monday, March 17: Wyndham Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg
- ▶ Wednesday, March 19: Wyndham Garden York, 2000 Loucks Road, York
- ▶ Monday, March 31: The Beistle Company, 1 Beistle Place, Shippensburg

While a lot has changed in the 85 years since Adams Electric was incorporated, one thing has remained the same: our commitment to providing safe, reliable power with exceptional member service, at competitive rates. We are "85 Years Strong: Building on a Legacy to Power the Future."

Hear an update on Adams' rates, how they compare to neighboring utilities and what the co-op is doing to continue to bring you safe, reliable energy. Candidates running for an open board seat will be introduced and given time to speak, if requested. Also, exchange your old, intact CFLs (limit 8) for new, more efficient LEDs (limit 4). **This year, meetings will begin at 5:30 p.m., with doors opening at 5.** Please note seating will not be available until doors open, and please do not arrive before 5 p.m.

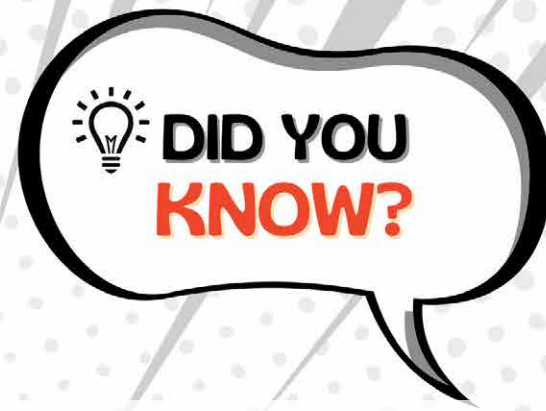
Your official invitation will be included with your February bill, but you can register now at [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop) or by calling 800-726-2324. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and space is limited at some locations. Directions to each meeting location are available at [adamsec.coop](http://adamsec.coop); click on the member meeting banner.

**85 YEARS STRONG:**  
BUILDING ON A LEGACY TO  
**POWER THE FUTURE**



# Co-op Spotlight

## Getting to know your employees and directors



### Wes Ashton



**Who I am:** My job title is staking technician. This role consists of creating work orders for our linemen to complete. These work orders could be new services for homes, replacing old poles, line relocation projects or a number of other jobs that our guys work on.

**Family life:** Right now, my life outside of work is centered around our 2-year-old daughter and 9-month-old son.

My wife and I also have a black lab and a mini golden doodle who love playing outside. Any free time I get, I enjoy hunting/being outdoors, golfing or working outside at our house.

**Favorite part of the job:** I enjoy meeting with the membership and understanding what they would like to achieve while ensuring the requirements of the cooperative are met. Our job allows us to find a happy medium for the members.

### Jenn McCleaf



**Who I am:** I started with the co-op two years ago as a member services representative and took on the role of administrative specialist at the beginning of 2024. In my new role, I provide support to human resources, communications, and community services, as well as staff and the board of directors. A few of my responsibilities include coordinating the employee wellness program, managing new employee and director orientations, helping process community donation requests, serving as a co-coordinator of America's Electric Cooperatives PAC and coordinating meeting and travel arrangements. If you call the co-op on a Monday, you may end up speaking with me as I continue to assist members with their needs/concerns and questions.

**Family life:** I live in Aspers with my husband of 22 years, Nate; our three children, Tristin, Sydney, and Mason; and our dog, Ember. With three active children, we spend

most of our evenings and weekends on some sort of field (field hockey, soccer or softball). I would not trade it for the world, though; watching them compete is one of my favorite hobbies! We also enjoy boating and traveling.

**Co-op stands out because:** After spending most of my time here at the co-op answering the phones, I would have to say that service is what stands out to our members. Members are pleasantly surprised to speak to a live professional (who is also local) on the phone or schedule a disconnect or reconnect within a week. The co-op strives day in and day out to provide exceptional service to the membership. This is apparent by the consistent praise that our hardworking employees receive through emails, handwritten notes, new member survey results and posts on our social media pages. I believe that speaks to the level of satisfaction our members feel, from setting up new service to power restoration during an outage, and everything in between.

### Heather Holt



**Who I am:** I've been the risk management coordinator with the cooperative for two years, and I am working on my Certified Loss Control Prevention credentials. For the cooperative, I oversee all risks for employees, our members, and subsidiaries, with a heavy focus on safety for our employees, members, and the communities we serve.

**Family life:** I enjoy boating with my fiancé, dog, and cat

(yes — the cat) and joining our family and friends out on the water. I also like to hike, cheer on the Baltimore Orioles and Ravens, and I have a passion for traveling, cooking, and eating good food.

**The co-op difference:** The level of service and care for our members. We consider them members and not just a customer. We work for our members and that personal touch is really unique.

